



U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515

October 12, 2022

The Honorable Michael Connor
Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works
Headquarters, US Army Corps of Engineers
441 G. Street, NW
Washington, DC 20314-1000

Dear Secretary Connor:

We are writing on behalf of Miami-Dade County and the Village of Key Biscayne, Florida, to respectfully request \$500,000 from the Fiscal Year 2023 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Work Plan for a Flood Risk Management Shoreline Protection Feasibility Study in Key Biscayne, which is a critical component of the Dade County Coastal Storm Risk Management (CSRM) project and will examine shore protection and bay-side flooding in Key Biscayne.

Key Biscayne sits prominently on a barrier island off the coast of Miami and is a thriving and vibrant community of 15,000 people, 8,000 residences, and over 1,000 businesses. The residents face the existential threats of sea-level rise and more severe and frequent storms. Although committed to protecting the Village from these dual environmental hazards, the community needs both financial and technical help to fully safeguard its future.

The County and Village have been teaming with USACE since 2020 as part of Miami-Dade County's CSRM Feasibility Study. Their joint efforts began when the Village was added to the Miami-Dade CSRM as a one year, \$1 million study extension. After a year of collaborating with the County and the Village, Jacksonville District delivered a Tentatively Selected Plan in December of 2021 that included a reinforced dune system with periodic beach renourishments and two tie-back walls to protect the Village's beach shoreline. The recommendation showed a strong benefit-cost ratio; however, it faced challenges at the Agency Decision Milestone when South Atlantic Division expressed concerns of bay-side flooding affecting the project benefits area.

Immediately recognizing the need for a separate, stand-alone feasibility study for the entire village, USACE SAD suggested a change in direction. In order to keep pace with the Village's aggressive and comprehensive resilience program to overhaul its critical stormwater, roadway and utility

infrastructure, Jacksonville District developed a Key Biscayne specific bayside flood risk management scope of work and initial cost estimate. With the scope of work in hand, and authorization under Public Law 84-71, dated June 15, 1955, USACE SAD recommended that the Village seek a new project start that would deliberately assess both the island's oceanside and bayside shorelines.

Key Biscayne has begun to explore potential flood risk management solutions, select in-kind efforts, and most importantly, set-aside \$500,000 for study matching funds. If funded, USACE's efforts will move forward in parallel with the Village's multi-dimensional, 15-year phased infrastructure program to protect the island from current and future climate-related threats. This includes the protection of the life, health, and safety of its citizens as well as \$9.4 billion in real estate.

With the steps they have taken, the Village has shown and strongly reaffirms its commitment to a Flood Risk Management Shoreline Protection Feasibility Study that complements the USACE's recently completed Dade County CSRM.

Sincerely,



Maria Elvira Salazar
Member of Congress



Carlos Gimenez
Member of Congress



Mario Diaz-Balart
Member of Congress



Debbie Wasserman Schultz
Member of Congress



Frederica S. Wilson
Member of Congress