

# Legislative Issues



## Section 203 C&SF Flood Resiliency Study for Broward Basins

### ISSUE SUMMARY

Seeking Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) **authorization** of the project recommendations and **appropriations** to advance final design and construction of recommended improvements.

Total project estimates to be provided in early 2026.

### ISSUE SUMMARY

The existing Central and Southern Florida (C&SF) water management infrastructure is insufficient to handle current and future hydrologic conditions. The original gravity-driven infrastructure, now more than 70 years old, was not designed for today's levels of runoff, storm surge, and high tides, and it is being overwhelmed. System inefficiencies are further exacerbated by sea level rise and extreme rainfall events that reduce the system's ability to provide flood protection for Broward County's highly dense urban areas.

The Section 203 Study will recommend adaptation measures to deliver essential flood risk mitigation for Broward County communities served by the C&SF system, protecting against flood damages, material losses, and economic disruptions that are already being incurred.

### FULL DETAILED BACKGROUND

The C&SF Flood Control Project was authorized by Congress in 1948 to build infrastructure to manage South Florida's flood risk and water flow. In 2009, the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) issued a report concluding that 18 salinity control structures, including all those serving Broward and Miami-Dade Counties, were within 6 inches of design failure. In 2021, the Section 216 C&SF Flood Resiliency Study ("Section 216 Study") was authorized to evaluate resilience recommendations for the C&SF system in reaches serving Broward and Miami-Dade Counties. While progress was made, the project timeline and budget both expanded under this approach, raising concerns for being able to meet the original 2026 target for project completion and WRDA authorization.

Driven by strong advocacy from the Broward County Commission and a commitment of \$5 million in funding, the SFWMD proposed an accelerated solution: leading a Section 203 study for the Broward County reaches to replace the Section 216 approach. Section 203 of WRDA authorizes non-federal interests to undertake feasibility studies for proposed water resource development projects for submission directly to the Secretary of the Army for Federal participation. This request was approved by the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil

Works [ASA(CW)] in August 2024.

Once completed and approved, the next step involves the ASA(CW)'s submittal of study recommendations to Congress for authorization under WRDA.

Status - The Section 203 study began in October 2024, and a final recommendation is anticipated in August 2026. The project is on track for transmittal to the ASA(CW) in June 2026 for approval and submission to Congress. Every effort undertaken to date has been with the goal of meeting timelines for WRDA 2026 authorization and appropriations. At this stage, every year matters as the system is already failing, flood events and losses are escalating, and overall exposures threaten the economic posture of the County, with nearly \$200 billion in taxable assets reliant on flood protection provided by the C&SF system. It is essential that local, state, and federal partners move expeditiously to resolve these well-documented system deficiencies and deliver the flood risk mitigation for which this system was designed.

### BENEFITS/EXPECTED OUTCOME

The project's purpose is to recover essential flood risk mitigation for Broward Basins served by the C&SF system. To achieve this, we are seeking WRDA authorization of the project recommendations and appropriations to advance final design and construction of recommended improvements.

Resilience improvements are expected to include upgrades to structures and installation of pumps needed to provide flood protection and storm risk reduction for the next 50 years. These investments will reduce property damage, protect property values, and preserve regional economic vitality.

With transmittal to Congress, we urge authorization of study recommendations and appropriations as part of WRDA 2026; these actions are vital to mitigate flood risk across Broward County.

### POINT(S) OF CONTACT

Dr. Jennifer Jurado, Chief Resilience Officer and Deputy Director, Broward County Resilient Environment Department, [jjurado@broward.org](mailto:jjurado@broward.org), (954) 519-1464

Kirk Zieser, Program/Project Coordinator, Broward County Resilient Environment Department, [kzieser@broward.org](mailto:kzieser@broward.org), (954) 519-1294