Agenda Item: $5\varepsilon - 1$

PALM BEACH COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

Meeting Date: July	y 2, 2019	() Consent () Workshop	(X) Regular () Public Hearing
Department Submitted By: Submitted For:	County Administration Office of Resilience		

I. EXECUTIVE BRIEF

Motion and Title: Staff recommends motion to authorize: the Mayor to sign two letters: one addressed to the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) urging consideration of funding for a restudy of the Central and Southern Florida Flood Control Project and one addressed to the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) Governing Board encouraging the Governing Board to retain the current millage rate to provide adequate revenue for meeting level of service and flood protection responsibilities.

Summary: Maintaining a fully functional regional water management system in the face of rising sea levels and intensifying rainfall events will require significant investment in assessments, resilience studies, adaptation design, and resilient infrastructure in Southeast Florida. The four counties that comprise the Southeast Florida Regional Climate Change Compact are uniting in support of these objectives by jointly signing letters to the USACE and SFWMD Governing Board.

The first letter, which will be substantially similar or identical to Attachment 1, urges the USACE to consider funding a restudy of the Central and Southern Florida Flood Control Project to help Southeast Florida prepare for future water management challenges and maintain levels of service for current and future flood protection.

The second letter, which will be substantially similar or identical to Attachment 2, urges the Governing Board of the SFWMD to retain the current millage rate for Fiscal Year 2019–2020. The letter contends that, compared to the rolled-back rate that has been implemented for the last eight fiscal years, the fiscal impact of the current millage rate on individual taxpayers will be minimal while providing significant and acutely needed revenue for the SFWMD Flood Protection and Level of Service Program. Countywide (RPB)

Background and Policy Issues: Approval of this item advances Palm Beach County's commitment to resiliency and sustainability and is consistent with the Climate Compact's priorities and policies.

Attachments:

- 1. Consensus letter to the USACE
- 2. Consensus letter to the SFWMD

Recommended by	y: Meyer S Houston	6-28-19
	Department Director	Date
Approved by:		6/28/19
	Assistant County Administrator	Date

II. FISCAL IMPACT ANALYSIS

A. Five Year Summary of Fiscal Impact:

	Fiscal Year	'S	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
	Capital Exp	enditures					
	Operating (Costs	***************************************				
	External Re	evenues					
	Program In	come (Count	y)				
	In-Kind Mat	tch (County)	-				
	NET FISCA	L IMPACT	★ 0	0	0	0	0
	# ADDITIONS	NAL FTE S (Cumulative)				
	Is Item Incl	uded in Curre	ent Budget?	Yes		No <u>X</u>	
	Does this it	em include th	ne use of fede	eral funds?	Yes	NoX	
	Budget Acc	count No.:					
	Fund	Departme	nt Uni	tObje	ect Pr	ogram	
	В.	Recommen	ded Sources	of Funds/S	ummary of F	iscal Impact:	
*		fiscal impact a			7	ioodi iiipaot.	
	C.		Fiscal Revie			n	
			III. REVII	EW COMME	ENTS		
	A.	OFMB Fisca	al and /or Con	ntract Dev. a	and Control	Comments:	
		OFMB	- 71.119 Em7/1 9	PA Con	tract Develo	pment and Co	17//)/9 untrol
	В.	Legal Suffic	iency:		','','		J
		Assistant Co	Ounty Attorne	<i>?/≀/≀⁄</i> > ∍y			
	C.	Other Depar	tment Review	v:			
			Director				









June 26, 2019

The Honorable R.D. James
Assistant Secretary of the Army–Civil Works
Department of the Army
108 Army Pentagon
Washington, DC 20310-0108

Dear Assistant Secretary James:

On behalf of four counties of Southeast Florida, we want to echo the letter sent to you on June 25, 2019, by members of the Florida congressional delegation regarding the need for a restudy of the Central and Southern Florida Flood Control Project (C&SF Project). We believe that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) will find value in the C&SF Project as it begins work to identify studies and projects eligible for funding through the *Additional Supplemental Appropriations for Disaster Relief Act, 2019*. The business community believes this study is an essential component of tackling Southeast Florida's future water management challenges.

Today, the C&SF Project serves as the fundamental means for protecting the over six million residents of Southeast Florida from flooding. At the same time, changes in the physical environment, especially increased rainfall intensity and rising seas, substantially strain the existing system. This challenge is not just limited to Southeast Florida, as vulnerabilities have been identified across the 16-county South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) service area. These vulnerabilities include flooding, storm surge impacts, and threats to water supplies.

