



## MEMORANDUM

AGENDA ITEM #III.I

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DATE:               SEPTEMBER 18, 2023

TO:                 COUNCIL MEMBERS

FROM:             STAFF

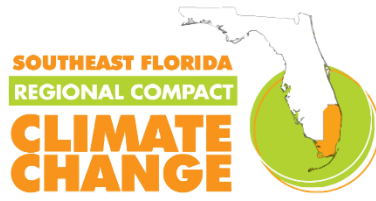
SUBJECT:          JOINT STATEMENT ON COLLABORATION FOR REGIONAL ECONOMIC RESILIENCE

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In advance of the Southeast Florida Regional Climate Change Compact's 15<sup>th</sup> Annual [Southeast Florida Climate Leadership Summit](#) on November 16 – 17, 2023 at the Miami Beach Convention Center, the Compact has requested the Council's adoption of the attached Statement of Collaboration for Regional Economic Resilience.

### Recommendation

Approve the Joint Statement on Collaboration.



**September 2023**

**Joint Statement on Collaboration for Regional Economic Resilience  
in Southeast Florida between the South Florida Regional Planning Council  
and the Southeast Florida Regional Climate Change Compact**

**Purpose**

This statement builds upon the initial partnership forged in 2017, among the four counties of the Southeast Florida Regional Climate Change Compact (Compact) and the South Florida Regional Planning Council (SFRPC) to cooperate on building regional economic resilience by focusing on the considerable benefits of public and private collaboration. The purpose of this statement is to reinforce the shared agenda for collaboration among the parties to secure the future prosperity for all who live, work, and play within Southeast Florida.

**Background**

Since its creation in 2009 by forward-thinking elected officials in Southeast Florida, the Compact has emerged as one of the preeminent regional climate change collaboration models nationally and globally. The collaboration and coordination across cities and counties and among national, state, and local government agencies has advanced Southeast Florida toward greater climate resilience.

Created in 1974, The South Florida Regional Planning Council (SFRPC) is a planning and public policy agency with a Council Board composed of 19 voting members, including county and municipal elected officials from Miami-Dade, Broward, and Monroe counties together with Governor's appointees. The mission of the Council is to identify the long-term challenges and opportunities facing the Southeast Florida region and to assist the Region's leaders in developing and implementing creative strategies that result in more prosperous and equitable communities, a healthier and cleaner environment, and a more vibrant economy.

Throughout its existence the South Florida Regional Planning Council has labored to build regional economic and community prosperity. This critical role was recognized and formalized in 1994 by the U.S. Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration's designation

of the SFRPC as the Economic Development District for South Florida. In this role, the SFRPC works with the region's public, private, and non-profit organizations, including the Compact Counties, economic development organizations, research institutions, and municipalities to proactively advance Southeast Florida as a compelling place from which to engage in global commerce. In 2022, the SFRPC, in partnership with public, private, and nonprofit partners, developed the 2022 – 2027 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy for South Florida (South Florida CEDS) which among other issues, elevates climate resilience and infrastructure investments as key factors in ensuring South Florida's future economic resilience.

Together, the SFRPC and the Compact Counties recognize that our respective efforts to foster greater regional resilience can only be achieved by working together. In forging a greater public-private partnership, the SFRPC and Compact Counties have sought to bolster our respective efforts to build resilience within Southeast Florida's shared infrastructure, built environment, economy, natural systems and within communities as the viable path forward in securing future regional prosperity.

Accordingly, in 2017 the Compact partners undertook an update of the Regional Climate Action Plan (RCAP 2.0) with the active participation of the SFRPC and a focus on economic resilience. Subsequently, during the last five years, the collaboration between the SFRPC and Compact Counties has broadened and deepened, encompassing joint efforts and advocacy in furtherance of the economic resilience recommendations detailed in the RCAP 2.0., with noted advancements in areas of flood risk mitigation, resilience standards, federal and state engagement, economic opportunity, and regional resilience communications.

As a result, Southeast Florida has continued to establish its position as a model for public-private collaboration and as the epicenter of climate resilience, with signature outcomes including development of the South Florida CEDS, the Business Case for Resilience, federal authorization and funding for the Central and Southern Florida Flood Risk Management Study, and on-going collaboration leading to update and expansion of economic resilience recommendations as part of the 2022 update of the Regional Climate Action Plan (RCAP 3.0). The RCAP 3.0 document is substantially responsive to the recommendations identified in the South Florida CEDS and the wide-ranging effects of climate change, that extend beyond the borders of any one community, and the understanding that effective implementation will require the sustained engagement and collaboration of public and private sector partners.

## Partnership Agenda

The SFRPC and related partners agree to the following partnership actions in furthering economic resilience recommendations (ER 1-9) of RCAP 3.0:

- I. We will continue to work together to expand education related to community and economic resilience.
  - a. We will work together to promote proactive action to secure continuity of operations in the face of extreme weather and climate events.
  - b. We will work together to build the regional policy agenda for proactive investment in infrastructure necessary to protect commerce and Southeast Florida's communities.
  - c. We will work together to develop common sense public policy that better aligns public and private sector investment in the regional built environment with the shared goal of securing future regional prosperity.
  - d. We will seek collaborative opportunities to commercialize resilience innovations flowing from joint efforts to create new economic opportunities for the region.
  
- II. We will work together to identify and advocate for the state and federal investments needed for regional resilience in Southeast Florida.
  - a. We will work together to advocate for federal and state government investments in the infrastructure assets that they each respectively own, operate and have a responsibility for maintaining within Southeast Florida.
  - b. We will work together to seek appropriate recognition by the state and federal governments of the vital contributions made by Southeast Florida to the State of Florida and the United States.
  
- III. We will work together to communicate that Southeast Florida is leading the way in taking proactive, responsible, and informed measures, serving as a pioneer and model for resilience.
  - a. We will collaborate in developing communications for audiences within the region regarding the importance of proactive resilience investments.
  - b. We will collaborate in developing communications for national and global audiences that underscore that Southeast Florida fully understands the risks we face, that we are taking proactive, responsible measures to address these risks, and that we are working together to protect and expand our highly productive regional economy.

IV. We will encourage the broader participation of regional stakeholders to engage in this effort.

Adopted this day, September 23, 2023, by the South Florida Regional Planning Council.

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Steve Geller, SFRPC Chairman

Broward County Commissioner, District 5  
Former State Senator, District 31

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