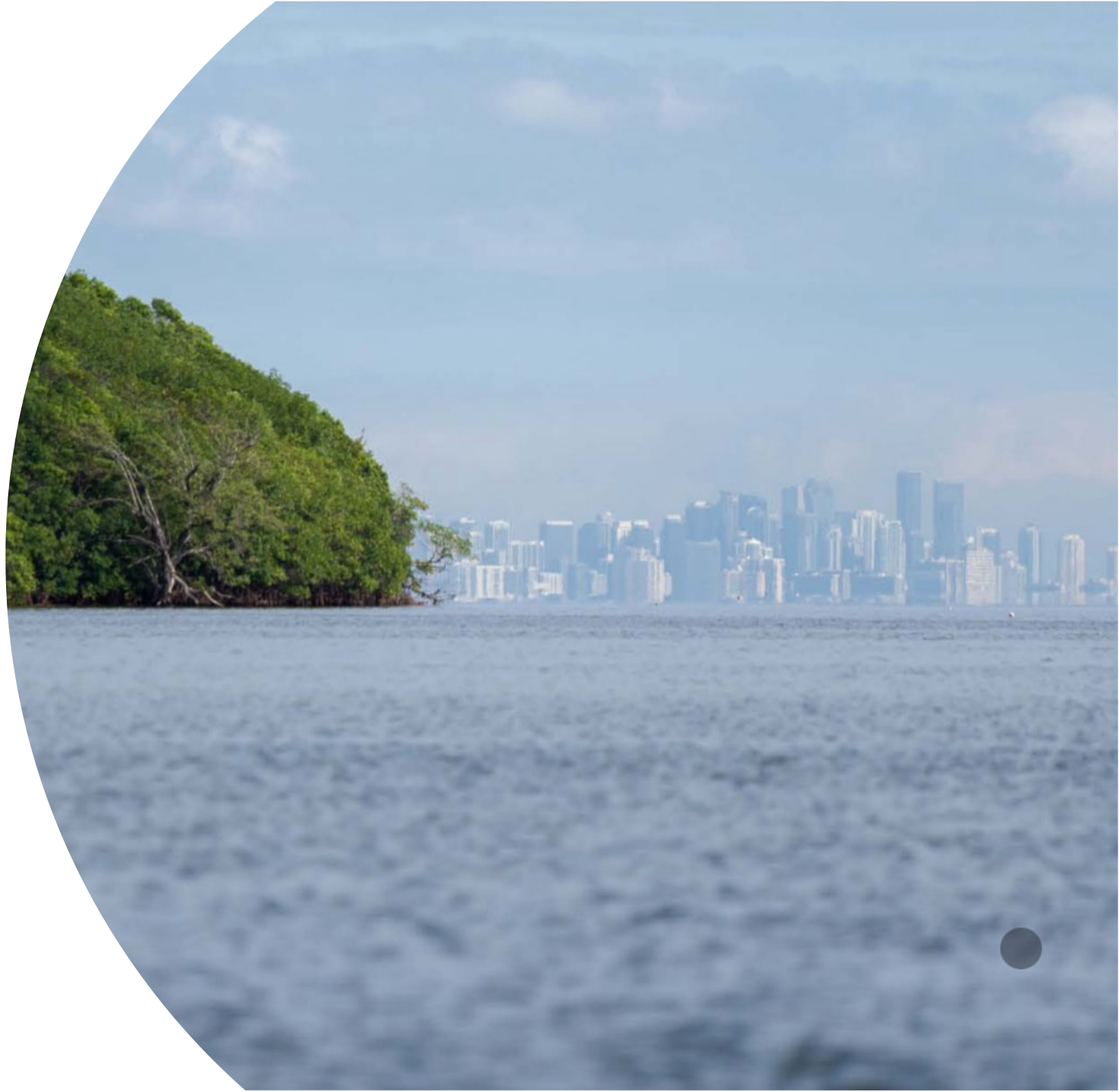
South Florida Water
Management District

# 2025 Sea Level Rise and Plan Update

**May 28, 2025**

Resiliency Coordination Forum

David Colangelo
SFWMD Resiliency Plan Coordinator



# SFWMD Project Team

Office of Resiliency
Budget and Finance
Engineering and Construction
Hydrology and Hydraulics
Applied Sciences
Ecosystem Restoration
GeoSpatial Services
Water Supply
Big Cypress Basin
Land Resources/Real Estate
Field Operations
Operations (Flood Control Systems)
Emergency Operations Center

# Acknowledgment - Project Partners

## Comments and Contributions Received

**Local Governments / Districts:**

- Broward County
- Collier County
- Lee County
- Martin County / Martin MPO
- Miami-Dade County
- Monroe County
- Orange County
- Palm Beach County
- St. Lucie County
- City of Apopka
- City of Fort Lauderdale
- City of Hallandale Beach
- Town of Cutler Bay
- Town of Jupiter
- Village of El Portal
- Florida Keys Aqueduct Authority
- Lake Worth Drainage District
- South Broward Drainage District

**NGOs**

- Audubon of Florida
- Center for Biological Diversity
- Everglades Foundation
- Everglades Law Center
- Florida Bay Forever
- Florida Veterans for Common Sense
- Friends of Biscayne Bay
- Growing Climate Solutions
- Miami Waterkeepers
- National Parks Conservation Association
- Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation
- South Florida Water Coalition
- South Florida Wildlands Association
- Tropical Audubon Society
- Urban Paradise Guild

**Tribes:**

- Seminole Tribe of Florida

**State Agencies:**

- Statewide Office of Resilience
- Florida Flood Hub for Applied Research and Innovation
- Florida Department of Transportation
- Florida Department of Emergency Management

**Federal Agencies:**

- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- Coastal and Heartland National Estuary Partnership

**Planning Councils:**

- Central Florida Regional Planning Council
- South Florida Regional Planning Council

