



MICHAEL UDINE, MAYOR, COMMISSIONER, DISTRICT 3

115 S. Andrews Avenue, Room 411 • Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33301 • 954-357-7003 • FAX 954-357-7360

April 12, 2022

The Honorable Debbie Wasserman Schultz
U.S. House of Representatives
1114 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Lois Frankel
U.S. House of Representatives
2305 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representatives Wasserman Schultz and Frankel,

On behalf of Broward County, I write to seek your support of a Community Project Funding request. Specifically, we request \$500,000 from the Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 Energy & Water Appropriations bill, Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Investigations account to fund the federal share of the Central & South Florida (C&SF) Comprehensive Review Study. This Study is critical to assess the full extent of Florida's aging flood control system under the pressures of sea level rise, higher water table conditions and rainfall intensification, a Study needed to improve the resilience of South Florida. Furthermore, the proposed Study is the highest ranked new study recommendation to come from the South Atlantic Coastal Study (SACS).

As you know, the FY 2022 Omnibus Appropriations bill provided \$500,000 in federal funding for the C&SF Section 216 Study, to be initiated in partnership between the USACE and the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD), the non-federal sponsor. An additional \$475,000 is recommended for the study in the FY 2023 Administration budget. While critically important, the scope of the Section 216 Study is narrow and is only intended to investigate coastal salinity structures for flood resilience. Unfortunately, given its more limited authorization, the Section 216 Study will not consider flood resilience needs throughout the entire system and further inland. Instead, a separate, more comprehensive study of the C&SF flood control system is required.

Thankfully, Section 309(l) of the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 1992, Public Law 102-580 provides authorization to conduct the C&SF Comprehensive Review Study and reads in part:

Sec. 309 Additional Studies.

... (l) CENTRAL AND SOUTHERN FLORIDA -The Chief of Engineers shall review the report of the Chief of Engineers on central and southern Florida, published as House Document 643, 80th Congress, 2d Session, and other pertinent reports, with a view to determining whether modifications to the existing project are advisable at the present time due to significantly changed physical, biological, demographic, or economic conditions, with particular reference to modifying the project or its operations for improving the quality of the environment, improving protection of the aquifer, and improving the integrity, capability, and conservation of urban water supplies affected by the project or its operation.

The C&SF Flood Control Project was authorized 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



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11 million it currently serves, nor the estimated 15 million people who are expected to 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.

Without a fully functioning flood control system, South Florida's citizens, economy, and broader environment will be at risk. It is essential that the C&SF Comprehensive Review Study be initiated to evaluate these external changes to the landscape and propose solutions to address the challenges. Thank you for your consideration of this critical funding request. We appreciate all you do for us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Udine".

Michael Udine, Mayor