MINUTES OF THE
SOUTH FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL
MAY 18, 2026

The South Florida Regional Planning Council met virtually and in person on this date at the South Florida Regional Planning Council, located at 1 Oakwood Boulevard, Suite 250, Hollywood, FL 33020. Chair Senator García welcomed everyone in attendance, in person and virtually, and called the meeting to order at 10:35 a.m. He asked Councilmember Senator Geller to lead in the Pledge of Allegiance. The recording of this meeting can be found here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LTRRFHkA1B8

I. Pledge of Allegiance and Roll Call

Chair Senator René García
Councilmember Jim Allbritton
Councilmember Frank Caplan
Councilmember Craig Cates (VP)
Councilmember Joseph Corradino *
Councilmember Beam Furr *
Councilmember Senator Steve Geller
Councilmember Oliver Gilbert, III (A)
Councilmember Cary Goldberg (VP)
Councilmember Samuel Kaufman (VP)
Councilmember Michelle Lincoln (VP)
Councilmember Kionne McGhee (A)
Councilmember Maria Rodriguez
Councilmember Michael Udine (VP)

A = Absent
D = Designee
* = Excused Absence
VP = Virtually Present

SFRPC Executive Director Isabel Cosio Carballo and Legal Counsel Sam Goren were present.

The following Ex-Officio Members were virtually present:
Megan Rutter and Sirena Davila, representing the Florida Department of Environmental Protection
Dat Huynh, representing the Florida Department of Transportation, District 6
Julio Tejedo for Armando Vilaboy, representing the South Florida Water Management District

Legal Counsel, Sam Goren, stated a quorum was present.

II. Presentation

Presentations were taken out of order and presented at 11 am

Analysis of SFRPC Project Budgets: Leo Braslavsky Soldi, Director, Finance & IT, South Florida Regional Planning Council

Special Guests from the South Florida Water Management District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and Broward County will provide important flood control and resilience planning updates, including the C&SF Section 203 Study, Section 219, Miami-Dade Back Bay Study, Southern Everglades, and Biscayne Bay Southeastern Everglades Ecosystem (BBSEER) (11 AM)

Ana Carolina Coelho Maran, Ph.D., P.E., Division Director, Flood Control and Water Supply Planning, Chief of District Resiliency, South Florida Water Management District

Jennifer L. Jurado, Ph.D., Chief Resilience Officer and Deputy Director, Public Works and Environmental Services Department, Broward County

E. Timothy Gysan, P.E., PMP, Chief, Ecosystems Projects Section and Resilience Coordinator, Ecosystems Branch, Programs & Project Management Division (PPMD) USACE Jacksonville District

III. Action Items

A. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Chair Senator García motioned to approve the Meeting Minutes of the Previous Meeting. Councilmember Senator Geller moved the motion; Councilmember Caplan seconded it, and it was adopted by unanimous vote.

B. Financial Report

Leandro Braslavsky Soldi, Director of Finance & IT, explained the financials in detail. A discussion followed regarding the membership dues and the decisions being made by the Florida Legislature, such as the possible passage of a proposed Constitutional Amendment on the November 2026 ballot that would phase out property taxes for homesteaded properties. Mrs. Cosio Carballo explained the Membership Dues history and the process. The discussion continued regarding doubling homestead exemptions, funding for transportation, police, and fire, and other citizens' amenities.

Chair Senator García motioned to approve the Financial Report. Councilmember Senator Geller moved the motion; Councilmember Caplan seconded it, and it was adopted by unanimous vote.

C. Consent: Comprehensive Plan Amendment Reviews

Legal Counsel Sam Goren read the Comprehensive Plan Amendment Reviews Proposed.

Proposed

- Broward County 26-04ESR
- Monroe County 26-01ACSC
- Monroe County 26-02ACSC
- City of Doral 26-01ER
- City of Hollywood 26-01ESR
- Village of Pinecrest 26-01ER
- City of Plantation 26-02ESR

Public Hearing
Chair Senator García opened the Public Hearing and asked if there were any comments or questions.

Public Comments
There were no comments or questions from the public in person or virtually.

Chair Senator García motioned to approve the Proposed Comprehensive Plan Amendments. Councilmember Senator Geller moved the motion, and Councilmember Caplan seconded it. The motion was adopted by unanimous vote.

Adopted

- Broward County 26-01ESR
- Islamorada, Village of Islands 25-06ACSC
- City of Lighthouse Point 25-01ER
- City of Margate 26-01ESR
- City of North Miami Beach 24-01ESR
- City of Oakland Park 25-01ESR
- City of Pompano Beach 26-01ESR

*Property Rights Amendment

Public Hearing
Chair Senator García opened the Public Hearing and asked if there were any comments or questions.

