



November 19, 2020

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

Re: Urgent Advancement of the Section 216 Central and Southern Florida Flood Resiliency Study

Dear Representative Ted Deutch:

As a group that represents Florida engineering industry and water resources professionals, we write to offer our strong and unified support for the Section 216 Central and Southern Florida (C&SF) Flood Resiliency Study by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps). Congress originally authorized the C&SF Project in 1948 to manage water and provide flood protection for South Florida. This aging system requires evaluation and improvement to support the millions of South Florida residents it serves, and the tens of millions of annual visitors. Since its inception, the C&SF Project has not been evaluated for increasing risks to flood protection associated with 21st century conditions, including sea level rise, changing climatic conditions, land development and population growth. In addition, there have been significant changes to physical and economic conditions within the boundary of the C&SF Project that make the project eligible for federal funding under the authority of Section 216 of the Flood Control Act of 1970.

Currently, the C&SF coastal structures are at risk and many cannot be operated during high water events like king tides to provide flood protection for South Florida residents. Sunny day flooding is becoming more frequent. Higher tides known as "king tides" have been exacerbated by sea level rise and storm surges and constitute a critical risk to our communities. Physical conditions have changed, including a markedly altered landscape, the booming economics of dense urban areas, and evolving hydrologic conditions (especially increased rainfall intensity and rising seas) that strain the existing system's ability to move and discharge stormwater. Moreover, climate projections indicate that conditions will change even more significantly over the coming decades, further increasing the stress on the Project and its ability to function adequately.

This critical study evaluates South Florida's water management infrastructure to determine what is necessary to ensure that the region's flood control system can continue to protect the most at-risk communities from flooding in the face of sea level rise and the projected impacts of increasingly extreme weather. South Florida relies extensively upon the C&SF Project for flood protection for over six million people, the preservation of water supplies, and ecological value, but the Project is nearly 70 years old and in need of this flood resiliency study.

We urgently ask for your support to fully fund this Study in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' (USACE) Fiscal Year (FY) 2021 Work Plan. It is our understanding that the Corps is seeking \$3 million to fund this

effort; however, additional funding and direction from Congress could yield a more comprehensive evaluation and consideration of a wider range of options to improve the system's resilience and performance.

In support of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, The South Florida Water Management District will continue serving as local sponsor for the project. Both agencies recognize the urgency of addressing the limitations of the 72-year old C&SF system and the need for identification of priority investments through a feasibility study.

We stand ready to support USACE and SFWMD as they work towards initiation and completion of the CS&F Flood Resiliency Study. Please stand with us and support appropriate funding for this study in the Fiscal Year 2021 Corps of Engineers Work Plan, so this critical effort to reduce the flood risks affecting millions of South Florida residents can begin.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Allen Douglas', with a stylized, flowing script.

Allen Douglas
ACEC-FL Executive Director



November 19, 2020

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

Re: Urgent Advancement of the Section 216 Central and Southern Florida Flood Resiliency Study

Dear Representative Mario Diaz-Balart:

As a group that represents Florida engineering industry and water resources professionals, we write to offer our strong and unified support for the Section 216 Central and Southern Florida (C&SF) Flood Resiliency Study by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps). Congress originally authorized the C&SF Project in 1948 to manage water and provide flood protection for South Florida. This aging system requires evaluation and improvement to support the millions of South Florida residents it serves, and the tens of millions of annual visitors. Since its inception, the C&SF Project has not been evaluated for increasing risks to flood protection associated with 21st century conditions, including sea level rise, changing climatic conditions, land development and population growth. In addition, there have been significant changes to physical and economic conditions within the boundary of the C&SF Project that make the project eligible for federal funding under the authority of Section 216 of the Flood Control Act of 1970.

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Allen Douglas
ACEC-FL Executive Director



November 19, 2020

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

Re: Urgent Advancement of the Section 216 Central and Southern Florida Flood Resiliency Study

Dear Representative Alcee L. Hastings:

As a group that represents Florida engineering industry and water resources professionals, we write to offer our strong and unified support for the Section 216 Central and Southern Florida (C&SF) Flood Resiliency Study by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps). Congress originally authorized the C&SF Project in 1948 to manage water and provide flood protection for South Florida. This aging system requires evaluation and improvement to support the millions of South Florida residents it serves, and the tens of millions of annual visitors. Since its inception, the C&SF Project has not been evaluated for increasing risks to flood protection associated with 21st century conditions, including sea level rise, changing climatic conditions, land development and population growth. In addition, there have been significant changes to physical and economic conditions within the boundary of the C&SF Project that make the project eligible for federal funding under the authority of Section 216 of the Flood Control Act of 1970.

