

**PROPOSED**

RESOLUTION NO.

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA, GENERALLY SUPPORTING THE EFFORTS OF THE UNITED STATES ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE DRAFT SOUTH ATLANTIC COASTAL STUDY; ENDORSING PRIORITIZATION OF A COMPREHENSIVE STUDY OF THE CENTRAL AND SOUTHERN FLORIDA PROJECT, WITH AN EXPANSION TO ADDRESS BOTH FUNDING AND AUTHORITY TO IMPLEMENT THE STUDY; REQUESTING THAT THE RANKING FOR THE BROWARD BACK BAY STUDY BE ADJUSTED TO A NEAR-TERM PRIORITY AND SECOND ON THE PROJECT LIST; DIRECTING THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR TO PROVIDE A COPY OF THIS RESOLUTION TO THE OFFICIALS DESIGNATED HEREIN; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

(Sponsored by Senator Nan H. Rich)

WHEREAS, Congress directed the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers ("USACE"), via the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 (Public Law 115-123), to conduct a study of the coastal areas within the geographical boundaries of the South Atlantic Division of the USACE to identify the risks and vulnerabilities of those areas to increased hurricane and storm damage as a result of sea level rise;

WHEREAS, the USACE initiated the South Atlantic Coastal Study ("SACS") in 2019, with the State of Florida included as one (1) of eight (8) states/territories in the analysis;

WHEREAS, the USACE published a draft SACS report in October 2021 that contained a summary of findings and recommendations for public review and comment, with the final document to be submitted to the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works for transmittal to Congress;

1           WHEREAS, the findings of the draft SACS report confirm that Florida is one (1) of  
2 the areas of the United States most vulnerable to the effects of climate change,  
3 accounting for more than eighty-six percent (86%) of the existing economic risk of coastal  
4 surge within the continental United States and an estimated fifty percent (50%) increase  
5 in the number of high-risk locations under conditions of three (3) feet of sea level rise;

6           WHEREAS, although the SACS risk assessment modeled a nearly threefold  
7 increase in economic exposure within Florida, from \$9 billion to \$24 billion, this estimate  
8 represents just a fraction of the total potential exposure, as it does not account for the  
9 impacts of coastal surge on inland flooding or cascading economic losses. For example,  
10 the 2020 Business Case for Resilience in Southeast Florida Report analyzed permanent  
11 economic losses associated with tidal exposure in the year 2070, and identified a greater  
12 than tenfold increase exceeding a combined \$53 billion for Palm Beach, Broward, Miami-  
13 Dade, and Monroe counties alone;

14           WHEREAS, the draft SACS report also recognizes the need for inland  
15 investigations extending beyond its coastal scope, including priority recommendations for  
16 a "Broward Back Bay" study and a comprehensive study of the Central and Southern  
17 Florida (C&SF) Project;

18           WHEREAS, these priority recommendations for a comprehensive study of the  
19 C&SF Project and a Broward Back Bay study must be commenced immediately. The  
20 studies are critical, based on the exceptional regional and local flood risk, economic  
21 exposure, and underinvestment that position South Florida, and Broward County  
22 specifically, at a great disadvantage in accessing infrastructure funding otherwise  
23 available and necessary to execute resilience solutions. Additionally, funding is  
24

1 contingent upon authorization of defined projects yet to be derived from completion of  
2 these studies;

3 WHEREAS, the Broward County Board of County Commissioners ("Board") and  
4 partner counties in the Southeast Florida Regional Climate Change Compact have been  
5 ardent advocates for urgent investment in the C&SF Project. The C&SF Project functions  
6 as the backbone of regional flood management. The knowledge that the system is  
7 already failing and that the potential for catastrophic failure may occur as early as 2035  
8 highlights the urgency of a comprehensive study of the C&SF Project;

9 WHEREAS, a C&SF Future Flood Risk Study was authorized under Section 216  
10 of the Flood Control Act of 1970 (as amended). However, neither the funding nor the  
11 necessary study authority has been provided to the USACE to undertake the more  
12 comprehensive C&SF Study recommended as part of SACS;

13 WHEREAS, Broward County is one of the highest-risk coastal locations nationwide  
14 based on the combination of factors, including dense urban population  
15 (1.9 million) and gross domestic product (2<sup>nd</sup> in the State, 25<sup>th</sup> in the nation). Additionally,  
16 the County's concentration of critical infrastructure and commerce includes the Fort  
17 Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport (with annual revenues of  
18 \$37.5 billion) and Port Everglades (with annual revenues of \$29 billion), a major  
19 international cruise and cargo port;

20 WHEREAS, while the Broward County Back Bay Study ranked second (2<sup>nd</sup>) for  
21 economic impact in the SACS evaluation, it ranked tenth (10<sup>th</sup>) in a combined ranking,  
22 trailing recommendations for studies in neighboring counties with less urgent timelines,  
23 and ranked below studies for communities that have already benefited from supplemental  
24 coastal storm risk management studies supported by the USACE; and

1 WHEREAS, the Board recognizes that planning for sea level rise, coastal flood  
2 and storm risk, and the overall resilience of the region requires coordinated efforts.  
3 Additionally, such planning and regional resilience require organized investment and  
4 urgent action at various scales and across jurisdictions, as well as a vital partnership with  
5 the USACE that taps into its unique expertise and capacity; NOW, THEREFORE,

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7 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF  
8 BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA:

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10 Section 1. The Board affirms its overall support for the efforts of the USACE and  
11 recommendations as part of the draft SACS.

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13 Section 2. The Board strongly endorses prioritization of the comprehensive  
14 study of the C&SF Project as a draft SACS report recommendation, with the caveat that  
15 the recommendation be expanded to include both the urgent funding and expanded  
16 authority needed to execute the study.

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18 Section 3. The Board requests that the USACE adjust the prioritization of the  
19 Broward Back Bay study to a near-term priority with a second-place ranking, consistent  
20 with the initial SACS economic ranking for the project, reflective of the overall magnitude  
21 and immediacy of sea level rise and coastal flood risk in Broward County.

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23 Section 4. The Board directs the County Administrator, as Clerk of the Board,  
24 to transmit a copy of this Resolution to the District Commander of the USACE South