Public Comments
There were no comments or questions from the public in person or virtually.

Chair Senator García motioned to approve the Adopted Comprehensive Plan Amendments. Councilmember Caplan moved the motion, and Councilmember Senator Geller seconded it. The motion was adopted by unanimous vote.

Public Hearing

D. Regional Issues: Comprehensive Plan Amendment Review – None

Public Comments
There were no comments or questions from the public in person or virtually.

The Council Meeting returned to the presentation by Leandro Braslavsky Soldi.

Presentations

Analysis of SFRPC Project Budgets: Leo Braslavsky Soldi, Director, Finance & IT, South Florida Regional Planning Council

Per Councilmember Senator Geller's request for SFRPC budget information, Mr. Braslavsky Soldi explained the Analysis of the Project Budgets for the SFRPC in detail, including the Budgeted Revenues, Expenses, Net Contribution, Budgeted In-House, and Pass-Through amounts. He explained that the Council is not operating at a loss and is currently generating a 12.91% return on all budgeted in-house projects. Chair Senator García commented that it was reassuring to see the Council not operating in the red.

Special Guests from the South Florida Water Management District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and Broward County will provide important flood control and resilience planning updates, including the C&SF Section 203 Study, Section 219, Miami-Dade Back Bay Study, Southern Everglades, and Biscayne Bay Southeastern Everglades Ecosystem (BBSEER) (11 AM)

E. Timothy Gysan, P.E., PMP, Chief, Ecosystems Projects Section and Resilience Coordinator, Ecosystems Branch, Programs & Project Management Division (PPMD) USACE Jacksonville District

Mr. Gysan provided an overview of ongoing U.S. Army Corps of Engineers projects in South Florida, emphasizing the need for a shared regional vision for resilience. He noted that successful resilience planning requires coordination across federal, state, regional, and local governments, as well as educational institutions and private-sector partners. He described the Corps' "multiple lines of defense" approach, which integrates flood risk management, navigation, infrastructure, transportation, storm preparedness, sea level rise adaptation, and community and economic resilience. Mr. Gysan reviewed several major projects and studies, including the Broward County Preserve Areas project, the Biscayne Bay and Southeastern Everglades Ecosystem Restoration project, the Southern Everglades study, the C&SF Section 216 Flood Resiliency Study, and the Miami-Dade Back Bay Coastal Storm Risk Management Study. He noted that funding previously associated with the C-11 Reservoir construction contract was redirected to accelerate the Everglades Agricultural Area Reservoir; a key Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan project expected to provide ecological and regional water supply benefits sooner. The C-11 Reservoir project is now being reevaluated through additional modeling. He also discussed the Corps' shift toward more focused, faster-moving studies, generally designed to be completed within three years, at approximately $3 million, and with 35% engineering design. Under this model, strong local partnerships,

early data-sharing, and clear regional priorities will be increasingly important to advancing federal projects. Mr. Gysan noted that upcoming milestones include a technical report for the Biscayne Bay and Southeastern Everglades Ecosystem Restoration project, continued public engagement for the Southern Everglades seepage management study, public engagement later this summer for the C&SF Section 216 Flood Resiliency Study, and a final Chief's Report for the Miami-Dade Back Bay Coastal Storm Risk Management Study, anticipated around April 2027.

Mrs. Cosio Carballo asked about the numbering and terminology used for Corps studies. Mr. Gysan explained that the numbers refer to specific congressional authorities, such as Section 203, which allows non-federal interests to lead planning efforts, and Section 216, which allows the Corps to reevaluate previously constructed projects where conditions have changed significantly.

Councilmember Senator Geller thanked the Corps and the South Florida Water Management District for their assistance with Broward County's Section 203 work and asked about the feasibility of completing complex studies within the $3 million planning framework. Mr. Gysan explained that the 3x3x3 model originated from federal planning requirements and acknowledged that the framework can be challenging. He emphasized that local and regional partnerships are especially important under this model, noting that Broward County's Section 203 effort is being viewed as a strong example of local partners taking ownership of project development. The maps Mr. Gysan presented are located here: https://sfregionalcouncil.org/wpcontent/uploads/2026/05/INTEGRATION_RESILIENCY_PLACEMAT_SEFL_MAR26.pdf

Ana Carolina Coelho Marán, Ph.D., P.E., Division Director, Flood Control and Water Supply Planning, Chief of District Resiliency, South Florida Water Management District