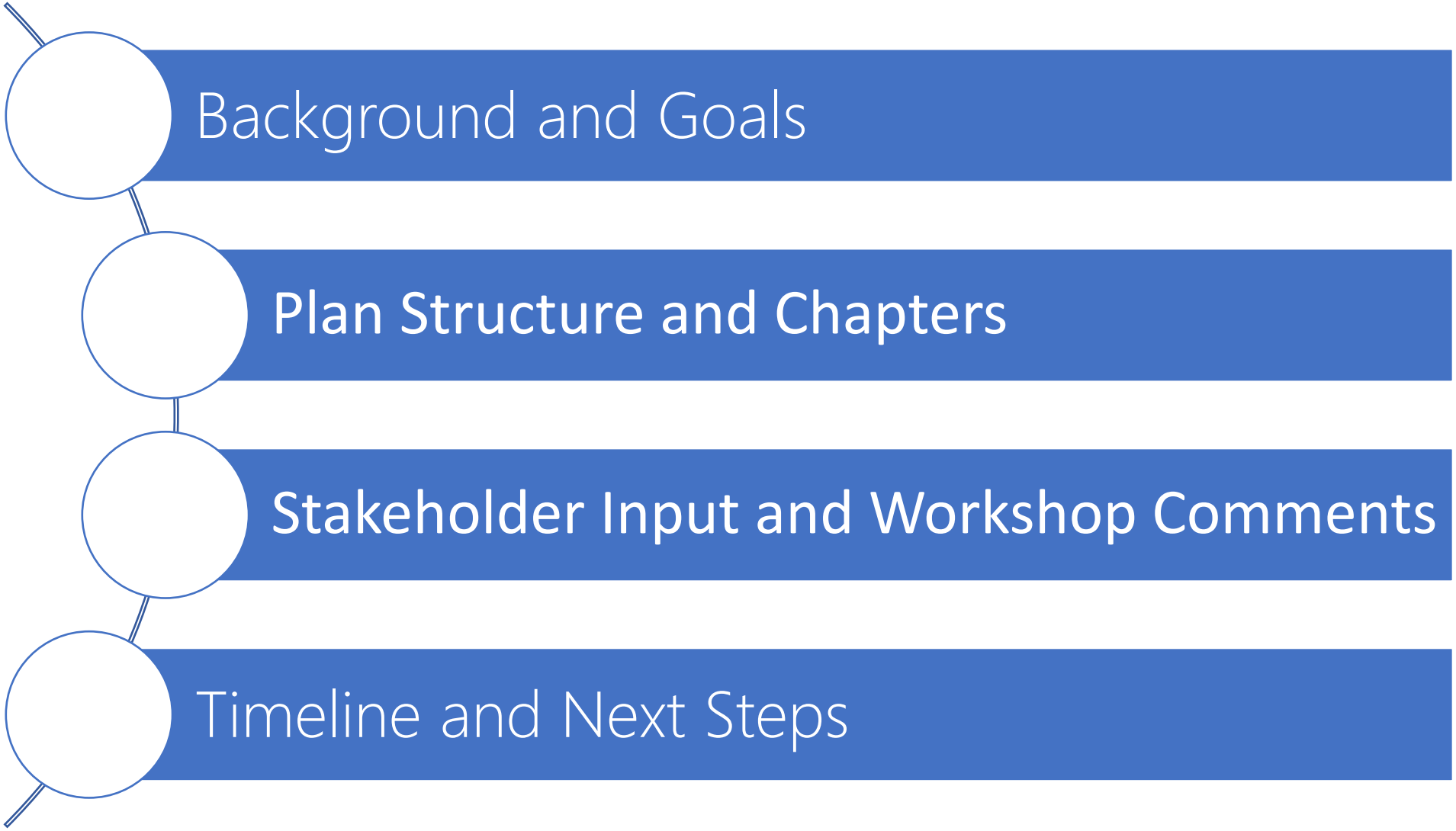
**Universities:**

- University of Miami
- Florida International University

**Private Companies**

**Other individuals**

# Today's Outline



# Background and Goals

# Goals for the 2025 Plan Update

- Create a robust 2025 Plan with latest project information
  - Thorough internal review
  - Obtain early input from resiliency partners and stakeholders
    - Four public workshops held across the region
- Update Plan to include most comprehensive set of projects
  - Living document with projects continually refined as needs, strategies, and opportunities for risk reduction emerge
  - Completed LOS studies in most of the urban areas in South Florida, including recently completed Upper Kissimmee Basin and Palm Beach County FPLOS Results
- Strengthen Statewide Alignment, through Resiliency Florida Program
  - Statewide Flood Vulnerability Assessment recently completed
- Future updates will be on a 5-year cycle (not annually, going forward)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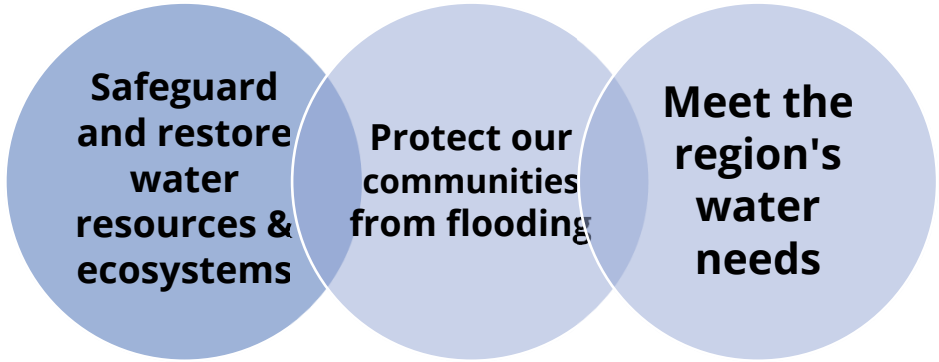
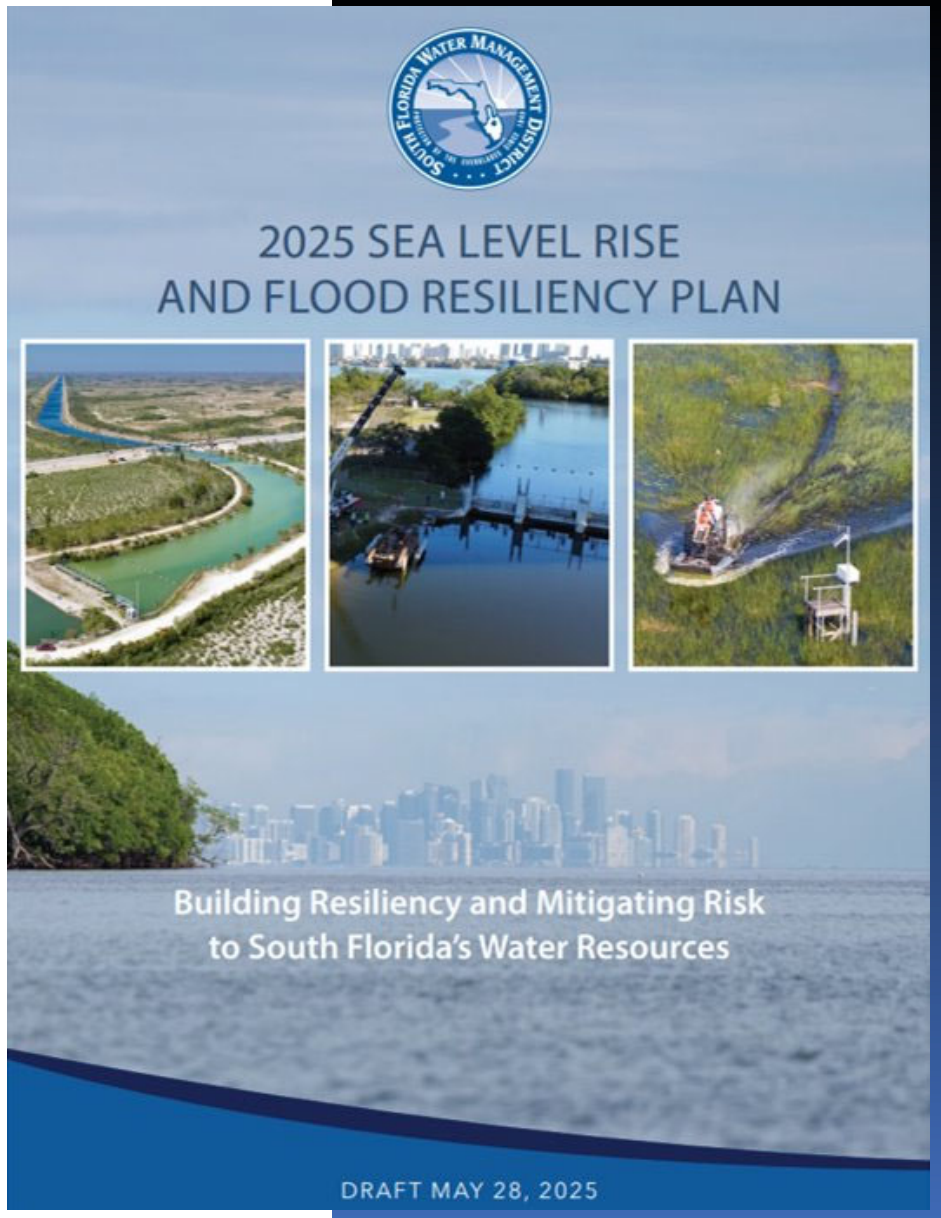
# Goals of the Plan

Reduce the risks of flooding, sea level rise, and other climate impacts on water resources and water management infrastructure and increasing community, economy and ecosystem resiliency in South Florida



# Justification

- Florida Statutes Chapter 380 Section 093: Resilient Florida Program established by Senate Bill 1954, May 12, 2021: comprehensive legislation ensures a coordinated approach to Florida's coastal and inland resilience
  - Section 380.093 (5)(d)(2), F.S. Statewide Flooding and Sea Level Rise Resilience Plan, due to FDEP annually on Sept 1st
  - Section 373.1501(10)(a), F.S. Consolidated Report on Flood Resiliency, due to the Governor, Senate, House, FDEP and EDR annually on Oct 1st

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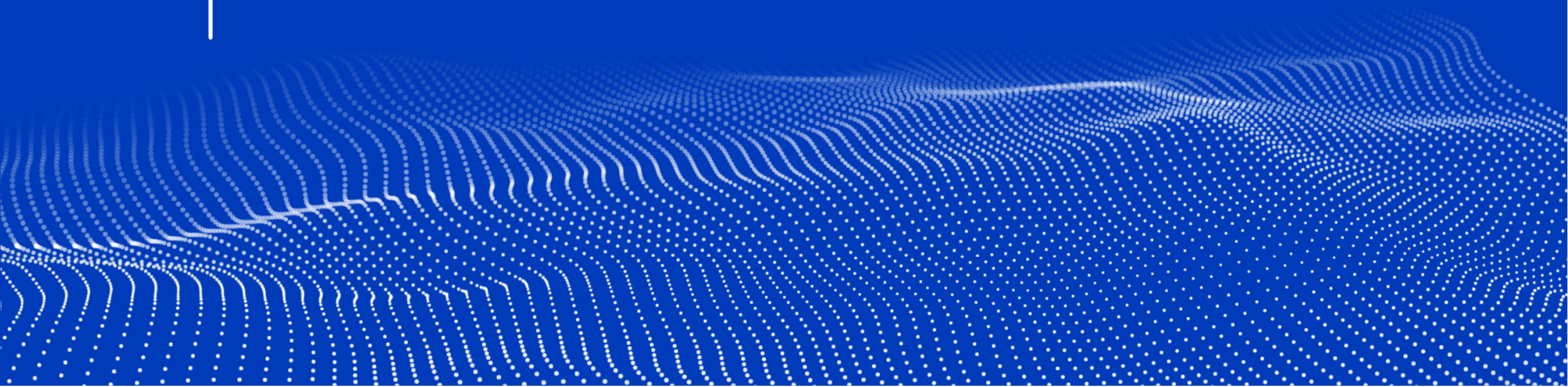
# Plan Structure and Chapters



# How Projects Get Into the Plan

**FPLOS Phase II Studies**

**Project recommendations from adaptation planning studies**
- Includes specific project recommendations such as properly sized engineering and nature-based solutions

**C&SF Flood Resiliency Studies**

- **Project recommendations from feasibility and engineering studies**
- Primary Structures Enhancements
- Class 4 Cost Estimates
- Engineering Studies

**FPLOS Phase I Studies**

**Project recommendations from flood vulnerability assessments**
- No-regret strategies

**Event Response**

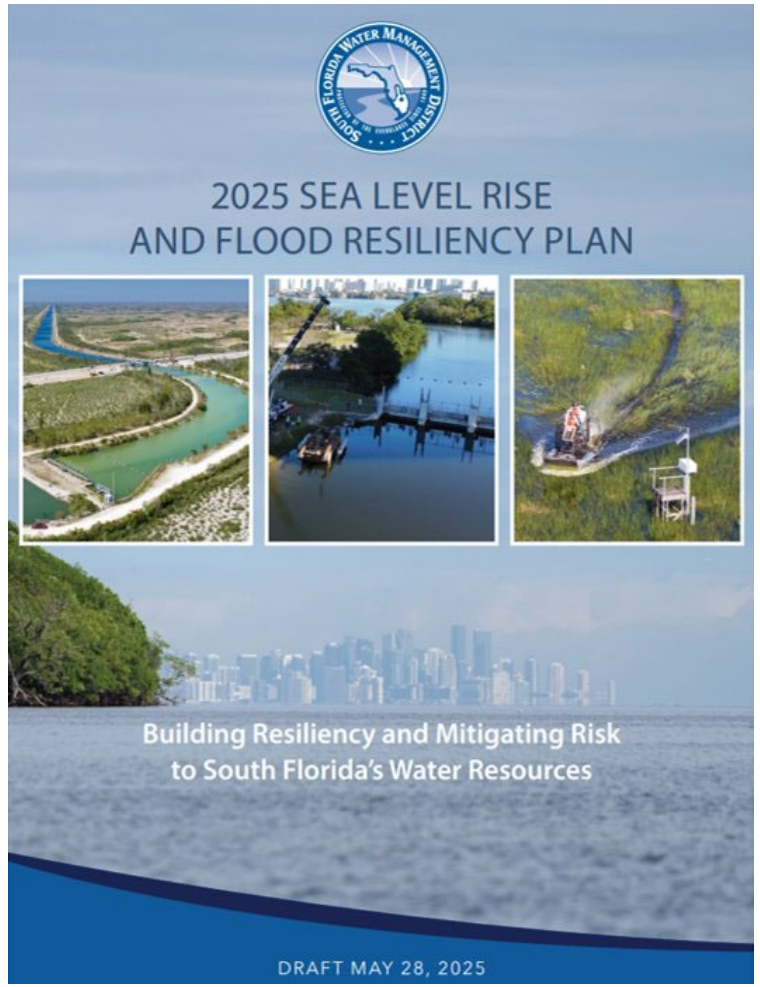
**Project recommendations from extreme events**
- Post-Storm or Event Response
- Hurricanes Ian and Milton

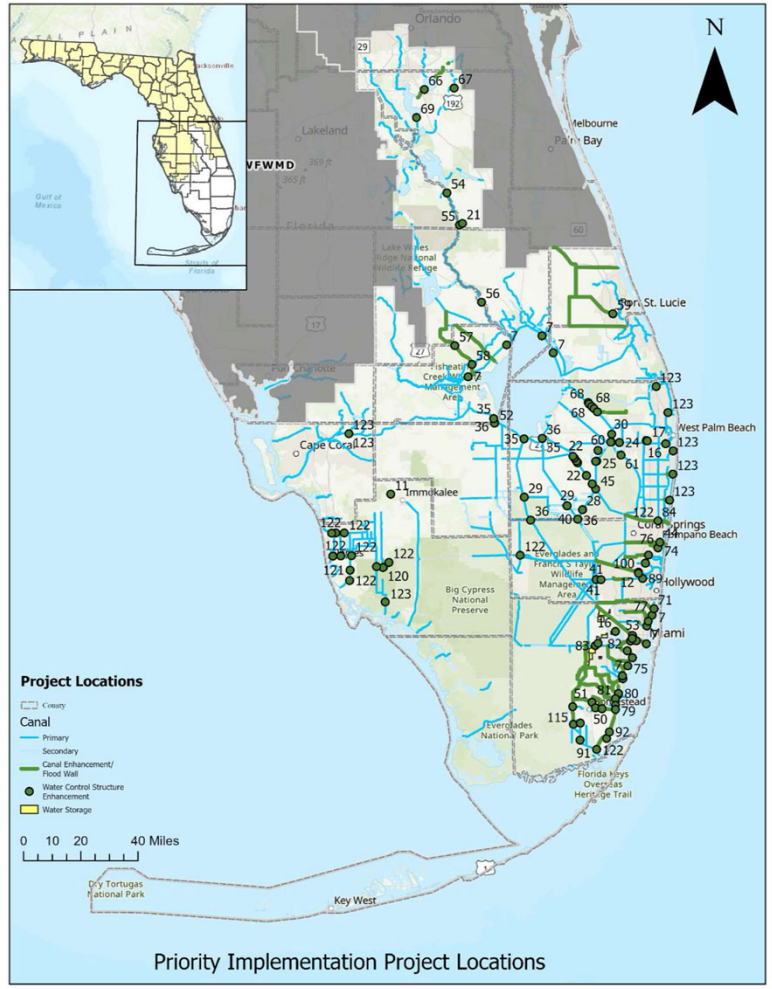
**CIP Projects**

**Project recommendations that are integrated into CIP need**
- Water control infrastructure improvements

**Innovative Projects**

**Project recommendations that are new and innovative**
- Nature-Based Solutions
- Integration to Existing CERP Projects
- Alternative energy sources
- Other grant funding requirements

