

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

June 25, 2019

The Honorable R.D. James
Assistant Secretary of the Army—Civil Works
Department of the Army
108 Army Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20310-0108

Dear Assistant Secretary James:

Following passage and signing into law of the *Additional Supplemental Appropriations for Disaster Relief Act, 2019*, Congress has now provided the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) with \$35 million in investigation funding and \$740 million in construction funding for flood and storm damage reduction projects in states and territories impacted by hurricanes and typhoons in 2018, including Florida. As your office begins work with all three levels of the USACE to identify, evaluate, and take action on studies and projects eligible for this new supplemental disaster funding, I urge you to strongly consider funding a restudy of the aging flood control system created as a result of the Central and Southern Florida (C&SF) Project.

The C&SF Project was authorized by Congress in 1948 and has served as an invaluable contributor to the development and economic success of South Florida. The most recently completed restudy in 1999 served as a template for the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP), with the goal of restoring the region's hydrological connectivity and ensuring the sustainability of South Florida's water resources for people and the environment. A new restudy of the C&SF Project is overdue to ensure the cost-effectiveness and resilience of the region's flood control system.

Specifically, a new C&SF Project Flood Control Restudy would assess the full extent of South Florida's aging water management infrastructure. Building off the USACE's concurrent efforts in the region through CERP and the South Atlantic Coastal Study, the restudy should also integrate the potential impacts of sea level rise and generally higher water tables into the engineering and design of improved flood control features. Importantly, the restudy should focus on maintaining current levels of flood control service throughout the region, including by proposing new projects as necessary, such as a South Dade Flood Protection Project to ensure comprehensive seepage management west of Krome Avenue in Miami-Dade County.

Facing dynamic new pressures on the existing flood control system, the USACE, working in concert with the South Florida Water Management District, now has a critical opportunity to improve the resilience of South Florida communities for decades to come. In accordance with all applicable rules and regulations, we encourage you to seize this opportunity to dedicate supplemental disaster funding to restudy the C&SF Project flood control system.

Sincerely,



Marco Rubio
U.S. Senator



Rick Scott
U.S. Senator



Gregory Steube (FL-17)
Member of Congress



Brian Mast (FL-18)
Member of Congress



Francis Rooney (FL-19)
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Alcee L. Hastings (FL-20)
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Maria Diaz-Balart (FL-21)
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cc: LTG Todd T. Semonite
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