

**COUNCIL GUESTS**



Jennifer L. Jurado, Ph.D.  
Deputy Director & Chief Resilience Officer  
Resilient Environment Department  
Broward County



James F. Murley  
Senior Resilience Officer  
Office of Resiliency  
Miami-Dade County



Ana Carolina Coelho Maran, P.E., Ph.D.  
District Resiliency Officer  
South Florida Water Management District

## COUNCIL GUESTS



**Jennifer Jurado, Ph.D.** is the Chief Resilience Officer and Deputy Director of Broward County's Resilient Environment Department. Dr. Jennifer Jurado is responsible for leading climate resilience and environmental planning initiatives for Broward County, FL. Areas of particular focus include sea level rise adaptation, sustainable water resource management, shoreline protection, coastal resource conservation, and clean energy projects. She works extensively with internal and regional stakeholders to advance county-wide resilience planning informed by future conditions scenarios, including resilient infrastructure design standards and redevelopment strategies, and fosters public-private partnerships key to large-scale initiatives. Current priorities involve the application of climate information and economic risk assessments to inform a basin-level county-wide resilience plan. Dr. Jurado has been a participant in the four-county Southeast Florida Regional Climate Change Compact since its formation in 2009. She serves on the board of directors for the American Society of Adaptation Professionals and the American Geophysical Union's Thriving Earth Exchange. She earned her Ph.D. from the University of Miami in Marine Biology and Fisheries.



**Carolina Maran, Ph.D., P.E.** is the Chief of District Resiliency with the South Florida Water Management District. In her role, she is responsible for coordinating resilience efforts across federal, state, regional and local agencies, advancing scientific research and data analysis to ensure the District's resilience planning and projects are founded on the best available science; and, developing and implementing comprehensive resiliency projects to mitigate and adapt to the challenges facing the District's infrastructure from sea level rise and other climate change impacts. Carolina has more than 20 years of experience working on water and climate resiliency; water resources planning, management and regulation; hydrologic and hydraulic modeling, decision support systems and GIS; water allocation rules and conflict resolution. Prior to joining SFWMD, Carolina was the Water Manager at Broward County, worked over 10 years as a Water Resources Specialist for the Federal Water Agency in Brazil, and collaborated with International Organizations as part of technical consulting teams. She holds a Ph.D. in Civil and Environmental Engineering – Water Resources from Colorado State University and a Master's Degree in Water Resources Engineering from Parana Federal University in Brazil. Currently, she serves on the Florida Water and Climate Alliance Steering Committee, Southeast Florida Regional Climate Compact Steering Committee, and on the Board of Directors of South Florida Hydrologic Society and the Resilient Utility Coalition. Mom of two awesome boys, Carolina enjoys watching them play little league baseball and visiting new places with her family.

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**James F. Murley** is the Senior Resilience Officer for Miami-Dade County retiring today, September 30, 2024. Jim served as Miami-Dade County's Chief Resilience Officer (CRO) from 2015 until this year, when he transitioned his role to Senior Resilience Advisor.

Before his appointment in 2015 as the County's first ever Chief Resilience Officer, Jim already had a decorated career in government planning. Fifty years ago in 1974, Jim began his career in Florida as a planner with the South Florida Regional Planning Council. Murley had his first stint with the Florida Department of Community Affairs in 1983 as its Director of Resource Planning and Management. From 1987 to 1995, Jim led 1000 Friends of Florida, a not-for-profit public interest group that works to promote sensible planning, economic development and environmental preservation.

In 1995, Murley was appointed Secretary of the Department of Community Affairs (DCA) by Governor Lawton Chiles. As Secretary, Murley oversaw the Department's growth management functions, including Key West and Florida Keys Areas of Critical State Concern. He directed the state emergency management operations during the landfall of four hurricanes in 1998. He also directed the Department's housing and urban development programs and served on the Board of Directors for Florida Housing Finance Agency, Florida Communities Trust, the South Walton County Conservation and Development Trust, and the Conservation Land Advisory Committee.

From 1999 to 2011, Jim served in various positions at Florida Atlantic University including Director of the University's Center for Urban and Environmental Solutions (CUES). With the support of the National Commission on Energy Policy the Center produced a study entitled "Florida Resilient Coasts: A Statewide Policy Framework for Adapting to Climate Change." This was the first document ever written on climate adaptation in the state of Florida. While at FAU, in 2008 he was appointed by Governor Charlie Crist as the first Chair of the Florida Energy and Climate Commission. The Commission was charged with implementing over \$180 million in federal economic recovery funds from the United States Department of the Energy.

In 2011, he would return to the SFRPC as Executive Director until he left in 2015 to work with Mayor Carlos Gimenez and Deputy Mayor Jack Osterholt as Miami-Dade County's first Chief Resilience Officer. Together with Chief Resilience Officers from partner cities, they led the development of the Resilient305 Strategy. The Resilient305 partnership is still active, and the CROs continue to work collaboratively to advance regional resilience goals. He has also overseen the development of the County's Sea Level Rise Strategy, and Climate Action Strategy and continues to lead and advise on the implementation of those plans. In his time with the County, the Office of Resilience increased from six staff to a team of twenty-five as Jim elevated the work and importance of resilience. He stewarded Miami-Dade County's work with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for the Back Bay Study and is an active, long-serving member of the Southeast Florida Regional Climate Change Compact staff steering committee.

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Before coming to Florida, Jim worked for the National Atmospheric and Oceanographic Administration in coastal zone management. He continues his love for oceans and coasts by serving on the Board of Directors of the Florida Ocean Alliance (FOA). In 2001, Murley received FOA's initial Ocean Champion award presented by Jean-Michael Cousteau of the Ocean Futures Society. He also served as Chair of the National Board of Directors of the Coastal States Stewardship Foundation (CSSF) and continues to serve on their board. The CSSF partners with the Coastal States Organization to provide coastal states with opportunities to engage in public private partnerships and secure nontraditional sources of funding and expertise for their endeavors.