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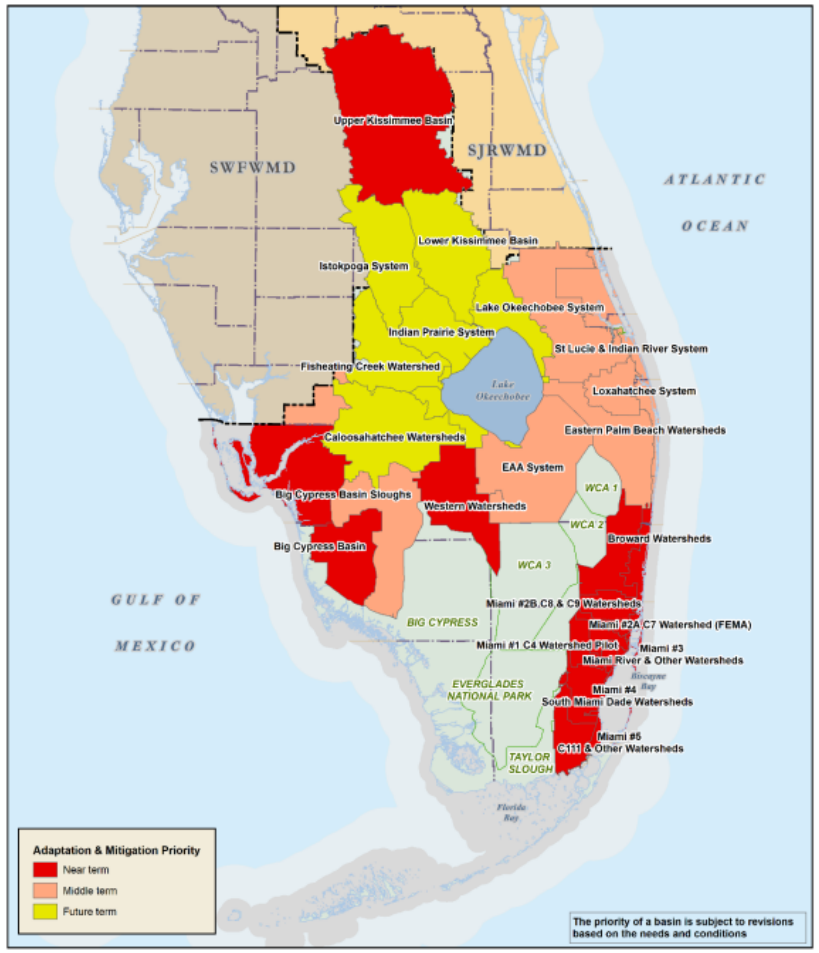
# Flood Protection Level of Service Program

## SFWMD's strategy for assessing the impacts of land development and changing climate on flood control infrastructure

**Evaluate current and future flood risks to communities in South Florida**

- Pre-defined performance metrics: canal stages, discharge capacity, overland flood inundation and duration
- Considers rainfall, groundwater levels, tides, storm surge and sea level: compound flooding analysis
- Basin-wide integrated modeling: supports the assessment of structural, non-structural and nature-based solutions
- **Support decision making on prioritizing and sequencing infrastructure investments**
- **Safeguarding tomorrow, today**

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# C&SF Flood Resiliency Studies

**Planning Reach A - Broward County Basins**

- C&SF Flood Resiliency Study Section 203 Authorization
- Feasibility Study – Target WRDA 26
- Funding support from FDEP and Broward County

**Planning Reach B - C-7, C-8, C-9 Basins**

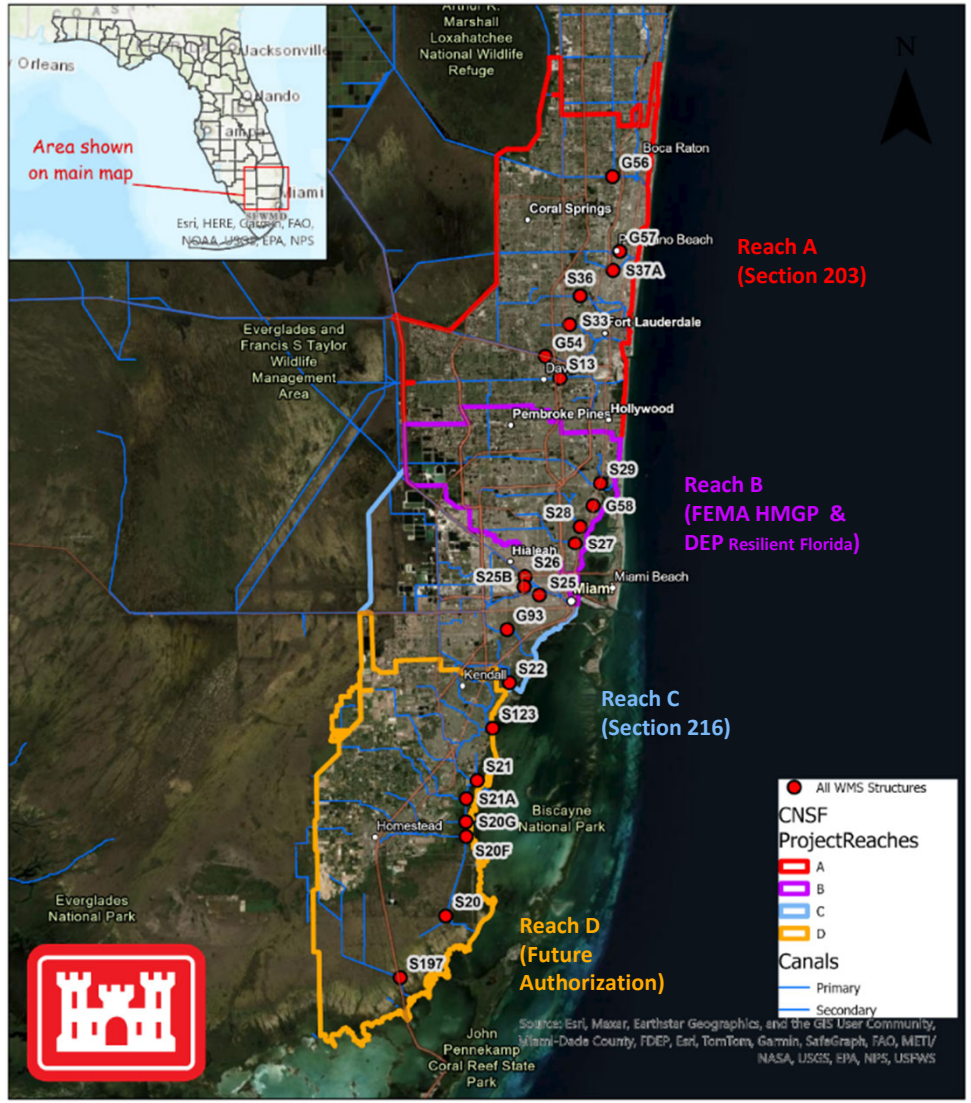
- FDEM/FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant
- Resilient Florida Grant
- Funding support from  Miami Dade County

**Planning Reach C – Miami River Basins**

- C&SF Flood Resiliency Study Section 216 Authorization
- Feasibility Study – Target WRDA 30

**Planning Reach D - South Dade Basins**

- CS&F Comprehensive Study or future planning studies



# Event Response - Post Disaster Assessments

- SFWMD's post disaster efforts:
  - DS 4673 Hurricane Ian – 6 projects submitted
  - DS 4834 Hurricane Milton – to be confirmed
- Working with LMS at Orange, Osceola, Collier, Palm Beach, Broward and Miami Dade County for project review and approval
- Technical Review and Support from the Florida Department of Emergency Management
- Initial Feasibility assessements being developed (H&H models, BCA, Basis of Design)

**e.g. Ian's Projects Estimated Costs $115M**

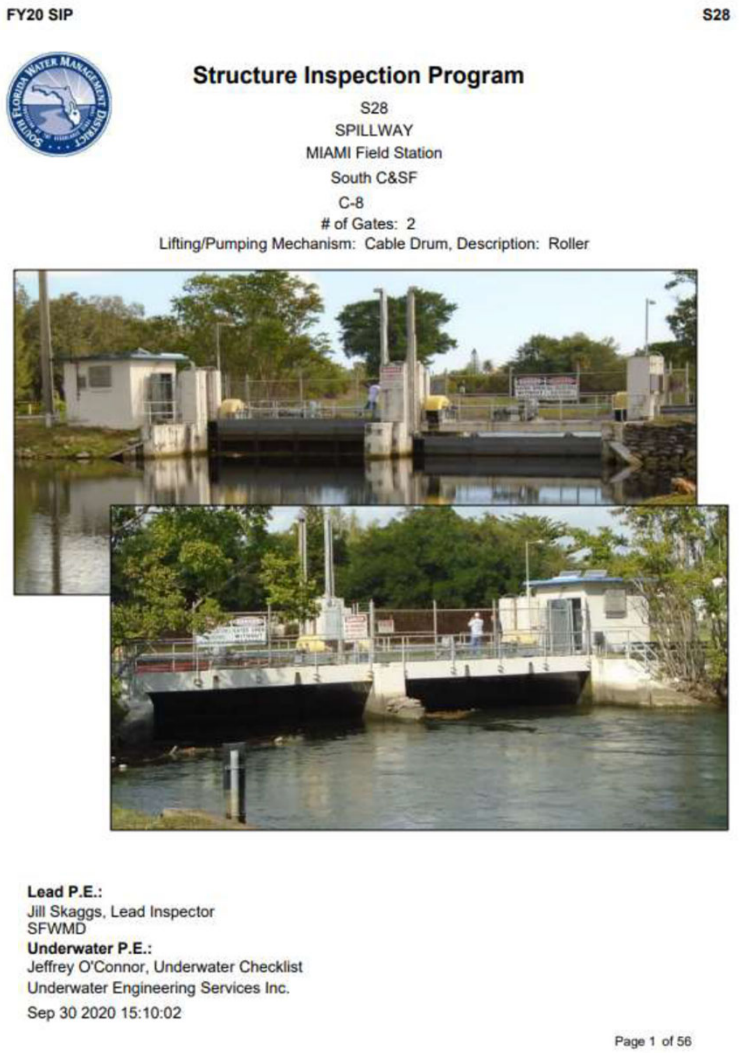
**Estimated Benefits $185M (Flood Damages, Existing Properties)**

# Capital Improvement Program Needs

- The SFWMD Capital Improvement Plan identifies projects that are needed to keep the water control system operating effectively and efficiently

- These projects often mesh with Resiliency needs and therefore are integrated into the implementation strategy

Go one time and get it all done


FY20 SIP S28

Structure Inspection Program

S28
SPILLWAY
MIAMI Field Station
South C&SF
C-8
# of Gates: 2
Lifting/Pumping Mechanism: Cable Drum, Description: Roller

**Lead P.E.:**
Jill Skaggs, Lead Inspector
SFWMD
**Underwater P.E.:**
Jeffrey O'Connor, Underwater Checklist
Underwater Engineering Services Inc.
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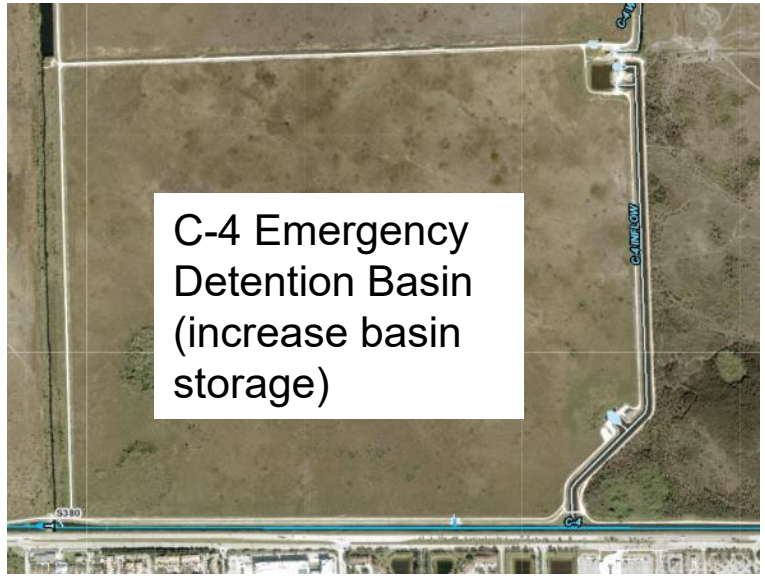
# Examples of Flood Mitigation Solutions