As noted in the delegation's letter, it is imperative that USACE work in conjunction with the SFWMD to revise the C&SF Project so that it can cope with and maintain levels of service for current and future flood protection. While numerous plans and investments are underway locally and regionally, our federal partners are also critical to the resilience of the C&SF Project.

We also want to thank the members of our delegation in Washington, DC, for their leadership on this project. We will continue to monitor this vital issue for our community and look forward to working together to find solutions to Southeast Florida's aging water management infrastructure.

Sincerely.

Mack Bernard Mayor, Palm Beach County	Carlos A. Gimenez Mayor, Miami-Dade County
Mark D. Bogen Mayor, Broward County	Sylvia Murphy Mayor, Monroe County









CC: LTG Todd T. Semonite

Commanding General and Chief of Engineers

Headquarters

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

331 G Street NW

Washington, DC 20314-1000

BG Diana M. Holland Commander South Atlantic Division U.S. Army Corps of Engineers 60 Forsyth Street SW, Room 10M15 Atlanta, GA 30303-8801

COL Andrew Kelly
District Commander
Jacksonville District
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
701 San Marco Boulevard
Jacksonville, FL 32207-8175

Senator Marco Rubio 284 Russell Senate Office Building Washington, DC 20510

Senator Rick Scott 716 Hart Senate Office Building Washington, DC 20510

Representative W. Gregory Steube 521 Cannon House Office Building Washington, DC 20515

Representative Brian Mast 2182 Rayburn House Office Building Washington, DC 20515

Representative Francis Rooney 120 Cannon House Office Building Washington, DC 20002

Representative Alcee L. Hastings 2353 Rayburn House Office Building Washington, DC 20515

Representative Mario Diaz-Balart 404 Cannon House Office Building Washington, DC 20515

ATTACHMENT 2









June 27, 2019

Members of the Governing Board South Florida Water Management District 3301 Gun Club Road West Palm Beach, FL 33406

Dear Governing Board Members,

As you consider the South Florida Water Management District's budget for Fiscal Year 2019-2020, we strongly urge you to retain the current millage rate and to devote the additional revenue to the studies and infrastructure investments foreseen for the District's Flood Protection Level of Service (FPLOS) Program.

As county mayors, we understand the conflicting pressures to keep tax rates low while maintaining or improving services. Given that previous Governing Boards have cut the District's tax rate every year for the past eight years, we believe the District has amply demonstrated its fiscal responsibility and can now persuasively argue that additional funds are needed to pay for critical investments.

The impact on taxpayers will be minimal. According to a 2016 investigation by the TCPalm newspaper, the District's 2016 tax cut amounted to a \$3 savings for the median homeowner. However, had the millage rate stayed the same, the District would have collected an additional \$21 million, a significant amount that could have been available for long-term needs. The situation will be similar this year: a millage rate cut would yield very small savings for the average taxpayer in absolute terms, but collectively, deprive the District of millions of dollars in additional revenue.

The need is acute. According to the presentation by District Hydrology and Hydraulics Bureau Chief Akin Owosina at your June 13 business meeting, full funding of the FPLOS Program, including assessments, resilience studies and adaptation design, and implementation of resilient infrastructure, could cost between \$33.5 and \$74 million per year over the next decade. Without these investments, the regional flood control system will struggle to keep up with rapidly changing conditions, including rising sea levels, storm surge, and more intense rainfall. We cannot emphasize enough how much the economy of our region and the safety of our residents depends on a fully functional regional water management system.

It is critical that the District begin this work.

Our counties have enjoyed a long, fruitful working relationship with the District for decades, including the District's participation in the four-county Southeast Florida Regional Climate Change Compact since

(continued)

its inception in 2010. This collaboration has substantially advanced the application of climate science as part of resilience planning across our region, including regulatory changes and infrastructure improvements needed to deliver flood protection under future climate conditions. We look forward to continuing to work with you and your staff to ensure the safety and prosperity of our region.

Thank you for your consideration of our request.

Yours sincerely,

Mack Bernard Mayor Palm Beach County

Carlos A. Gimenez Mayor Miami-Dade County

Mark D. Bogen Mayor Broward County Sylvia Murphy Mayor Monroe County