

# **COMPREHENSIVE CENTRAL AND SOUTHERN FLORIDA STUDY – MULTIPURPOSE STUDY FOR BUILDING RESILIENCY NOW AND IN THE FUTURE**

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Community resilience means systems that are adaptive to change and can overcome acute events. Healthy ecosystems and water management infrastructure are a foundation leading to more resilient water supply, enhance economies, increase recreational opportunities, and improve and protect social well-being.

Building this community resilience requires coordinated efforts from all levels of government; no single entity can build resilience alone. The problems related to climate change are uncertain, broad, and complex and it is essential to survey and assess relationships among all public and private sector deliverables and capabilities at local, regional, state and federal levels – to determine the most appropriate and effective packaging of programs, projects, and services to accomplish resilience and sustainability objectives.

In central and south Florida, our water resource infrastructure is the great connector between all these efforts and the backbone of that system is the Central and Southern Florida Project. The C&SF Project is a large, multipurpose water resources project initially authorized by the Flood Control Acts of 1948 and 1954 for the purposes of providing flood control, water supply for municipal, industrial, and agricultural uses, prevention of saltwater intrusion, recreation, groundwater recharge, water supply for Everglades National Park, and preservation of fish and wildlife resources. The key infrastructure of the system stretching from Orlando to the Florida Keys includes approximately 2,200 miles of canals, 2,100 miles of levees/berms, 84 pump stations, and 778 water control structures. The regional system serves a population of approximately nine million residents in two water management districts. However, the region which it serves, and the drivers of flood risk have drastically changed the water resource needs since the 1950's due to urbanization and climate change.

The Comprehensive Central and Southern Florida Study was authorized in the Water Resources Development Act of 2022 to address these changed conditions and changed needs of the region. The study authorization allows the USACE to conduct a study for resiliency and comprehensive improvements or modifications to existing water resources development projects in the central and southern Florida area, for the purposes of flood risk management (including all drivers of flood risk), water supply, ecosystem restoration (including preventing saltwater intrusion), recreation, and related purposes. The intent is to conduct a strategic long-term planning effort through collaboration with Federal, state, and local entities, to focus on comprehensive benefits, to address effects from compound flooding, climate variability, and land use changes, and to incorporate natural and nature-based features to enhance benefits. The USACE anticipates Federal funding in FY2025 to begin this effort in coordination with partners at the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) and St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD).

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