Seawall (protect against surge)


S-26 Forward pump (maintain basin discharge)



C-4 Emergency Detention Basin (increase basin storage)

Raised Canal Banks C-4 Floodwall (conveyance)

Convertible Flood Barrier (harden infrastructure)

Flap Gate (enhance basin connectivity & backflow prevention)


Green Infrastructure / Nature Base Features

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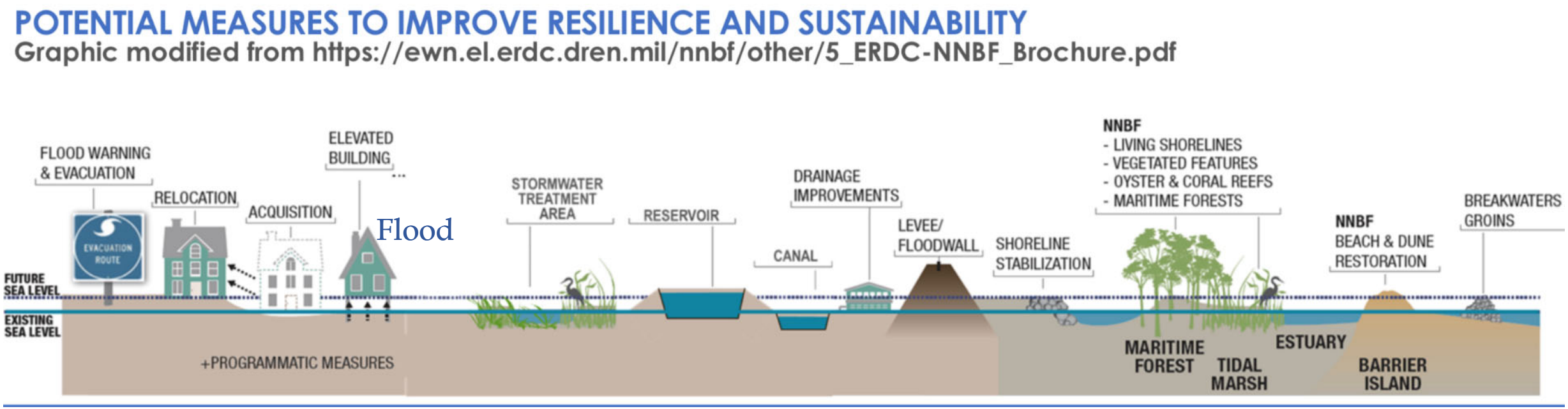
# Integrating Local, Regional, Natural, Inland Drainage and Coastal Flood Resiliency Strategies




**Need BOTH Structural Measures & Non-Structural Measures**

**(Moving Flood Risk Away from Communities & Living with the Water)**

**Along with Nature Based Features**

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# SFWMD Resiliency Plan - Chapters

1. Resiliency Vision
2. The Central and Southern Florida System and BCB Flood Control Systems
3. Bridging Science and Data to Inform Resiliency Planning
4. Assessing Flood Vulnerabilities: Flood Protection Level of Service Program and C&SF Flood Resiliency Studies
5. Nature-Based Solutions
6. Ecosystem Restoration Projects & Resiliency
7. Water Supply Resiliency
8. Characterizing and Ranking Resiliency Projects
9. Planning Projects
10. Resiliency Implementation Projects
11. Resilience by Implementation: Navigating the Path to Robust Water Infrastructure
12. Closing Comments and Next Steps

Appendix A. Project Descriptions and High Level Cost Estimates

Appendix B. Water Supply Vulnerability Assessment (Approach)

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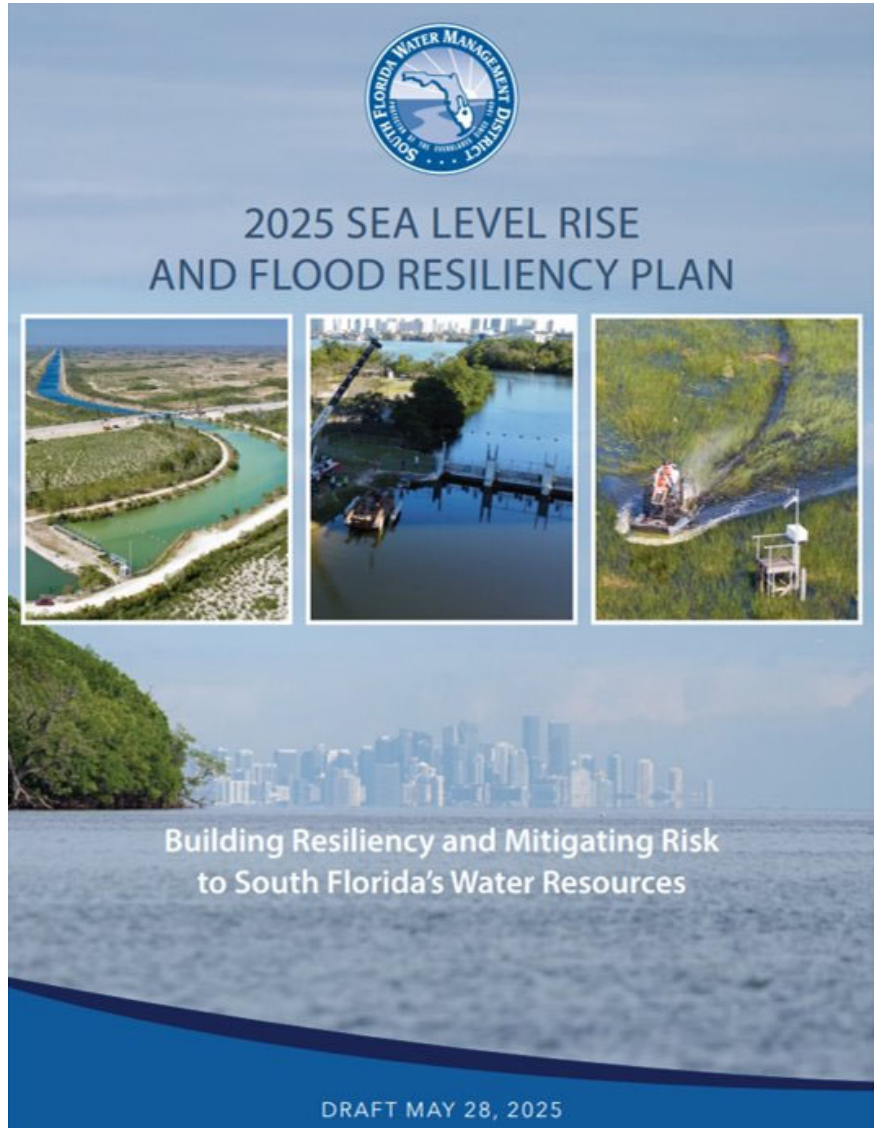
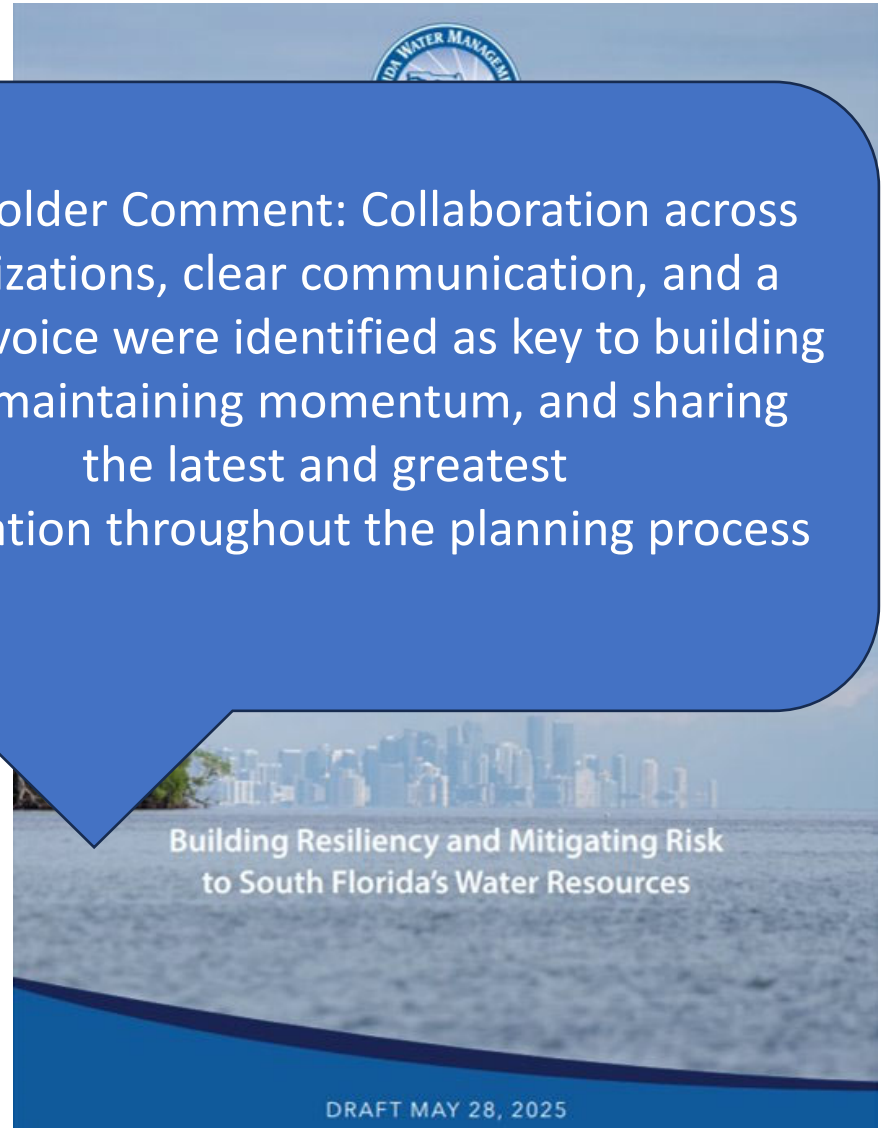


# Chapter 1 – Resiliency Vision

- Risk Reduction / Effectiveness
- Implementation Resources
- Anticipated Future Conditions
- Population and Critical Infrastructure Impacted
- Public Engagement & Leveraging Partnerships
- Ongoing Ecosystem Restoration Efforts
- Innovative Green/Nature-Based Solutions
- Statewide Alignment and the Resilient Florida Program

Stakeholder Comment: Collaboration across organizations, clear communication, and a unified voice were identified as key to building trust, maintaining momentum, and sharing the latest and greatest information throughout the planning process

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# Statewide Alignment and Resilient Florida

- Resilient Florida Program, under FDEP's leadership
- Statewide Flooding and Sea Level Rise Plan
  - Driven by statewide vulnerability assessment, statewide database, FFH data analysis and modeling tools and RF grant program
- SFWMD Resiliency Plan adds to state's plan by providing regional perspective on building resiliency and prioritizing investments
- SFWMD aims to facilitate integration of state and federal resources into local plans to align regional, locally relevant and effective structural, non-structural and nature-based solutions.

