

## **South Florida Water Management District Sea Level Rise and Flood Resiliency Plan, 2023**

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The South Florida Water Management District (District) is committed to addressing the impacts of climate change, including sea level rise (SLR), changing rainfall patterns and evapotranspiration trends. The District's Sea Level Rise and Flood Resiliency Plan (Resiliency Plan) includes a comprehensive list of resiliency projects that aim to reduce risks of flooding and SLR on water resources and increase community and ecosystem resiliency in South Florida. This will be achieved by enhancing water management infrastructure throughout the Central & South Florida Flood Control System and the Big Cypress Basin.

The District's Flood Protection Level of Service (FPLOS) Program has been advancing modeling efforts in critical basins to help understand current and future flood vulnerabilities and identify cost-effective implementation strategies. The District's Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) has been incorporating climate change and SLR considerations into the design of infrastructure projects. Recommendations include flood adaptation strategies that address the vulnerability of existing infrastructure and project recommendations that protect water supply and water resources of the State.

The District seeks to implement projects that benefit South Florida's communities and environment by working with stakeholders. The updated plan, published on September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023, includes a ranking approach that supports project prioritization in South Florida, including metrics that identify critical infrastructure, and socially vulnerable communities basin wide. The plan also includes strategies for implementing nature-based solutions, sustainable energy strategies, a resiliency view on ecosystem restoration efforts and potential carbon storage, and water supply. The plan also contains a description of the flood damage cost estimate tool (SFWMD FIAT) used to support cost-benefit analysis. Funding for implementation of priority projects is being sought through Federal and State Resiliency Programs, such as the Federal Emergency Management Agency - Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities grant program and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection - Resilient Florida grant program.

PRESENTER BIO: David has over 25 years of experience in project management, environmental policy, and wetland ecology. He currently works on contract with the District Resiliency Team.