

SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT' RESILIENCY EFFORTS AND COORDINATION

Ana Carolina Coelho Maran

South Florida Water Management District, West Palm Beach, FL, USA

South Florida Water Management District (District) is strongly committed to address the impacts of land development, population growth and climate change, including sea level rise, changing rainfall patterns and evapotranspiration trends. As a key part of its resiliency strategy, the District evaluates the status of its flood control infrastructure, water supply operations and ongoing ecosystem restoration efforts, and implements infrastructure projects to continue to successfully implement its mission in anticipation of future climate conditions.

The District's Sea Level Rise and Flood Resiliency Plan, updated annually, is the District's initiative to compile a comprehensive list of priority resiliency projects with the goal of reducing the risks of flooding, sea level rise, and other climate impacts on water resources and increasing community and ecosystem resiliency in South Florida. This goal will be achieved by updating and enhancing water management infrastructure and implementing effective, resilient, integrated basin-wide solutions.

In addition, comprehensive restoration efforts have been supporting South Florida overall resiliency and the District's ability to better manage water for the benefit of people and the environment, with consideration of anticipated sea level rise and extreme weather events into the future. In particular, the restoration of beneficial freshwater flows throughout the system slows down saltwater intrusion, promoting more sustainable aquifer recharge rates, healthier estuaries and bays, more stable coastlines, reduced marsh dry-outs and greater coastal resiliency, as well as higher flexibility and storage options to address water management response to extreme and seasonal needs.

This presentation will summarize the District's strategies for overcoming challenges posed by changing conditions and fostering long-term coordination to ensure sustained progress in resilience and restoration efforts.

PRESENTER BIO: Dr. Maran is the Chief of District Resiliency with SFWMD. 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 goals to mitigate and adapt to the challenges facing the District's infrastructure from climate change impacts.