

June 23, 2020

Senator Marco Rubio
284 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Representative Greg Steube
521 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Representative Brian Mast
2182 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Representative Francis Rooney
120 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20002

Representative Alcee L. Hastings
2353 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Representative Lois Frankel
2305 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Representative Ted Deutch
2447 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Senator Rick Scott

Re: Support for Letter from SE Florida County Mayors Urging Advancement of C&SF Project Update Study

Dear Senators and Representatives:

As representatives of many of the leading business groups of Southeast Florida, we write to offer our strong support for the June 4, 2020, letter sent to you by the mayors of Broward, Miami-Dade, Monroe, and Palm Beach Counties backing a Central and Southern Florida Flood Control Project Update Study (“Resiliency Study” or “Restudy”) and provision of funding for the Restudy in the US Army Corps of Engineers Fiscal Year 2021 Work Plan.

As the mayors’ letter noted, some recent progress can be celebrated: the decision by the South Florida Water Management District to serve as local sponsor for the Resiliency Study, and the advancement of the Section 216 Initial Appraisal Report by the US Army Corps of Engineers (“USACE”). It is vital that this forward motion continues, the seventy-year-old Central and Southern Flood Control Project (“C&SF Project” or “Project”) requires reevaluation in light of current and future challenges, including sea level rise, extreme weather, urban development, and a growing regional population.

716 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Representative Debbie Wasserman Schultz
1114 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Representative Frederica Wilson
2445 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Representative Mario Diaz-Balart
404 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Representative Debbie Mucarsel-Powell
114 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Representative Donna Shalala
1320 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The economic health of our region—like all other aspects of life in Southeast Florida—relies on the flood protection provided by the C&SF Project. Southeast Florida simply would not exist as we know it today without it, and the region’s future viability depends on a Project that has been reevaluated and upgraded to meet this century’s changing conditions. Tens of billions of dollars in infrastructure decisions by the public and private sectors depend on the C&SF Project continuing to function as well or better than it has for the last seven decades.

The changing conditions will not wait, so this Restudy cannot wait, either. We urge you to support the request by the four mayors of Palm Beach, Broward, Miami-Dade, and Monroe Counties and the six million residents and tens of thousands of businesses they represent. Please do everything you can to secure funding for the C&SF Project Resiliency Study in the USACE’s Fiscal Year 2021 Work Plan.

We stand ready to support you and the regional leadership in Southeast Florida with this request however we can.

Sincerely,



Mary Lou Bedford
President & CEO
Central Palm Beach County Chamber of
Commerce

CC:

Mr. R.D. James

Assistant Secretary of the Army–Civil Works

Department of the Army

108 Army Pentagon

Washington, DC 20310-0108

Lt. Gen. Todd T. Semonite

Chief of Engineers and Commanding General

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U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

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Maj. Gen. Diana M. Holland

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60 Forsyth Street SW, Room 10M15

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Col. Andrew Kelly

District Commander

Jacksonville District

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Mr. Chauncey Goss

Chairman of the Governing Board

South Florida Water Management District

3301 Gun Club Road

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Mr. Drew Bartlett

Executive Director

South Florida Water Management District

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West Palm Beach, FL 33406