## MIAMI-DADE BACK BAY COASTAL STORM RISK MANAGEMENT FEASIBILITY STUDY

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

**APPENDIX A-8** 

June 2024





DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS 441 G STREET, NW WASHINGTON, DC 20314-1000

CECW-P

5 December 2023

MEMORANDUM FOR Commander, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, North Atlantic Division, address

SUBJECT: Study Guidance, Miami- Dade Back Bay CSRM Studies Strategy

1. References:

a. E-mail Correspondence from Eric L. Bush, SES, Chief, Planning and Policy, HQUSACE, 5 SEP 2023, SUBJECT: MD BB Study: Draft Guidance

b. MEMORANDUM FOR COMMANDING GENERAL, U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, 3 AUG 2022, SUBJECT: Miami-Dade Back Bay Coastal Storm Risk Management Study, 3x3x3 Exemption

c. Information Briefing, 15 AUG 2023, SUBJECT: Miami-Dade Back Bay Study - DCG-CEO Pre-Brief, Go/No-go Decision

d. Engineer Pamphlet 1105-2-61, Feasibility and Post-Authorization Study Procedures and Report Processing Requirements (1 JUL 2023)

e. MEMORANDUM FOR District Commanders, Deputy District Engineers, Engineering Chiefs, and Cost Engineering Community of Practice, 05 JUNE 2023, SUBJECT: Guidance on Cost Engineering Products update for Civil Works Projects in accordance with Engineer Regulation 1110-2-1302 – Civil Works Cost Engineering

- 2. Purpose: This memorandum supplements draft study guidance previously provided via reference 1a and provides study-specific guidance for the conduct of the Miami-Dade County Back Bay Coastal Storm Risk Management Feasibility Study.
- Background: The Miami Back Bay, FL feasibility study was funded by the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 (BBA-18). A feasibility cost-share agreement (FCSA) was signed 09 OCT 2018 between CESAJ (Jacksonville District) and the non-federal sponsor, Miami-Dade County, FL. Responsibility for execution of the feasibility study was subsequently brokered to CENAO (Norfolk District) by Memorandum of Agreement. Pursuant to Amendment 1 (executed 23 DEC 2022) to the

Memorandum of Agreement, senior executive oversight responsibility was reassigned from NAD to SAD.

Upon reaching the draft recommended plan phase in 2021, reference 1b subsequently directed USACE to:

"(S)upport the non-Federal sponsor's request to develop and analyze flood risk reduction features in addition to investigating the incorporation of natural and nature-based features. If upon analysis it is determined that a Locally Preferred Plan (LPP) is likely to evolve from the investigation USACE will actively participate in development of the LPP to ensure its feasibility."

Up to \$11.2M of BBA18 funds and up to 60 additional months were approved to complete additional investigations work.

Reference 1b required a follow-up briefing for the ASA(CW) confirming the scope, time, and cost to complete the feasibility study after collaboration with the non-federal sponsor, which occurred 18 AUG 2023. At that briefing, USACE was directed to develop a strategy for an interim response and report that may provide for a potential project authorization in a 2024 Water Resources Development Act. There was concurrent agreement that additional time and investigations work were needed to develop future feasibility-level recommendations for a comprehensive plan for coastal storm risk reduction in the study area, including Miami-Dade County's conceptual "Atlantic Coastline" conceptual plan alternative (see reference 1c).

Initial draft study guidance (reference 1a) was jointly prepared by HQUSACE Planning and Policy and the OASA(CW) and provided to NAD, NAO, and SAD 5 SEP 2023, directing the executing district (NAO) to provide feedback and to coordinate the draft guidance with Miami-Dade County representatives. The study team subsequently raised several questions seeking clarification regarding the conduct and scope of study efforts. This memorandum provides additional guidance in response to previous discussions.

4. Intent: Study efforts will focus on opportunities for notifying Congress and seeking authorizations to implement coastal storm risk reduction measures in coastal and back bay areas of Miami-Dade County, consistent with the authority provided by PL 84-71 ("Hurricane Studies")<sup>i</sup>. Initial efforts will focus on submitting a feasibility-level report for consideration in a potential 2024 Water Resources Development Act. The initial report will include formulation of flood risk reduction measures protecting critical infrastructure; non-structural flood risk reduction; and nature-based solutions (NBS) including pilot projects.

