

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

FINAL INTEGRATED FEASIBILITY STUDY AND ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT CENTRAL AND SOUTHERN FLORIDA FLOOD RESILIENCY (SECTION 203) STUDY FOR BROWARD BASINS BROWARD AND PALM BEACH COUNTIES, FLORIDA EAX-202-00-K3P-1732198864

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Jacksonville District (Corps) has conducted an environmental analysis in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended. The Final Integrated Feasibility Study and Environmental Assessment (IFS/EA) dated 5 May 2026, for the Central and Southern Florida (C&SF) Flood Resiliency (Section 203) Study for Broward Basins, addresses flood risk management and flood resiliency opportunities and feasibility in Broward and Palm Beach Counties, Florida.

The Final IFS/EA, incorporated herein by reference, evaluated various alternatives that would continue and improve flood risk management (FRM) and resiliency solutions while enhancing the overall benefits of the multipurpose C&SF Project in the Study Area. In addition to a “no action” plan, four alternatives (A, B, C, and RO) were evaluated. Alternative A is the least complex alternative in that the fewest measures are proposed. There are no nature-based measures proposed under Alternative A. Alternative B represents an intermediate scenario where the number of proposed measures are greater than in Alternative A but fewer than in Alternative C. Alternative B includes one nature-based measure. Alternative C proposes additional structural and nature-based measures beyond those contained in Alternatives A and B. Alternative RO represents an optimized plan developed in the C&SF Section 203 Study and analyzed in this IFS/EA. Alternative RO is a hybrid alternative comprised of features from Alternatives A, B, and C, and is designed to reduce compound flood risks intensified by sea level rise, elevated groundwater tables, and extreme rainfall. It provides long-term system reliability, cost efficiency, and risk reduction aligning with federal, state, and regional resiliency mandates.

Alternative Resilience Optimized (RO) is the recommended plan and includes:

- The demolition of eight existing, aging water control structures at G-54, G-56, G-57, S-13, S-33, S-36, S-37A and S-37B.
- The construction of eight new gated spillways at G-54, G-56, G-57, S-13, S-33, S-36, S-37A and S-37B and five new pump stations at G-54, S-13, S-33, S-36, and S-37A with a combined total design capacity of 4,110 cubic feet per second, excluding auxiliary backup pumps, to provide discharge capacity when gravity-driven flow is impeded by high coastal tides. Seven of the new structures that are accessible by manatees will include manatee protection systems.
- The widening and deepening of approximately 4.3 linear miles of the Hillsboro (G-08) Canal, Cypress Creek (C-14) Canal, and South New River (C-11) Canal, including the dredging of approximately 190,202 cubic yards of material to improve conveyance.

- The existing culvert system upstream of the G-57 Gated Spillway in the Pompano Canal Basin will be expanded with the addition of two new 10-foot diameter culverts to improve conveyance.

After project implementation, considerable residual risk will remain. As described in the C&SF Section 203 Study, the recommended plan prevents about 1.2% to 2.2% of the total economic damage estimated in the Future Without Project condition.

For all alternatives, the potential effects were evaluated. A summary assessment of the potential effects of the Alternative RO, the recommended plan, is listed in Table 1.

Table 1: Summary of Potential Effects of the Recommended Plan

	Less than significant effects	Less than significant effects as a result of mitigation	Resource unaffected by action
Air Quality	☒	☐	☐
Greenhouse Gases	☒	☐	☐
Climate	☐	☐	☒
Noise	☒	☐	☐
Hydrology	☒	☐	☐
Groundwater	☒	☐	☐
Surface Water Quality	☒	☐	☐
Vegetation	☒	☐	☐
Wetlands	☒	☐	☐
Invasive Species	☒	☐	☐
Essential Fish Habitat	☒	☐	☐
Threatened and Endangered Species/Critical Habitat	☒	☐	☐
Fish and Wildlife	☒	☐	☐
Geology and Soils	☒	☐	☐
Hazardous, Toxic, and Radioactive Waste	☒	☐	☐
Land Use and Real Estate	☒	☐	☐
Visual Resources	☒	☐	☐
Transportation and Traffic	☒	☐	☐
Infrastructure and Utilities	☒	☐	☐
Socioeconomics	☒	☐	☐
Cultural Resources	☐	☒	☐

All practicable and appropriate means to avoid or minimize adverse environmental effects were analyzed and incorporated into the recommended plan. Best management practices as detailed in the Final IFS/EA will be implemented, as appropriate, to minimize impacts.

