

RESOLUTION NO. 2021- 0274

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA, URGING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO PROVIDE AN ADEQUATE NUMBER OF NEW START STUDIES FOR FLOOD AND STORM DAMAGE REDUCTION; URGING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO APPROPRIATE SUFFICIENT FUNDING FOR THE UNITED STATES ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS (USACE) TO CONDUCT THE CENTRAL AND SOUTHERN FLORIDA (C&SF) FLOOD PROJECT FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT INFRASTRUCTURE RESILIENCY PLAN STUDY (FLOOD RESILIENCY STUDY); URGING THE USACE TO SELECT THE STUDY AS A NEW START STUDY IN AN IMMEDIATELY UPCOMING WORK PLAN FOR THE ARMY CIVIL WORKS PROGRAM; URGING THE SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT (SFWMD), AS THE NON-FEDERAL SPONSOR OF THE C&SF PROJECT, TO CONTINUE TO SUPPORT IMPLEMENTATION AND OBTAIN ADEQUATE FUNDING FOR THE STUDY; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS in 1948, the United States Congress authorized the Central and Southern Florida Flood Control Project (“C&SF Project”) to provide flood control, provide water supply for municipal, industrial and agricultural uses, prevent saltwater intrusion, and protect fish and wildlife resources; and

WHEREAS, the C&SF Project has resulted in the construction of over 1,000 miles of canals and levees, as well as dozens of water control structures and pump stations, throughout Central and Southern Florida; and

WHEREAS, over the course of decades, the C&SF Project has substantially altered Florida’s natural and built environment to allow for development and agriculture and to improve Florida residents’ quality of life; and

WHEREAS, a restudy of the C&SF Project was conducted in the 1990s to address the project’s adverse environmental impacts considering the significant development that had taken place in Central and Southern Florida since the C&SF Project was authorized in 1948; and

WHEREAS, that restudy led to the creation of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (“CERP”), which the United States Congress approved in the year 2000; and

WHEREAS, despite the successes of CERP and the ongoing efforts to implement CERP, sea level rise, development, population growth, and saltwater intrusion, among other factors,

have continued to change the environmental conditions under which the C&SF Project operates;
and

WHEREAS, governmental entities and stakeholders have therefore advocated for further study of the C&SF Project, which the USACE is referring to as the C&SF Project Flood Risk Management Infrastructure Resiliency Plan Study (“C&SF Flood Resiliency Study”); and

WHEREAS, a C&SF Flood Resiliency Study could identify improvements that need to be made to the C&SF Project and could prioritize the improvements that best meet future C&SF Project objectives, such as flood control, protection of drinking water from saltwater intrusion, and defense against sea level rise; and

WHEREAS, a C&SF Flood Resiliency Study could also be conducted in a manner that is complementary to CERP and incorporates nature-based and natural-infrastructure options; and

WHEREAS, conducting the C&SF Flood Resiliency Study in this manner could help ensure synergy and alignment with the USACE’s ongoing effort to restore the Everglades via CERP, which is a critical component of Palm Beach County’s environment, economy, and quality of life; and

WHEREAS, the USACE has initiated efforts to qualify for federal funding to conduct a C&SF Flood Resiliency Study; and

WHEREAS, in March 2020, the SFWMD agreed to participate as the local sponsor of the C&SF Flood Resiliency Study with the USACE; and

WHEREAS, in June 2020, the Mayors of Palm Beach, Broward, Miami-Dade, and Monroe Counties urged United States Senators Marco Rubio and Rick Scott, as well as the members of the United States House of Representatives who represent districts within the SFWMD boundaries, to support the C&SF Flood Resiliency Study and to ensure that the study would receive federal funding; and

WHEREAS, in October 2020, the Executive Director of the SFWMD urged United States Senators Marco Rubio and Rick Scott to support the C&SF Flood Resiliency Study; and

WHEREAS, in Fiscal Year (“FY”) 2021 the United States Congress allowed for the USACE to begin eight (8) new studies in the Investigations Account for the USACE Civil Works program, including three (3) flood and storm damage reduction studies; two (2) navigation studies; two (2) environmental restoration studies; and one (1) multi-purpose watershed study to address coastal resiliency; and

WHEREAS, the USACE delivers an annual Work Plan for the Army Civil Works program to the United States Congress that designates eligible new start studies,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA, that:

Section 1. Palm Beach County urges the United States Congress to allow the USACE to begin an adequate number of new start studies in the Investigations Account for flood and storm damage reduction.

Section 2. Palm Beach County urges the United States Congress to provide immediate funding for the USACE to conduct the C&SF Flood Resiliency Study.

Section 3. Palm Beach County urges the USACE to select the C&SF Flood Resiliency Study as a new study and provide it with appropriate funding in an immediately upcoming Work Plan for the Army Civil Works program.

Section 4. Palm Beach County urges the SFWMD, as the non-federal sponsor of the C&SF Project, to continue to support implementation and obtain adequate funding for the C&SF Flood Resiliency Study.

Section 5. The County's federal lobbyists, Legislative Affairs and Intergovernmental Affairs staff shall advocate for the actions in Sections 1, 2, 3 and 4.

Section 6. Effective Date.

This resolution is effective upon adoption.

The foregoing Resolution was offered by Commissioner Weiss, who moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by Commissioner McKinlay, and upon being put to a vote, the vote was as follows:

Commissioner Dave Kerner, Mayor	<u>Aye</u>
Commissioner Robert S. Weinroth, Vice Mayor	<u>Aye</u>
Commissioner Maria G. Marino	<u>Aye</u>
Commissioner Gregg K. Weiss	<u>Aye</u>
Commissioner Maria Sachs	<u>Aye</u>
Commissioner Melissa McKinlay	<u>Aye</u>
Commissioner Mack Bernard	<u>Aye</u>

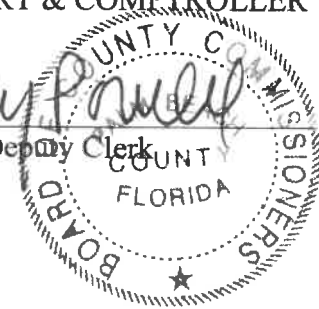
The Mayor thereupon declared the Resolution duly passed and adopted this 25th day of February, 2021.

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND ITS LEGAL SUFFICIENCY

PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA, BY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS JOSEPH ABRUZZO, CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT & COMPTROLLER

By: [Signature]
County Attorney

By: [Signature]
Deputy Clerk



STATE OF FLORIDA, COUNTY OF PALM BEACH
 I, JOSPEH ABRUZZO, Clerk of the Circuit Court & Comptroller certify this to be a true and correct copy of the original filed in my office on FEB 25 2021 dated at West Palm Beach, FL on 2-26-21
 By: [Signature]
 Deputy Clerk