# Chapter 2 - Central & Southern Florida and BCB Systems

- Current Challenges and Limitations
  - Population growth
  - Land development
  - Extreme rainfall events
  - Sea level rise
- Capital Improvement Plan
  - Building resiliency into projects
  - Mitigating flooding risks
  - CIP feeds into FPLOS

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# Chapter 3 – Science and Data to Inform Resiliency Planning

## Water and Climate Resilience Metrics

- Phase I – Analyze and determine trends in climate records
  - SFWMD DBHydro database
  - 50 metrics evaluated, 15 chosen
- Phase II
  - Refine and expand assessment of changing conditions


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# Chapter 4 – Assessing Flood Vulnerabilities: FPLOS & C&SF Flood Resiliency Studies

2025 Plan Reflects Latest Studies and Results

- Phase I – Flood Vulnerability Assessments
  - Identify basin-wide flood vulnerabilities
- Phase II – Adaptation and Mitigation Planning
  - Identify solutions to vulnerabilities
- Studies in most urban areas have been completed
- Flood Impact Assessment Tool (SFWMD-FIAT)
  - Calculate flood damage costs
- C&SF Flood Resiliency Study (initial assessments)


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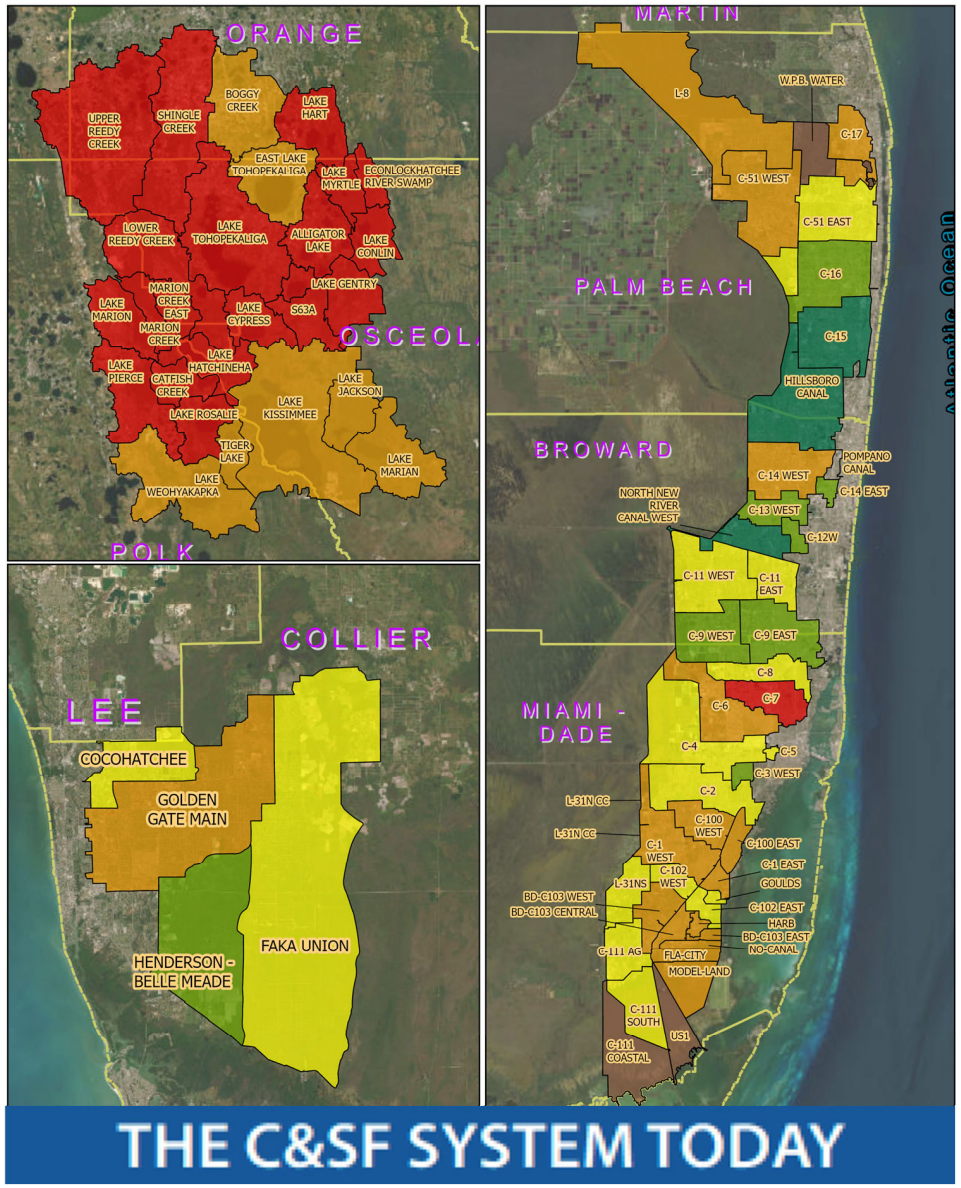
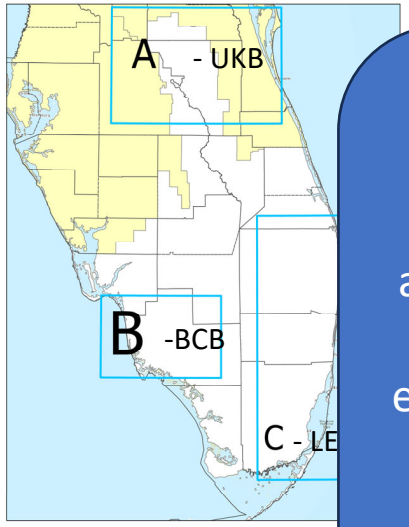
# Overview of Available FPLOS Results

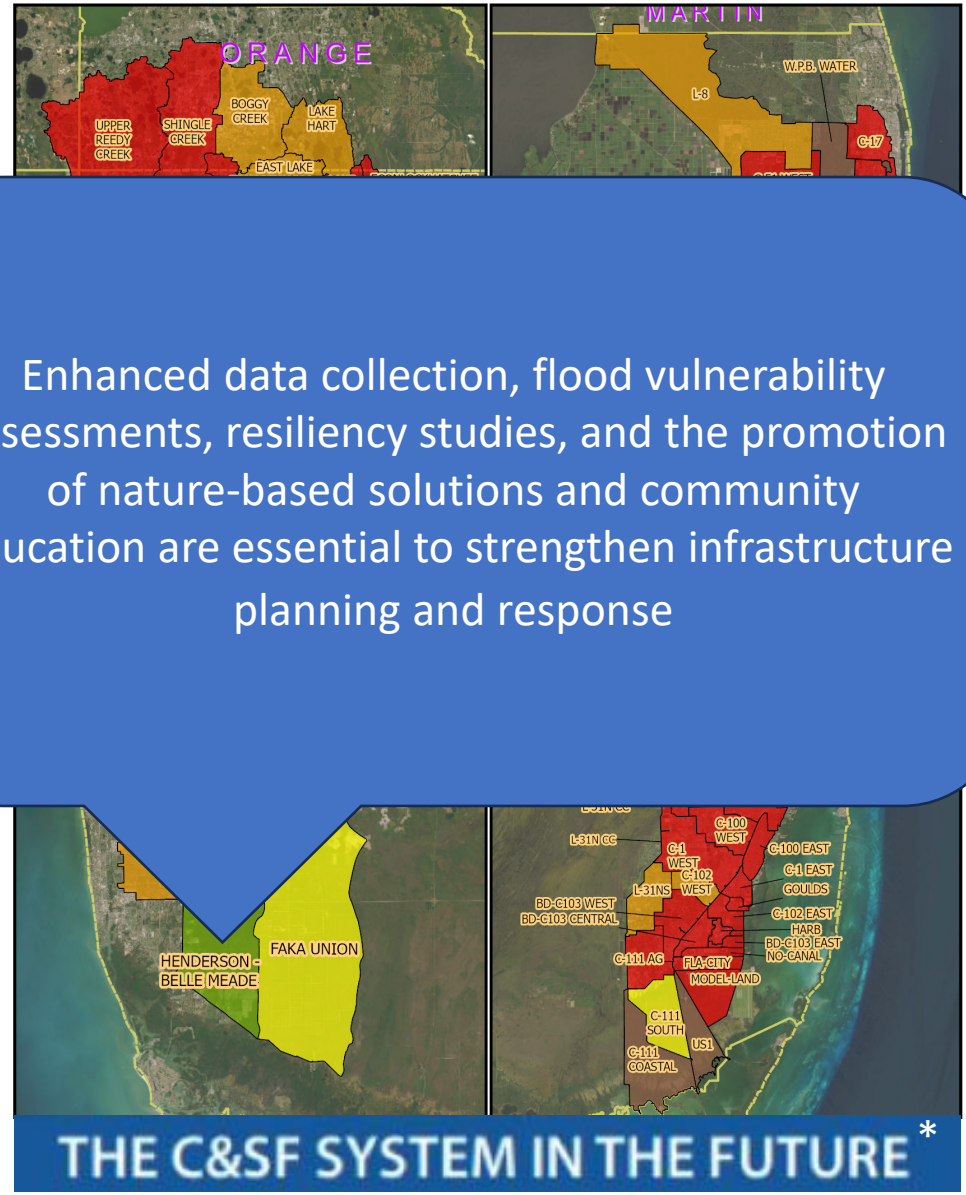



THE C&SF SYSTEM TODAY




100-Year Even
25-Year Event
10-Year Event
5-Year Event
< 5-Year Event
No Rating
No Results

Enhanced data collection, flood vulnerability assessments, resiliency studies, and the promotion of nature-based solutions and community education are essential to strengthen infrastructure planning and response




THE C&SF SYSTEM IN THE FUTURE *

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* Flood Protection Level of Service under future conditions of Sea Level Rise (2ft, for LEC and BCB), rainfall intensification (for UKB) and land use development.

# Chapter 5 – Nature-Based Solutions

- Nature-Based Solutions – Reduce Flood Risk
  - Reconnecting Floodplains
  - Wetland Restoration
  - Living Shorelines
  - Bioswales
- Integrate into Gray Infrastructure
- Collect, Store and Slow the Flow


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# Chapter 6 – Ecosystem Restoration

- Ongoing Ecosystem Restoration projects Increase Resiliency
  - by reducing flood impact
  - by protecting the regional water supply and storing water that can be available to attend dry season need
  - by providing enhanced hydrology for environmental restoration efforts
- Ongoing CERP projects restore preserve, and protect water related needs of the region
  - Stormwater Storage
  - Wetland Restoration
  - Water Quality Treatment

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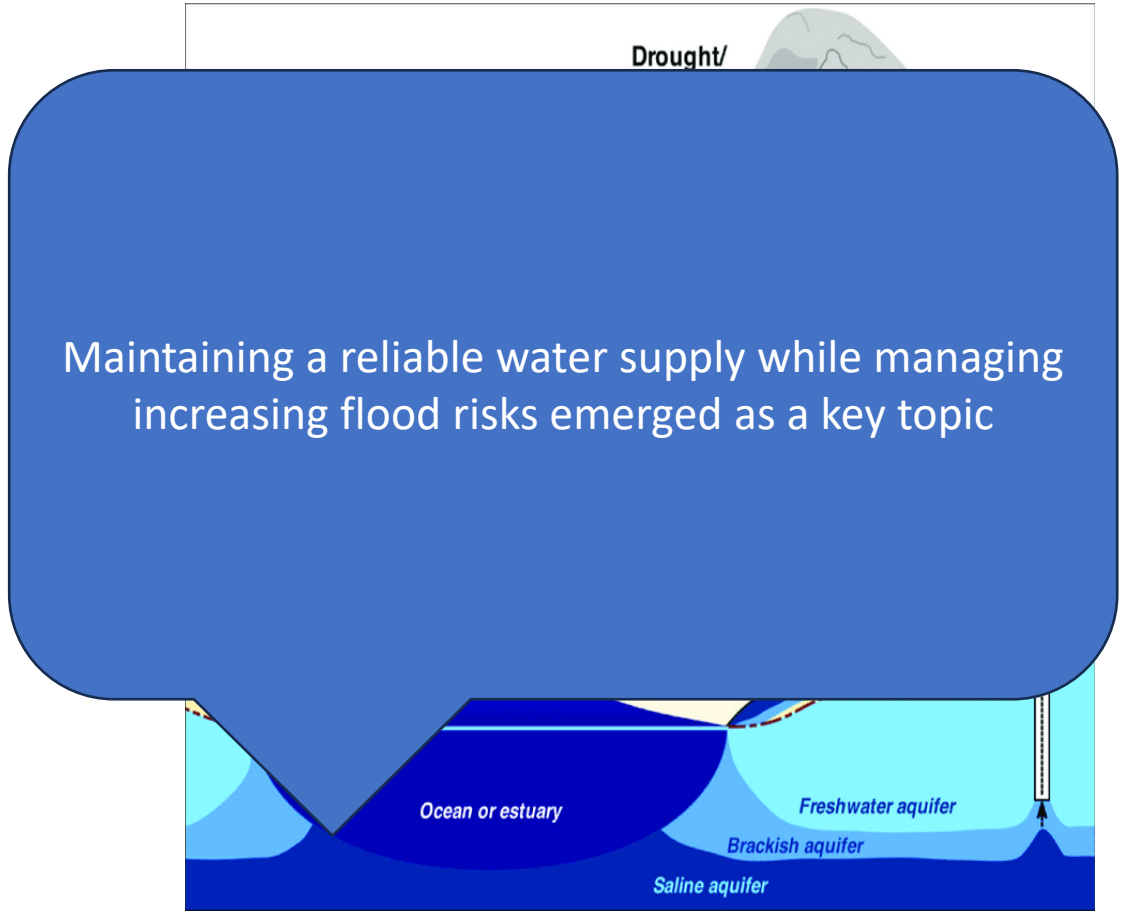
# Chapter 7 – Water Supply