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Allen Douglas
ACEC-FL Executive Director



November 19, 2020

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

Re: Urgent Advancement of the Section 216 Central and Southern Florida Flood Resiliency Study

Dear Representative Lois Frankel:

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Allen Douglas
ACEC-FL Executive Director



November 19, 2020

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

Re: Urgent Advancement of the Section 216 Central and Southern Florida Flood Resiliency Study

Dear Representative Brian Mast:

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Allen Douglas
ACEC-FL Executive Director



November 19, 2020

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

Re: Urgent Advancement of the Section 216 Central and Southern Florida Flood Resiliency Study

Dear Representative Debbie Mucarsel-Powell:

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Allen Douglas
ACEC-FL Executive Director



November 19, 2020

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

Re: Urgent Advancement of the Section 216 Central and Southern Florida Flood Resiliency Study

Dear Representative Francis Rooney:

As a group that represents Florida engineering industry and water resources professionals, we write to offer our strong and unified support for the Section 216 Central and Southern Florida (C&SF) Flood Resiliency Study by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps). Congress originally authorized the C&SF Project in 1948 to manage water and provide flood protection for South Florida. This aging system requires evaluation and improvement to support the millions of South Florida residents it serves, and the tens of millions of annual visitors. Since its inception, the C&SF Project has not been evaluated for increasing risks to flood protection associated with 21st century conditions, including sea level rise, changing climatic conditions, land development and population growth. In addition, there have been significant changes to physical and economic conditions within the boundary of the C&SF Project that make the project eligible for federal funding under the authority of Section 216 of the Flood Control Act of 1970.

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Allen Douglas
ACEC-FL Executive Director



November 19, 2020

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

Re: Urgent Advancement of the Section 216 Central and Southern Florida Flood Resiliency Study

Dear Senator Marco Rubio:

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ACEC-FL Executive Director



November 19, 2020

Senator Rick Scott
716 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

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Allen Douglas
ACEC-FL Executive Director



November 19, 2020

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

Re: Urgent Advancement of the Section 216 Central and Southern Florida Flood Resiliency Study

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521 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

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This critical study evaluates South Florida's water management infrastructure to determine what is necessary to ensure that the region's flood control system can continue to protect the most at-risk communities from flooding in the face of sea level rise and the projected impacts of increasingly extreme weather. South Florida relies extensively upon the C&SF Project for flood protection for over six million people, the preservation of water supplies, and ecological value, but the Project is nearly 70 years old and in need of this flood resiliency study.

We urgently ask for your support to fully fund this Study in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' (USACE) Fiscal Year (FY) 2021 Work Plan. It is our understanding that the Corps is seeking \$3 million to fund this

effort; however, additional funding and direction from Congress could yield a more comprehensive evaluation and consideration of a wider range of options to improve the system's resilience and performance.

In support of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, The South Florida Water Management District will continue serving as local sponsor for the project. Both agencies recognize the urgency of addressing the limitations of the 72-year old C&SF system and the need for identification of priority investments through a feasibility study.

We stand ready to support USACE and SFWMD as they work towards initiation and completion of the CS&F Flood Resiliency Study. Please stand with us and support appropriate funding for this study in the Fiscal Year 2021 Corps of Engineers Work Plan, so this critical effort to reduce the flood risks affecting millions of South Florida residents can begin.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Allen Douglas', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Allen Douglas
ACEC-FL Executive Director



November 19, 2020

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

Re: Urgent Advancement of the Section 216 Central and Southern Florida Flood Resiliency Study

Dear Representative Debbie Wasserman Schultz:

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Allen Douglas
ACEC-FL Executive Director



November 19, 2020

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

Re: Urgent Advancement of the Section 216 Central and Southern Florida Flood Resiliency Study

Dear Representative Frederica Wilson:

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