



Our  Best.  
Nothing Less.

**Mayor Steve Geller**

**Broward County Commissioner, District 5**

115 S Andrews Avenue, Room 413 • Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33301 • 954-357-7005

March 29, 2021

Sen. Marco Rubio  
284 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510-0908

Sen. Rick Scott  
716 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510-0909

Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz  
1114 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515-0923

Rep. Lois Frankel  
2305 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515-0921

Rep. Ted Deutch  
2323 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515-0922

Rep. Frederica Wilson  
2445 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515-0924

Rep. Alcee Hastings  
2365 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515-0920

Rep. Mario Diaz-Balart  
374 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515-0925

On behalf of Broward County, please accept our Fiscal Year 2022 Community Project Funding request for \$1 million in Investigations funding from the Fiscal Year 2022 Energy & Water Appropriations bill to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to initiate the Central & South Florida (C&SF) Project Update Study (restudy) to evaluate the flood resiliency of the C&SF Project. This funding requires a new start to allow the USACE to begin the restudy.

As you know, the C&SF Project was authorized by Congress in 1948 – more than 70 years ago – and has served as an invaluable contributor to the economic success of South Florida, including Miami-Dade, Broward, and Palm Beach counties. However, it was designed to deliver flood protection for 2 million residents, not the 11 million it currently serves nor the estimated 15 million people who will live in the region in 30 years.

Today, the C&SF system is under substantial stress due to changes in the physical environment, especially increased rainfall intensity and rising sea levels. Stormwater severely strains the system and sea level rise significantly threatens project operations. Extreme high tide events already preclude operation of many of the flood control gates in the system. In 2009, a study performed by the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) determined that 18 flood control structures of the C&SF system were within six inches of their design capacity, meaning that stormwater discharges to tide will be hindered by an additional six inches of sea level rise, which we may reach before 2030. Despite significant local investment in resilience from land use

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to design standards and infrastructure improvements, these local efforts remain dependent upon the effective functioning of the C&SF Project.

Significant progress has been made to support the C&SF restudy effort. First, the Governing Board of the SFWMD agreed in March 2020 to be the local sponsor of the feasibility study. Second, the USACE in March 2020 completed an Initial Appraisal Report (IAR) for the study, conducted under Section 216 of the Flood Control Act of 1970, showing “there is Federal interest in proceeding to the feasibility phase of this study to further analyze and evaluate improvements to the C&SF project.” Third, in May 2020, the South Atlantic Division approved the IAR, thereby making the restudy eligible for federal funding.

Without a functioning flood control system, more of south Florida’s citizens, economy, and broader environment will be at risk. It is essential that the C&SF Project be reviewed to evaluate these external changes to the landscape and propose solutions to address the challenges. We urge Congress to fund the C&SF restudy in the FY 2022 Appropriations process and appreciate your attention to this issue.

Thank you for your consideration of Broward County’s funding request for the C&SF restudy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steve Geller", written in a cursive style.

Steve Geller, Mayor