- Understand and assess water supply vulnerabilities to future conditions
- Protect existing water supply sources
  - MFLs, monitoring, salinity control structures
- Develop alternative water sources
  - Conservation, reuse, brackish water
- Storage of excess water
  - Reservoirs, aquifer storage, WCAs, WMAs, SWM
- Water Supply Vulnerability Assessment

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# Chapter 8 – Characterizing and Ranking Projects

- Ranking Criteria – Four Tiers
- Likelihood of System Deficiency (40%)
- Consequence of System Deficiency (30%)
- Project Benefits and System Enhancement (20%)
- Structure Inspection Program Rating and CIP Status (10%)

| Key ID | Projects | Prioritization Class |
|---|---|---|
| 135 | C-17 Basin Resiliency | High |
| 73 | C-6 Basin Resiliency | High |
| 70 | C-7 Basin Resiliency | High |
| 76 | C-14 Basin Resiliency | High |
| 74 | Pompano Canal Basin Resiliency | High |
| 75 | C-2 Basin Resiliency | High |
| 79 | C-103 and C-103N Basin Resiliency | High |
| 72 | C-8 Basin Resiliency | High |
| 80 | C-1 Basin Resiliency | High |
| 136 | C-51 East Basin Resiliency | High |
| 69 | Toho LMA Basin Resiliency | High |
| 77 | North Biscayne Bay Basin Resiliency | High |
| 88 | HARB Basin Resiliency | High |
| 93 | South Miami-Dade Curtain Flood Barrier | High |
| 78 | C-100 Basin Resiliency | High |
| 129 | Cypress LMA Basin Resiliency | High |
| 71 | C-9 Basin Resiliency | High |
| 137 | C-51 West Basin Resiliency | Medium High |
| 92 | MODEL-LAND Basin Resiliency | Medium High |
| 115 | C-111 AG Basin Resiliency | Medium High |
| 83 | C-4 Basin Resiliency | Medium High |
| 125 | Gentry LMA Basin Resiliency | Medium High |
| 139 | Kissimmee LMA Basin Resiliency | Medium High |
| 89 | C-11 Basin Resiliency | Medium High |
| 91 | C-111 South and C-111 Coastal Basin Resiliency | Medium |
| 126 | Alligator LMA Basin Resiliency | Medium |
| 87 | C-12 Canal Enhancement with Green & Gray Infrastructure | Medium |
| 132 | East Lake Toho LMA Basin Resiliency | Medium |
| 106 | C-5 Basin Resiliency | Medium |
| 104 | Basin Resiliency | Medium |
| 127 | Hart LMA Basin Resiliency | Medium |
| 90 | C-13 Basin Resiliency | Medium |
| 81 | C-102 and C-102N Basin Resiliency | Medium |
| 138 | L-8 Basin Resiliency | Medium |
| 37 | L-31E Flood Barrier Improvements | Medium |
| 100 | North New River Canal Basin Resiliency | Medium |
| 117 | US1 Basin Resiliency | Medium |
| 131 | LMA Basin Resiliency | Medium |
| 130 | Hatchineha LMA Basin Resiliency | Medium |
| 134 | C-16 Basin Resiliency | Medium |
| 114 | L-31NS Basin Resiliency | Low |
| 109 | Goulds Canal Basin Resiliency | Low |
| 121 | Henderson-Belle Meade Basin Resiliency | Low |
| 133 | C-15 Basin Resiliency | Low |
| 84 | Hillsboro Canal Basin Resiliency | Low |
| 95 | Directing Coastal Ecosystem Resilience | Low |



**Legend**
**Priority Levels**
- Lower
- Medium
- Medium High
- High

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# Project Ranking: Alignment with Resilient Florida

## Resilient Florida Project Ranking

### Tier 1: 40 Points

- 10 Points – Degree to which the project addresses flood risks
- 10 Points – Reduces risk to regional significant assets
- 10 Points – Reduces risk located in areas with higher vulnerable assets
- 10 Points – Awarded if projects contributes to existing flooding mitigation projects

### Tier 2: 30 Points

- 7.5 Points – Awarded based on the degree to which flooding and erosion impact the project impact area.
- 7.5 Points – Project Readiness
- 7.5 Points – Environmental Habitat enhancement or nature-based solutions
- 7.5 Points – Project is demonstrated to be cost effective

### Tier 3: 20 Points

- 6.5 Points – Available Local, State, and/or Federal cost share
- 6.5 Points – Verification of state funding previously awarded
- 7 Points – Awarded if project demonstrates exceedance of flood resistant requirements in the Florida Building Codes Act

### Tier 4: 10 Points

- 5 Points – Awarded if project includes innovative technologies designed to reduce project costs and provide regional collaboration
- 5 Points – will be awarded if the proposal demonstrates that the project impact area includes a community eligible for reduced cost share (ongoing rule making Chapter 62S-8)

## SFWMD Project Ranking

### Tier 1: 40% - Likelihood of System Deficiency

- FPLOS Phase 1 Results – 15%
- Known or Chronic Nuisance Flooding Report – 13%
- FEMA Flood Zone Exposure – 3%
- Storm Surge Inundation Results
- No Alternatives or Backups in Worst Case Scenario 6%
- Return Period of Overbank Flooding
- Sea Level Resulting in Overbank Flooding
- Exceedance of Canal Normal Operating Range (OR) 3%
- Finished Floor Elevation < Base Flood Elevation

### Tier 2: 30% - Consequence of System Deficiency

- Critical Assets & Regional Assets - 12%
- Impact Areas Across Administration Boundaries – 2.5%
- At Risk Population – 5%
- Environmental Protected Areas – 3.5%
- Total Population – 1%
- Public Water Supply Wellfields – 5%
- Adaptation Action Areas – 1%
- 20% - Benefits From System Enhancements

### Tier 3: 20% - Benefits From System Enhancements

- Nature Based Solutions 5% (from Tier2 RF)
- Ecosystem Restoration
- Cost Benefit Analysis – 2.5%
- Previous State Funding – 2.5%
- Available Match – 2.5%
- Florida Building Code Design Criteria – 2.5%
- Innovative Technologies – 5%

### Tier 4: 10% - Project Status

- SIP Overall Rating – 5% / CIP Status – 5%

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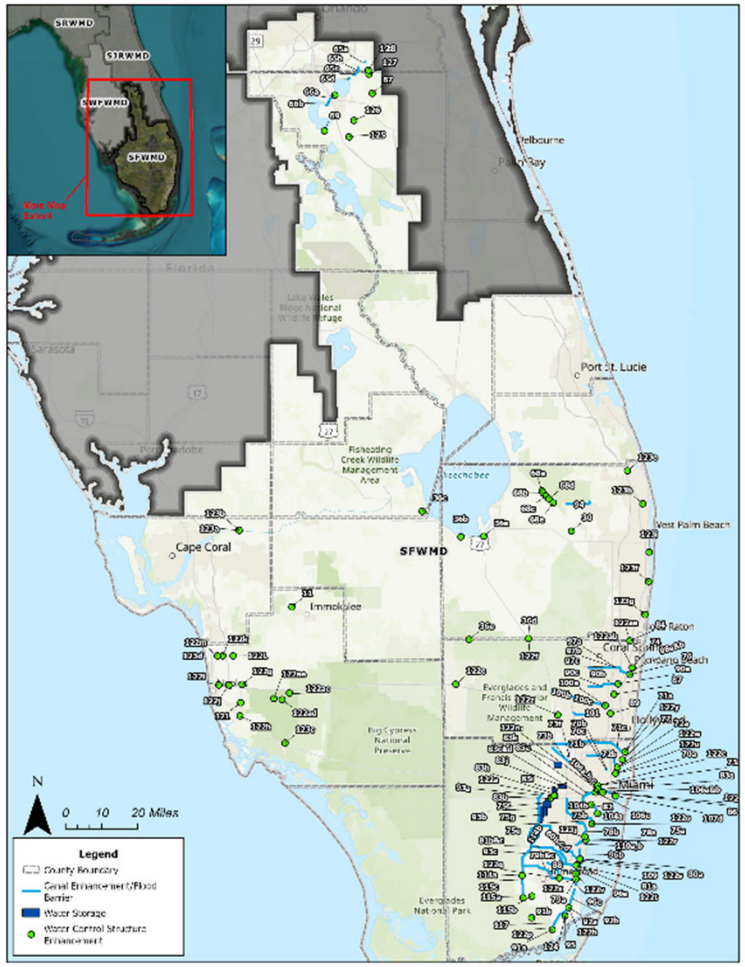
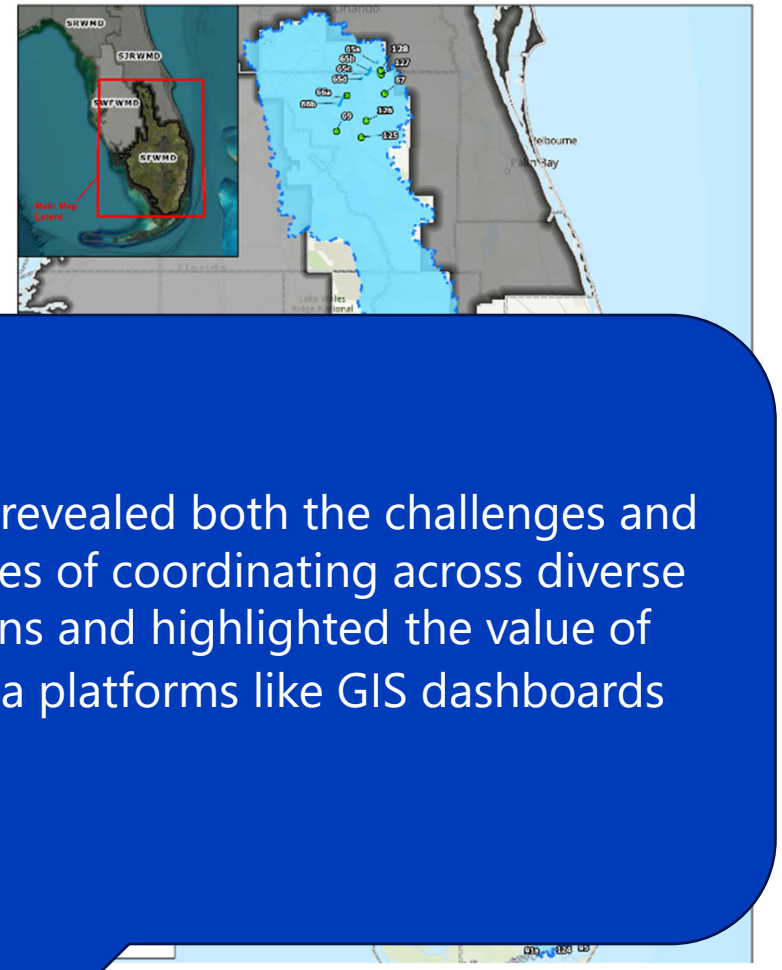
# Project Locations – Impact Areas and Components