Concurrently, the study team will also work collaboratively with the non-federal sponsor to identify the scope of work to be performed, including major tasks, proposed budget, and milestone schedule(s), for a comprehensive programmatic

study framework describing future investigations and potential future projects, including Miami-Dade County's "Atlantic Coastline" conceptual alternative. This work is expected to entail preparing Chief's Reports for potential future biennial Water Resources Development Authorization acts in 2026 and 2028.

- 5. Study Guidance and Deliverables:
  - a. Using BBA-18 funds already allocated, the study team will complete a final feasibility report and integrated NEPA document providing an interim response to the study authority, PL 84-71 for consideration in a potential WRDA 2024. The decision document will evaluate and recommend measures for protecting critical infrastructure from coastal flooding risks in the study area, non-structural flood risk reduction measures, and nature-based solutions (NBS), including proposed pilot projects to further evaluate the effectiveness of NBS. Environmental compliance and documentation under NEPA are required for the recommended plan. The final report will also identify follow-on studies , including the programmatic study described in paragraph 5b below, and potential future projects that may be accomplished under the study authority.

Except for proposed pilot projects, the study will be completed and the recommended plan will be developed in accordance with procedures provided in reference 1d and the guidance provided in reference 1e. Upon confirmation of proposed pilot projects, additional guidance regarding the evaluation, policy and legal reviews, and future implementation actions for pilot projects will be provided by the vertical team.

- b. Using BBA-18 funds remaining following completion of the feasibility study described in paragraph 5a, the study team will undertake the programmatic study providing a report that describes a comprehensive strategy for coastal storm risk reduction and management in the study area including the Atlantic Coastline conceptual alternative plan (reference 1c, see slides 5 and 6) presented at the date 18 August update briefing for the ASA(CW). The report will include:
  - i. A programmatic NEPA document prepared in accordance with 40 CFR 1502.4;
  - ii. Predictive hydrologic modeling for the Atlantic Coastline conceptual plan;
  - Proposed NBS pilot projects and an implementation strategy recommendation which targets WRDA 2024 authorization. Examples of NBS measures include, but are not limited to:
    - 1. Submersed/emergent nature-based solutions (NBS);

- 2. Dunes and dune raising;
- 3. Mangrove study/analysis;
- 4. Other proposed measures for reducing flood risk.
- Future Miami-Dade project-specific feasibility studies providing additional interim responses to PL 84-71 building on the analysis and modeling completed during the programmatic study.

The programmatic report will be scoped, resourced, and scheduled to support consideration in a potential 2026 Water Resources Development Act. Remaining BBA-18 funds already allocated for this study will be utilized to complete the programmatic report. If those funds are not sufficient, voluntarily contributed funds provided by the non-federal sponsor may be accepted to complete the programmatic study. Future studies would be funded through regular appropriations provided through the Army Civil Works budget process or other future funding sources not yet identified.

- c. The USACE Coastal Storm Risk Management Planning Center of Expertise (PCX) is integral to appropriately scoping, providing policy and technical advice (including modeling), identifying qualified USACE subject-matter experts and AE contractors to support study efforts, and monitoring efficient progress on studies to be performed under the applicable study authorities and outlined in this guidance. The study team will maintain continuous coordination with the PCX, including recurring updates and issue resolution meetings as described in paragraph 4.
- d. Recurring (at least bi-weekly) vertical team meetings including representatives of the study non-federal sponsor will be scheduled by the study team to identify and discuss issues affecting timely progress, including corrective action plans. Senior-level leadership in-progress reviews and issue resolution meetings including non-federal sponsor representatives will also be scheduled by NAD when needed.
- 6. Endorsement: The point of contact for this memo is the undersigned.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>i</sup> PL 84-71 was enacted in 1955 and authorizes "an examination and survey of the coastal and tidal areas of the eastern and southern United States, with particular reference to areas where severe damages have occurred from hurricane winds and tides."