Dr. Ana Carolina Coelho Marán provided an update on the Central and Southern Florida Flood Resilience Study, C&SF, with a focus on Planning Reaches A and B. She explained that Planning Reach B includes the C-7, C-8, and C-9 basins along the Broward and Miami-Dade County border, where the District is advancing a basin-wide strategy to reduce flood risk by restoring discharge capacity affected by urban development, sea level rise, and other changing conditions. She highlighted the S-28 and S-29 projects as examples of needed flood resilience investments, noting the urgency of the work during king tide conditions and the role of pump stations, drainage outlets, and enhanced community amenities in improving flood protection. She stated that federal and state funding has been received to help advance the work, with construction expected to begin later this calendar year. Dr. Marán also reviewed Planning Reach A, the Section 203 Feasibility Study, primarily located in Broward County. She reported that the final integrated report has been transmitted to the Assistant Secretary of the Army for review, marking a major milestone. The recommended plan includes enhancements to eight structures, including gate improvements and pump stations, and has advanced to 30 percent design with geotechnical surveys, NEPA work, and cost certification complete. The project has been endorsed at approximately $1.8 billion, with the goal of federal authorization in 2026. Dr. Maran thanked the Council for its early collaboration and emphasized the importance of continued regional coordination, planning, and engagement to deliver long-term flood resilience solutions for South Florida. Dr. Marán's presentation is available here:

https://sfregionalcouncil.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/05/20260518_BBFR_Final-Integrated-FS-EA_PlanningCouncil.pdf

Jennifer L. Jurado, Ph.D., Chief Resilience Officer and Deputy Director, Public Works and Environmental Services Department, Broward County

Dr. Jennifer L. Jurado provided a Broward County resilience update, highlighting the County's ongoing work to advance resilience planning, funding, and implementation. She recognized the transmittal of the Section 203 Study as a major accomplishment following approximately 15 years of effort and thanked the leadership and partners involved, including Senator Steve Geller and Mrs. Cosio Carballo, Executive Director of the SFRPC. Dr. Jurado stated that continued advocacy will be necessary as Section 203 moves toward implementation. She also highlighted the Broward County Board of County Commissioners' unanimous vote to allocate $20 million from County reserves for resilience plan implementation. Dr. Jurado reviewed the costs associated with Tier 1 critical capital improvements and discussed proposed grant criteria focused on advancing projects that can be constructed and made operational within grant timelines. She noted that the grants are expected to be three-year awards designed to deliver measurable risk reduction as efficiently as possible. Dr. Jurado also discussed the upcoming 18th Annual Southeast Florida Climate Leadership Summit, including Broward County's collaboration with business and community partners. More information and registration details are available here: https://www.broward.org/Climate/Summit2026/Pages/default.aspx

Councilmember Senator Steve Geller discussed Broward County's matching funding approach, noting that County investments have helped leverage significant additional funding. Councilmember Caplan asked about cities' success in leveraging state funds and how water quality connects with resilience planning. Dr. Jurado noted that cities are performing well but face challenges completing projects within grant timelines, and that the County's resilience plan addresses water storage, seawalls, and water quality strategies within the urban environment. Dr. Jurado's presentation is available here: https://sfregionalcouncil.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/05/05_18_26-SFRPC-BC-Jennifer-Jurado-Presentation.pdf

Chair Senator García thanked everyone for attending and emphasized the importance of ensuring resiliency dollars are invested wisely in Miami-Dade County, including for dredging, canal bank hardening, and related infrastructure needs. He also referenced a recent tour of the Miami-Dade water treatment plant and the significant volume of water being pumped from the aquifer.

IV. Program Reports and Activities

A. Data Center Resources

Mrs. Cosio Carballo thanked those Councilmembers who attended the Joint Meeting at the Palm Beach TPO in April, in which Data Centers was part of the discussion. The staff analysis provided information on different types of data centers and their energy usage. Included in the Agenda Item are materials related

to enrolled CS/CS/SB 484, sponsored by Senator Bryan Avila, including detailed information and resources from the Senate Rules Committee Staff Analysis publication, publications from 1000 Friends of Florida, data center maps with supporting details, various proposed ordinances, and other related materials. Mrs. Cosio Carballo reported that staff has continued monitoring state legislation and resources related to data centers. She referenced policy toolkits, a Nassau County ordinance, and mapping resources related to data center planning, which can be reviewed here: https://sfregionalcouncil.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/05/4.A-AgendaMAY26_IV.A-Data-Center-Resources-rdcd.pdf.

