



MEMORANDUM

AGENDA ITEM #IV.G

DATE: APRIL 26, 2021

TO: COUNCIL MEMBERS

FROM: STAFF

SUBJECT: RESOLUTION TCSF #21-01 – CENTRAL AND SOUTHERN FLORIDA FLOOD RESILIENCY PLANNING STUDY

Please find attached TCSF Resolution #21-01 which was reviewed and approved at the March 19, 2021 SFRPC / TCRPC Workshop.

Recommendations

Adopt TCSF Resolution # 21-01.



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RESOLUTION TCSF #21-01

A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SOUTH FLORIDA AND TREASURE COAST REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCILS REPRESENTING THE LOCAL GOVERNMENTS OF MONROE, MIAMI-DADE, BROWARD, PALM BEACH, MARTIN, ST. LUCIE, AND INDIAN RIVER COUNTIES, FLORIDA; URGING THE UNITED STATES ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS TO CONDUCT THE CENTRAL AND SOUTHERN FLORIDA FLOOD PROJECT RISK MANAGEMENT INFRASTRUCTURE RESILIENCY PLAN STUDY; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the South Florida and Treasure Coast Regional Planning Councils' seven county geographical area is comprised of Broward, Indian River, Martin, Miami-Dade, Monroe, Palm Beach, and St. Lucie counties and 122 municipalities, which contain over 6.8 million residents or nearly one-third of the State's population, responsible for generating over one-third of the State's gross domestic product; and

WHEREAS, the Councils are multi-purpose regional governmental entities with policy responsibility in the areas of affordable housing, economic development, emergency preparedness, energy, regional health, natural resources, urban planning, and regional transportation; and

WHEREAS, in 1948, the United States Congress authorized the Central and Southern Florida Flood Control Project ("C&SF Project") to provide flood control, manage water supply, prevent saltwater intrusion, and protect fish and wildlife resources; and

WHEREAS, the United States Army Corps of Engineers ("USACE") has administered the C&SF Project with the help of, among other agencies, the South Florida Water Management District ("SFWMD"); 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, a concept which has been termed a "resiliency study," an "update study," or a "restudy;" and

WHEREAS, a C&SF Project 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 Project 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 Project resiliency study in this manner would help ensure synergy and alignment with the USACE's ongoing effort to restore the Everglades via CERP, which is a critical component of South Florida's environment, economy, and quality of life; and

WHEREAS, the USACE has initiated efforts to qualify for federal funding to conduct a C&SF Project resiliency study, 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, 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 May 2020, the Mayors of Broward, Palm Beach, 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 2021, the United States Congress allowed for the Corps of Engineers to begin eight (8) new studies in the Investigations Account for the USACE Army 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 SOUTH FLORIDA AND TREASURE COAST REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCILS THAT THEY URGE:

Section 1. That the United States Congress allow the United States Army Corps of Engineers to begin an adequate number of new start studies in the Investigations Account for flood and storm damage reduction in the Fiscal Year (“FY”) 2022 Budget; and

Section 2. That the United States Congress provide sufficient funding for the USACE in the FY 2022 budget to conduct the C&SF Flood Resiliency Study; and

Section 3. That the USACE select the C&SF Flood Resiliency Study as a new study and provide it with appropriate funding in the FY 2022 Work Plan for the Army Civil Works program; and

Section 4. That this Resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption hereof by both Councils.

DULY ADOPTED by the South Florida and Treasure Coast Regional Planning Councils on the dates indicated below.

Mario J. Bailey
Chair, SFRPC

Jeff Hmara
Chair, TCRPC

Adopted April 26, 2021

Adopted April 16, 2021