Discussions revealed both the challenges and opportunities of coordinating across diverse jurisdictions and highlighted the value of shared data platforms like GIS dashboards

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# Critical Assets

## Critical Community and Emergency Facilities

| | |
|---|---|
| Affordable Public Housing | Critical Assets |
| Colleges and Universities | Critical Assets |
| Community Centers | Criti |
| Correctional Facilities | C |
| Disaster Recovery Centers | |
| Emergency Medical Service Facilities | Reg |
| Emergency Operation Centers | Reg |
| Fire Stations | |
| Health Care Facilities | |
| Hospitals | |
| Law Enforcement Facilities | |
| Local Government Facilities | |
| Logistical Staging Areas | |
| Risk Shelter Inventory | Reg |
| Schools | |
| State Government Facilities | |

## Natural, Cultural, and Historical Resources

| | |
|---|---|
| Historical and Cultural Assets - PT | Critical Assets |
| Historical and Cultural Assets - PL | Critical Assets |
| Shorelines | Critical Assets |
| Surface Waters - PL | Critical Assets |
| Conservation Lands | Critical Assets |
| Historical and Cultural Assets - PG | Critical Assets |
| Parks | Critical Assets |
| Surface Waters - PG | Critical Assets |
| Wetlands | Critical Assets |

Alignment of planning approaches and outreach efforts across municipal, county, and state levels was seen as essential for consistency and scalability

## Transportation and Evacuation Routes

| | |
|---|---|
| Airports | Critical Assets |
| Bus Terminals | Regionally Significant |
| Marinas | Critical Assets |
| Ports - PT | Regionally Significant |
| Rail Facilities - PT | Regionally Significant |
| Railroad Bridges | Regionally Significant |
| | Critical Assets |
| | Regionally Significant |
| | Critical Assets |
| | Regionally Significant |
| | Regionally Significant |

| | |
|---|---|
| | Critical Assets |
| | Critical Assets |
| | Regionally Significant |
| PT | Regionally Significant |
| | Critical Assets |
| G | Critical Assets |
| D | Critical Assets |
| SB | Critical Assets |
| Stormwater Treatment Facilities and Pump Stations - PT | Regionally Significant |
| Wastewater Treatment Facilities and Lift Stations | Regionally Significant |
| Water Utility Conveyance Systems | Regionally Significant |
| Electric Production and Supply Facilities - PL | Regionally Significant |
| Stormwater Treatment Facilities and Pump Stations - PL | Regionally Significant |
| Stormwater Treatment Facilities and Pump Stations - PG | Regionally Significant |
| Military Installations | Regionally Significant |

## Locally Provided Assets From Vulnerability Assessments

| | |
|---|---|
| Locally Provided Assets - PT | Critical Assets |
| Locally Provided Assets - PL | Critical Assets |
| Locally Provided Assets - PG | Critical Assets |

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# Chapter 9 – Priority Planning Projects

Participants proposed incorporating storm surge modeling and economic loss projections into ranking criteria to strengthen the case for funding and better reflect regional risk

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*Table 9-1:*
**List of Resiliency Priority Planning Studies**

### Enhanced Data Collection and Long-Term Trend Analyses

1. Water and Climate Resiliency Metrics (Phase I and II)
2. Flooding Documentation (survey, sensors, imagery, repository, and automated notification system)
3. Hydrometeorological Data Monitoring (wells, sensors, etc.)
4. Everglades Mangrove Migration Assessment (EMMA - Pilot Project)
5. Mangrove Experimental Manipulation Exercise (MEME)
6. Waterways Impact Protection Effort (Project WIPE-Out)
7. Carbon Storage (Monitoring and Reporting)
8. Accretion Analyses (SET Network Monitoring)

### Formulation and Evaluation of Future Climate Scenarios

1. Future Drought Scenarios
2. Atmosphere-Ocean Simulations to Compute Boundary Conditions for the Statewide Regional Climate Model
3. Future Conditions Internal Resources for District Regulation Reviews

### Modeling Assessments

1. FPLOS Vulnerability Assessments (Phase I Studies)
   a. Western Basins – Hendry and Collier County
   b. Taylor Creek/Nubbin Slough (S-154C) and Basin 8 – Lake Okeechobee Watershed / Okeechobee County
   c. Everglades Agricultural Area (EAA)
2. FPLOS Adaptation and Mitigation Planning assessments (Phase II Studies)
   a. C-7 Basin – Miami-Dade County
   b. St. Lucie and Martin County (combined Phases I and II study)
3. C&SF Section 216 Flood Resiliency Study
   a. Miami River Basins
4. C&SF Section 203 Flood Resiliency Study
   a. Broward Basins
5. Comprehensive C&SF Flood Resiliency Study
6. Water Supply Vulnerability Assessment
   a. Lower East Coast
7. Corkscrew Watershed Initiative
8. Evaluating the Performance of the SFINCS Hazard Model to Support and Accelerate the FPLOS and SEFL Regional Adaptation Planning Efforts
9. Green Infrastructure Flood Mitigation Strategies - Associating Water Quality Benefits in the Little River Watershed
10. Designing Wetland Habitat Enhancement and Flooding Improvements for Charlotte Harbor Flatwoods Project

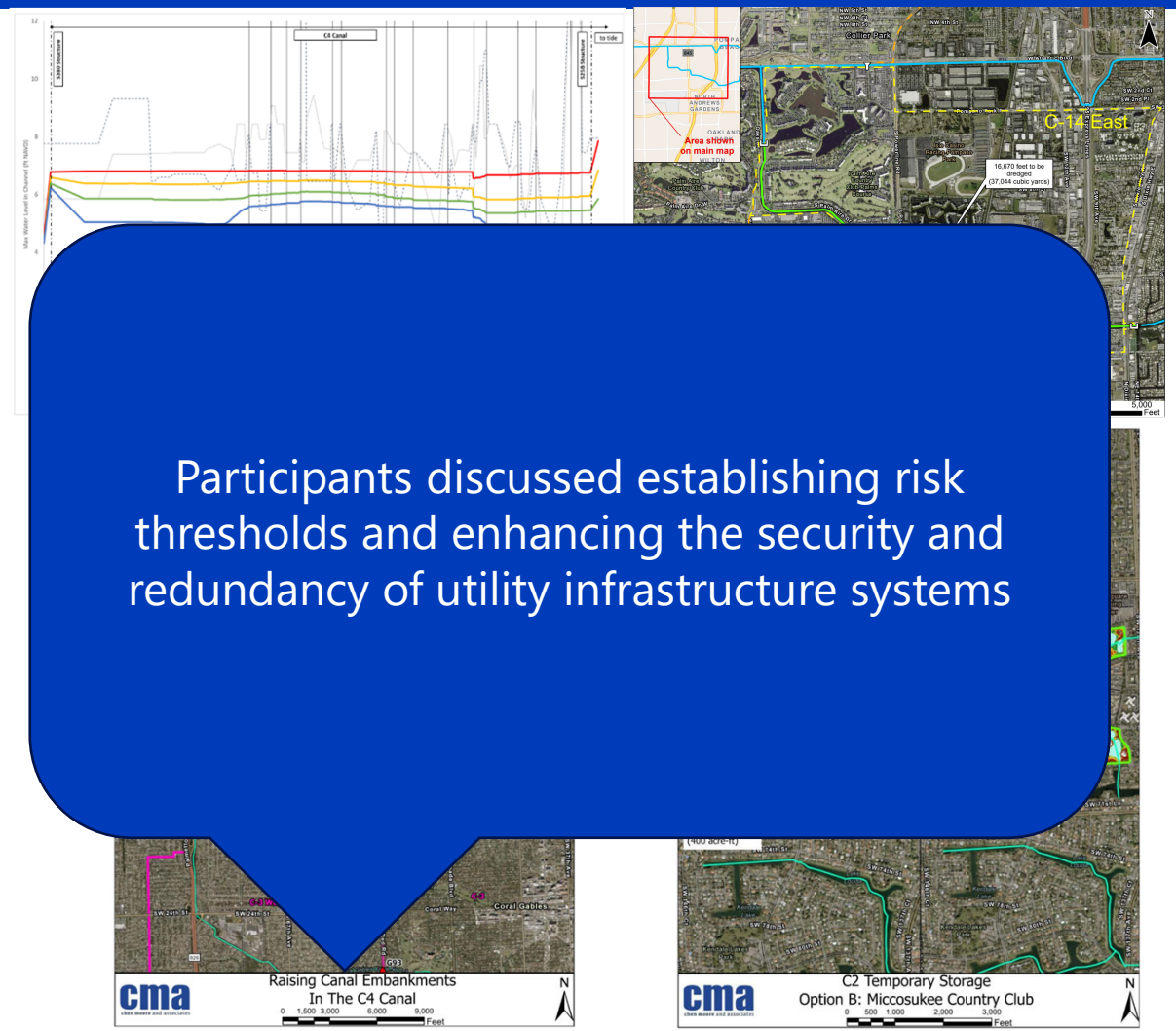
### Completed and Ongoing Projects Highlights

1. Flood Observations
2. King Tides

# Chapter 10 – Resiliency Implementation Projects

- Added conceptual project component descriptions and high-level cost estimates from FPLOS Phase I Studies and Phase II project recommendations
- Updated costs estimate assumptions for 8 types of conceptual project components:
  - » Canal Widening
  - » Canal Bank Enhancement,
  - » Spillway
  - » Culvert
  - » Forward Pump
  - » Dredging
  - » Distributed Storage
  - » Storage Areas

- **Total main projects: 52**
- **Total components: 162**




Participants discussed establishing risk thresholds and enhancing the security and redundancy of utility infrastructure systems