Jim is a Fellow in the National Academy of Public Administration. He has served on several study panels for the Academy, including reviews of the National Marine Sanctuary Program and a three-year study for the Environmental Protection Agency on how issues of environmental justice are addressed at the federal, state and local government levels. Murley participated on an Academy panel requested by the United States Congress to review the proposed National Climate Service in the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

The list of Jim's accomplishments and history of public service is lengthy. The SFRPC is grateful for his public service and many contributions, particularly his unwavering support for regionalism and the South Florida Regional Planning Council.



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**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY  
CIVIL WORKS  
108 ARMY PENTAGON  
WASHINGTON, DC 20310-0108**

Mr. Drew Bartlett  
Executive Director  
South Florida Water Management District  
3301 Gun Club Road  
West Palm Beach, Florida 33406

Dear Mr. Bartlett:

Thank you for your letter, dated July 17, 2024, informing my office of South Florida Water Management District's (SFWMD) intent to prepare a feasibility study for the Central and Southern Florida Flood Resiliency Study, Reach A (Broward and Hillsboro Basins) under Section 203 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986, as amended ("Section 203 Study"), and offer to provide funds for the Government to undertake Federal Activities and Technical Assistance for the Section 203 Study.

Jacksonville District may accept SFWMD funds to undertake Federal Activities and Technical Assistance in accordance with Section 203. I will instruct the Jacksonville District Commander to develop and negotiate a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) for Federal Activities, an MOA for Technical Assistance, and scopes of work to be executed under both MOAs, to be approved by the South Atlantic Division Commander. No credit or repayment shall be provided for any funds provided for the Federal Activities or Technical Assistance. Please note that the Section 203 authority does not enable the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to conduct project planning for this study on your behalf.

My staff is available to discuss Section 203 study requirements or procedures at any time. My point of contact for Section 203 studies is Ms. Andrea Walker at [andrea.e.walker.civ@army.mil](mailto:andrea.e.walker.civ@army.mil).

Thank you for your support of the Army Civil Works program.

Sincerely,

Michael L. Connor  
Assistant Secretary of Army  
(Civil Works)



# SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

July 17, 2024

The Honorable Michael L. Connor  
Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works  
Department of the Army  
108 Army Pentagon  
Washington, DC 20310-0108

**Subject: Section 203 C&SF Flood Resiliency Study for South Florida, Reach A, Broward County Basins**

Dear Secretary Connor:

Flood risk management is a primary focus for both the South Florida Water Management District (District) and the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). It encompasses the development of approaches and solutions to reduce the risks of flooding and storm impacts. The District and the USACE have made significant progress in recent years on the Central and Southern Florida (C&SF) Flood Resiliency Study, authorized under Section 216 of the Flood Control Act of 1970 ("Section 216 Study"). The purpose of the Section 216 Study is to provide continued flood risk management in Broward and Miami-Dade Counties (Planning Reaches A-D) and to reduce the most immediate risk to the C&SF Project due to changing conditions, including climate change, sea level change, land development, and population growth in the lower east coast of Florida.

Expediently modifying C&SF coastal infrastructure in highly vulnerable areas is critical to reducing the risk of harmful and damaging flooding and impacts to our communities. The District recognizes that flood risk management cannot be accomplished by the USACE alone and that flood risk management is a shared responsibility. Collaborating with state, local, and other federal partners is essential for success. As a partner, the District is prepared to assist in advancing part of the feasibility assessment and initial engineering studies on key C&SF water control coastal structures in the vulnerable areas of Broward County, Florida, specifically Reach A of the C&SF Flood Resiliency Study. The District proposes utilizing Section 203 of the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 1986, as amended, to advance a flood risk management study for this area of Broward County by submitting an integrated feasibility study report and environmental impact study report directly to you for review and submittal to Congress for authorization as a part of WRDA 2026. This study will recommend necessary infrastructure adaptation to reduce flood risk and increase flood resiliency in these urbanized basins. The District is partnering with Broward County to advance this Section 203 effort in parallel with the ongoing Section 216 Study and accelerate the implementation of key resiliency projects within their communities.

Secretary Michael L. Connor

July 17, 2024

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The District will need the USACE to provide the increased technical and federal assistance afforded under WRDAs 2018 and 2020, including conducting the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Section 106 Tribal consultations. This technical work and the District's ability to nimbly leverage resources for this effort will ensure a successful feasibility study.

To that end, the District requests that USACE initiate the analyses, reviews, and compliance processes described in Section 1152 of WRDA 2018 and Section 161 of WRDA 2020, to be conducted to support the District with the Section 203 Study to achieve a NEPA-compliant feasibility study. The District also requests your prompt direction to the Jacksonville District Commander to quickly enter into two Memorandums of Agreement (MOAs), attached for your reference, between the Department of the Army and the District for the undertaking of federal activities and for the provision of USACE technical assistance to support the Section 203 study. The District is prepared to provide the funds and any resources necessary to expedite this important work.

It is exciting that our organizations are keenly positioned to significantly advance flood risk management opportunities with truly meaningful resiliency projects. The District is proud to partner with the USACE in flood risk management and resiliency.

Sincerely,



Drew Bartlett  
Executive Director

Enclosure:

- 203 MOA for Federal Activities Flood Resiliency Feasibility Study for South Florida
- 203 MOA for Technical Assistance Flood Resiliency Feasibility Study for South Florida