The recommended plan will result in unavoidable adverse impacts to historic properties. To mitigate for these unavoidable adverse impacts, the Corps has executed a Memorandum of Agreement with South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) and the Florida State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). The agreement shall be implemented in order to minimize adverse impacts to historic properties.

The Draft EA and Proposed FONSI were published on January 21, 2026, and coordinated for Federal, Tribal, state, and public review. The public review period closed on February 20, 2026. All comments submitted during the public review period have been responded to in the Final IFS/EA.

Pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973, as amended, the Corps determined that the recommended plan may affect but is not likely to adversely affect the Florida bonneted bat, tricolored bat (proposed), Florida manatee, eastern black rail, Everglade snail kite, American crocodile, eastern indigo snake, monarch butterfly, green sea turtle, Kemp's ridley sea turtle, loggerhead sea turtle, and smalltooth sawfish. The Corps determined that the recommended plan will have no effect on the federally listed giant manta ray or queen conch. The Corps has also determined that the recommended plan will not result in adverse modification of proposed critical habitat of the Florida manatee or proposed critical habitat of the green sea turtle. The Corps initiated informal ESA consultation for the proposed action with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) by sending informal consultation request letters to both agencies on November 21, 2025. The Corps sent a revised consultation letter to NMFS on February 10, 2026, and sent a revised consultation enclosure to USFWS on February 23, 2026. On February 26, 2026, USFWS provided a transmittal stamped on USACE's November 21, 2025, submittal (i.e., "sticker concurrence") concurring with USACE's determinations for federally listed species and critical habitat. On March 9, 2026, NMFS provided a letter concurring with USACE's determinations for federally listed species and critical habitat. ESA consultation documentation is found in Appendix G (ESA Coordination and Consultation) of the IFS/EA.

Pursuant to the Clean Water Act of 1972, as amended, the discharge of dredged or fill material associated with the recommended plan has been evaluated pursuant to Section 404(b)(1) Guidelines (40 CFR 230). The Clean Water Act Section 404(b)(1) Guidelines evaluation is found in Appendix B of the Final IFS/EA, Section B.4.3 Clean Water Action Section 404(b)(1) Evaluation.

The Corps received correspondence from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection on March 13, 2026, that the recommended plan should not compromise state water quality standards if all permitting requirements are met. A water quality certification pursuant to Section 401 of the Clean Water Act will be obtained from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection prior to construction. All conditions of the water quality certification will be implemented in order to minimize adverse impacts to water quality.

The Corps has determined that the recommended plan is consistent to the maximum extent practicable with the enforceable policies of Florida's Coastal Management Program pursuant to the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972. The Florida State Clearinghouse was notified of this action with the release of the Draft EA and proposed FONSI and the Corps requested concurrence with its Federal consistency determination. The Corps received correspondence from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection on March 13, 2026, that the recommended plan is consistent with Florida's Coastal Management Program.

All applicable environmental laws have been considered and coordination with appropriate agencies and officials has been completed. No significant environmental compliance issues were identified.

I certify that the resulting Final IFS/EA represents the following: the Corps' good-faith effort to prioritize documentation of the most important considerations and factors required by NEPA within the congressionally mandated timeline; that this prioritization reflects the Corps' expert judgment; the document is substantially complete; that any considerations addressed briefly or left unaddressed were, in the Corps' judgment, comparatively not of a substantive nature that meaningfully informed the consideration of environmental effects and the resulting decision on how to proceed; and that in the Corps' judgment the analysis contained therein is adequate to inform and reasonably explain the Corps' final decision regarding the proposed federal action.

Technical, environmental, and cost effectiveness criteria used in the formulation of alternative plans were those specified in the Water Resources Council's 1983 Economic and Environmental Principles and Guidelines for Water and Related Land Resources Implementation Studies. All applicable laws, executive orders, regulations, and local government plans were considered in evaluation of alternatives. Based on this report, the reviews by other Federal, State and local agencies, Tribes, input of the public, and the review by my staff, it is my determination that the recommended plan would not cause significant adverse effects on the quality of the human environment; therefore, preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement is not required.

Date

ADAM R. TELLE
Assistant Secretary of the Army, Civil Works