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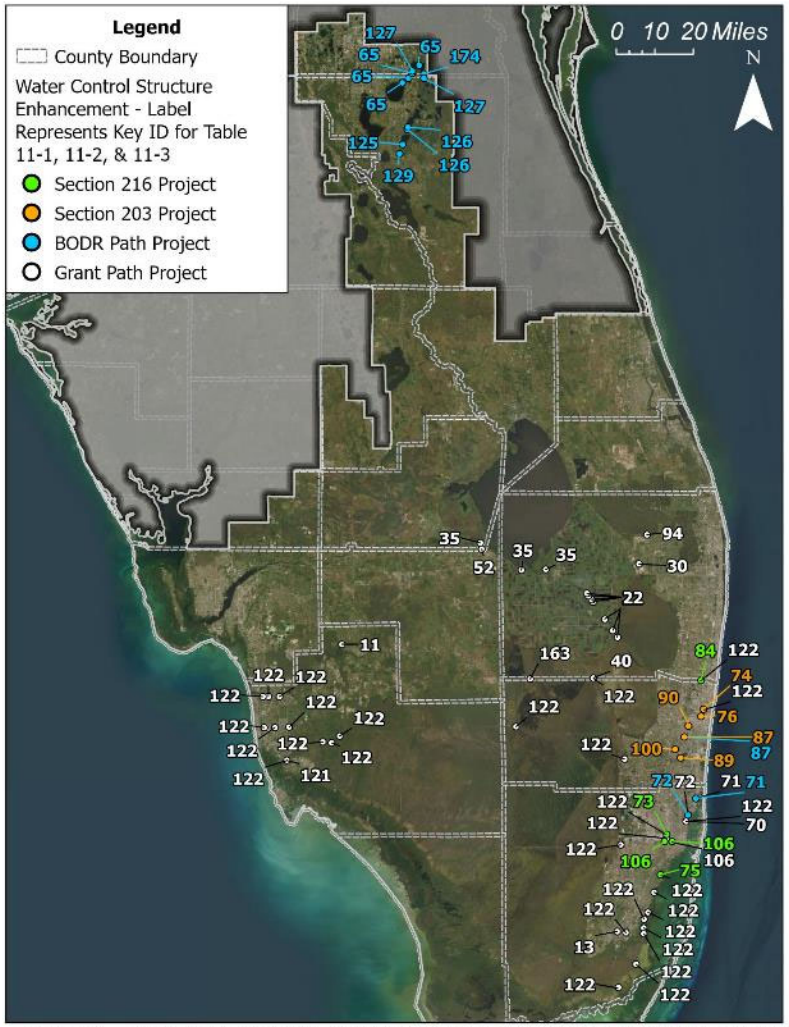
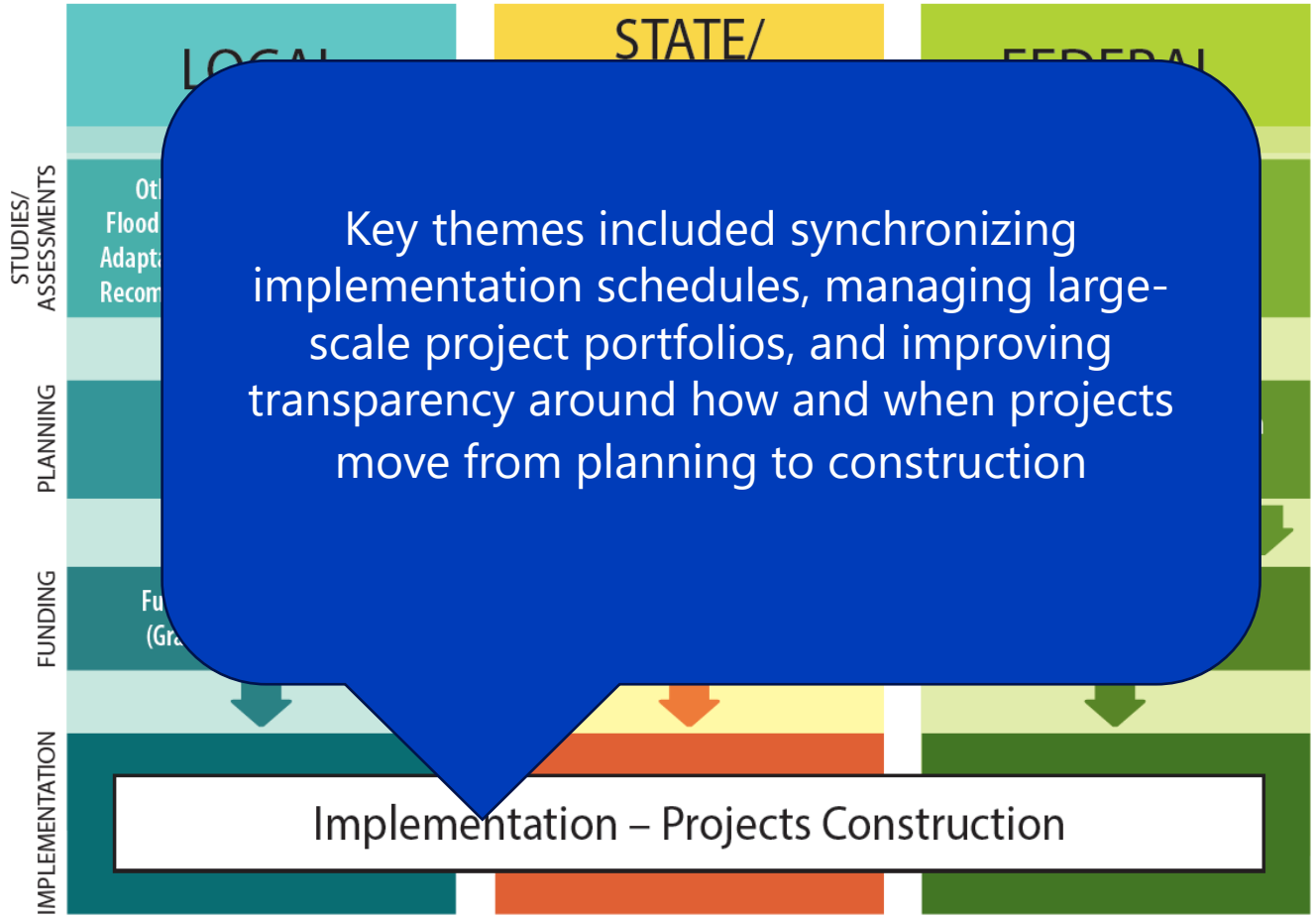
# Chapter 11 – Resiliency by Implementation: Navigating the Path to Robust Water Infrastructure

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# Stakeholder Input and Workshop Comments

# 2025 Resiliency Plan Update Coordination Workshops

- Four Workshops, 201 Attendees
  - » Lower East Coast – 62 Attendees
  - » Upper East Coast – 38 Attendees
  - » Southwest Coast – 53 Attendees
  - » Kissimmee Basin – 48 Attendees


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# 2025 Resiliency Plan Update Coordination Workshops

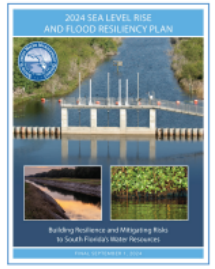
## Highlights from the Workshops

### 2025 Sea Level Rise and Flood Resiliency Plan

***Public Workshop Highlights***

The Sea Level Rise and Resiliency Plan by the South Florida Water Management District (District) is a strategic roadmap to reduce the risks of sea level rise, flooding, extreme storm events and other evolving conditions on South Florida's critical assets, water management operations, water supplies and water resources.

The District is also making significant infrastructure adaptation investments that are needed to continue to successfully implement its mission of safeguarding and restoring South Florida's water resources and ecosystems, protecting communities from flooding, and ensuring an adequate water supply for all of South Florida's needs. Working to ensure the region's water resources and ecosystems resiliency, now and in the future, is part of everything the District does.




### Bringing Stakeholders Together

As part of the 2025 Sea Level Rise and Flood Resiliency Plan Update, the District organized four public workshops. These workshops brought together over 220 stakeholders representing 100 organizations across the region. Meetings were held in four locations Lower East Coast, Upper East Coast, Southwest Coast, and Kissimmee River Basin.

### Why We Came Together

These in-person workshops brought together key stakeholders to engage in meaningful discussions, share insights, and provide early feedback on the 2025 Sea Level Rise and Flood Resiliency Plan Update. The workshops served as an opportunity to explore available tools, resources, and information, including the latest Resilient Florida Program updates from the State of Florida, and to ensure the Plan update reflects the diverse needs and priorities of our local communities.


**WORKSHOP #1**
Lower East Coast
Doral, FL

**WORKSHOP #2**
Upper East Coast
Stuart, FL

**WORKSHOP #3**
Lower West Coast
Bonita Springs, FL

**WORKSHOP #4**
Kissimmee Basin
Orlando, FL

*"Collaboration is the key to tackling flood resilience in our region. These workshops sparked great discussions and next steps for a stronger, more resilient future for our region and the City of Miami."*
*– Sonia Brubaker, Chief Resilience Officer, City of Miami*


### Key Outcomes

- As a region, we need to **align local and regional flood risk projects** and priorities. Regional collaboration is key to our shared success.
- The District shares technical resources to support local governments to design and implement projects. **Leveraging already available data, models, and tools** will lead to improved results and more effective action.
- South Florida's water management system is complex and has many players that must continue to collaborate closely. **Aligning projects through collaboration and data-driven decision-making** is essential to reduce costs and implementation time.
- **Nature-based solutions should be prioritized** where possible for projects at various levels. Using nature for flood risk reduction can provide additional community benefits.

### Our Commitment to Collaboration

Our communities recognize the urgent need for action, and we must work together to find the best solutions.

- **Collaboration Increases Effectiveness:** A well-planned combination of structural measures – designed to reduce flood risk regionally without shifting it to neighboring communities – and non-structural measures, such as living with water, elevating structures, and hardening infrastructure, ensures a sustainable and effective approach to flood risk management.
- **Collaboration Optimizes Solutions:** Effective resource allocation maximizes impact, ensuring that flood risk reduction efforts are strategic, efficient, and aligned with long-term resilience goals.
- **Collaboration Expands Funding Opportunities:** Coordinated efforts strengthen project positioning for competitive funding, increasing access to critical financial resources for resilience and adaptation initiatives.

### Shared Goals

The importance of resilience was underscored, as flooding risks pose significant threats to communities, economies, and ecosystems. Building resilience through collaborative efforts is crucial to:

- Protect property and lives
- Support economic growth and stability
- Preserve environmental resources

### Our State Partners

This collaboration is supported by the Department of Environmental Protection's Resilient Florida Program, the Florida Flood Hub for Applied Research and Innovation and the Statewide Office of Resilience within the Governor's Office.

Our community recognizes and appreciates the significant resources available to advance resilience projects across Florida from those programs, along with the Hazard Mitigation Programs at the Florida Department of Emergency Management.

The District's resiliency efforts include advancing scientific data and research to ensure the District's resiliency planning and implementation projects are founded on the best available science and robust technical analyses.

These efforts are in collaboration and cooperation with regional, state and federal agencies, local and tribal governments, non-governmental entities, universities, and citizens throughout Central and Southern Florida.

**SFWMD.gov/Resiliency**

You can view the workshop highlights in PDF format here.

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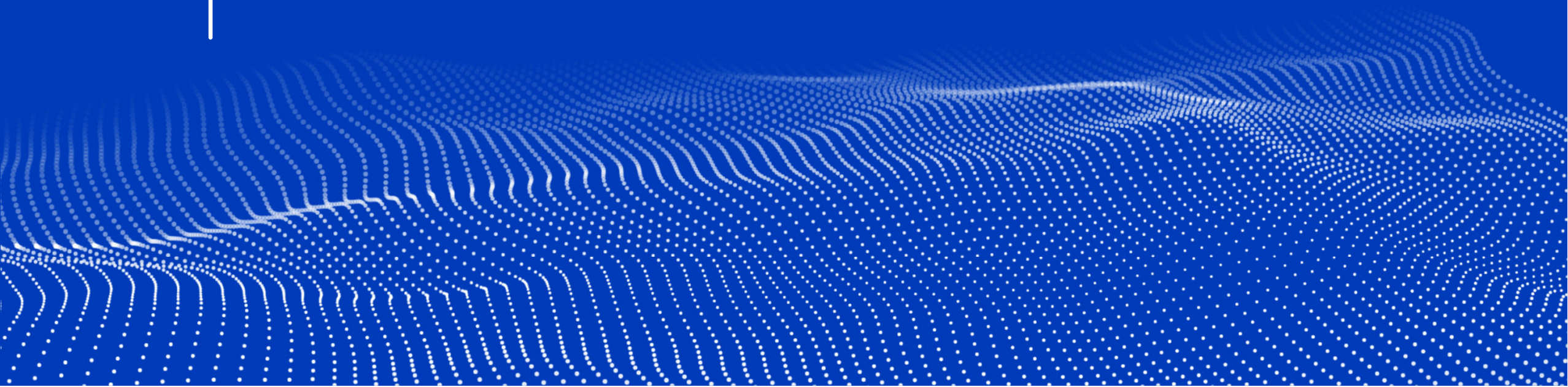
# Timeline and Next Steps



# Important Dates – Submit Your Review Comments

**February/March:** Public Workshops & Early Input

**May 28, 2025:** Draft Plan Presented at Resiliency Forum and Open for Public Comments

**June 20, 2025:** Public Comment Period Closes

**July / August 2025:** We will follow up accordingly on relevant comments and incorporate them into the final plan

**September 1, 2025:** Final Plan Submission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**Relevance of 2025 Update: plan updates will occur every 5 years**

# Open Public Comment Period

- Draft Plan Document Available at: https://www.sfwmd.gov/our-work/sea-level-rise-and-flood-resiliency-plan

- The public comment period is open through Friday, June 20, 2025

- Please provide comments by email to resiliency@sfwmd.gov


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# Thank you