She noted that Councilmember Lincoln will participate in an upcoming Florida Association of Counties workshop on data centers. Mr. Alex Dambach, Miami-Dade County, asked how Senate Bill 180 may affect local governments' ability to develop data center-specific zoning. Mrs. Cosio Carballo responded that, based on her understanding, jurisdictions without active data center proposals may have more flexibility to consider moratoriums, as Nassau County did, but stated that staff can look further into the issue.

Mrs. Cosio Carballo thanked Jordan Parker and Marion Knowles for the work they provided. She stated that she would be in Monroe County for the Monroe County Board of Commissioners Meeting in Key Largo on June 10th, and attending the Florida Association of Counties Annual Conference June 23 – 26th at which Data Centers will be among the topics discussed. Councilmember Senator Geller noted the importance of carefully defining what constitutes a data center from a zoning and land use perspective, given the range of possible descriptions. Chair Senator García suggested developing guidance or suggested definitions to assist municipalities and counties.

B. SFRPC / TCRPC Joint Conference – Blue Tech Jobs

Randy Deshazo, Deputy Director, discussed blue-tech jobs and potential topics for the forthcoming joint conference with the Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council on October 30th. He stated that the conference should focus on what local governments can do and learn about blue tech, including helping local governments better understand what blue tech encompasses. Mr. Deshazo presented a preliminary conference outline.

C. SFRPC Revolving Loan Funds Status Report
D. SFRPC CARES Act RLF Status Report

V. Discussion Items

A. Executive Director's Report

Mrs. Cosio Carballo announced the start of a new staff member, Rebekah Silva, Executive Coordinator, and the departure of a planner. She also asked which Councilmembers would be interested in serving on a discussion committee related to membership. Councilmember Senator Geller, Councilmember Caplan, Councilmember Allbritton, and Councilmember Rodriguez expressed interest. Mrs. Cosio Carballo provided an update on the Military Installation Resilience Review, noting that the Council has been

seeking resources for the South Florida Ocean Measurement Facility, Homestead Air Reserve Base, and Naval Air Station Key West. She stated that proposals are being prepared to support resilience needs at those facilities. Mrs. Cosio Carballo also discussed the South Florida Regional Conference scheduled for September 11. She stated that the Council is seeking a location in Miami-Dade County and that the conference will focus on coral reef issues, showcase ongoing work, and build support for future funding.

B. Legal Counsel Report

Mr. Goren briefly summarized the pending litigation regarding the RLF Program and asked Councilmembers to review the materials provided, as he cannot comment publicly.

C. Council Members Report

None

D. Ex-Officio Report

None

Chair Senator García then returned to the earlier budget discussion and noted that, for budgeting purposes moving forward, the proposed figure would represent the maximum for the respective counties. Councilmember Senator Geller suggested developing a single number for all three counties. Mrs. Cosio Carballo stated that, if it is the will of the Council, staff can proceed with 30 cents per person as a working number for the budget and adjust based on feedback from the respective counties. There was a discussion on the SFRPC and other RPCs' membership dues history.

Mrs. Cosio Carballo noted that the Florida Regional Councils Association meeting will take place in Tampa at the end of June.

VI. Announcements and Attachments

A. Attendance Form
B. Upcoming Meetings
   1) Monday, June 15, 2026, 10:30 a.m. (Murray Nelson Government Center, Key Largo, Monroe County) *(Staff Note: Subsequently Postponed)*
   2) Monday, July 20, 2026, 10:30 a.m. (SFRPC)
   3) August – Summer Break
   4) Friday, September 11, 2026, (TBD) SFRPC Regional Conference - Topic: Florida's Coral Reef (South Florida Region) *(Staff Note: Subsequently Postponed)*
   5) Monday, September 28, 2026, 10:30 a.m. (SFRPC)
   6) Monday, October 19, 2026, 10:30 a.m. (SFRPC) (Upon call of the Chair)
   7) Friday, October 30, 2026 (Broward Center for the Performing Arts),
      SFRPC / TCRPC Joint Conference - Topic: Blue Tech Jobs: Policy, Investment, and Workforce Development in Southeast Florida

VII. Adjourn

Chair Senator García adjourned the meeting at 12:11 p.m.

This signature is to attest that the undersigned is the Secretary of the SOUTH FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL and that the information provided herein is the true and correct minutes for May 18th, 2026, of the SOUTH FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL, adopted on the 20th day of July 2026.

Quentin "Beam" Furr, Treasurer
Commissioner, Broward County for
Maria Rodriguez, Secretary
Commissioner, City of Pembroke Pines

October 14, 2026
Date