The Draft Integrated Report / Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement was released on 5 June 2020 and public comments will be accepted until 20 July 2020.
Public Review and Input
Miami-Dade Back Bay Coastal Storm Risk Management Feasibility Study

How can I provide comments?
Submit comments electronically to: MDBB-CSRMStudy@usace.army.mil or http://arcg.is/fm0Xe
Or in writing to: USACE Norfolk District ATTN: Justine Woodward Planning and Policy Branch 803 Front Street Norfolk, VA 23510
For additional inquiries please contact Justine Woodward at: 757-201-7728 or MDBB-CSRMStudy@usace.army.mil

Public Comments are due by: July 20, 2020

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)
- One of the nation’s oldest environmental laws.
- Applies to federal agencies.
- Requires federal agencies to consider and disclose the environmental effects of their proposed actions in a public document.
- Encourages federal agencies to make environmentally responsible decisions.
- The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has prepared an integrated Feasibility Report and Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).
- Programmatic indicates this is a broad or high-level NEPA document. Future site-specific NEPA documents are anticipated.
- The EIS will result in a Record of Decision document.

Resource Areas Evaluated
- Aesthetics and Visual Resources
- Air Quality
- Bathymetry, Hydrology, and Tidal Processes
- Benthic Resources
- Cultural Resources
- Essential Fish Habitat, Fish and Fishery Resources
- Floodplains
- Geology, Physiography, and Topography
- Hazardous, Toxic, and Radioactive Materials and Wastes
- Land Use
- Navigation
- Noise and Vibration
- Plankton
- Recreational Resources
- Special Status Species
- Safety
- Socioeconomics
- Transportation
- Utilities
- Water Quality
- Wetlands and Mangroves
- Wildlife and Terrestrial Habitat

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)
- One of the nation’s oldest environmental laws.
- Applies to federal agencies.
- Requires federal agencies to consider and disclose the environmental effects of their proposed actions in a public document.
- Encourages federal agencies to make environmentally responsible decisions.
- The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has prepared an integrated Feasibility Report and Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).
- Programmatic indicates this is a broad or high-level NEPA document. Future site-specific NEPA documents are anticipated.
- The EIS will result in a Record of Decision document.
### PROBLEMS, OPPORTUNITIES, OBJECTIVES AND CONSIDERATIONS

**PROBLEMS**
- The geographic location, low elevation, and high population of Miami-Dade County make it vulnerable to storm surge from hurricanes and tropical storms.
- Increasing high tides and king tides resulting from sea level rise result in recurrent flooding to roads and properties.
- Increasing groundwater elevations from sea level rise result in flood risks to inland areas.
- Increasing flooding from rain events due to the higher groundwater elevations and higher tailwater elevations from sea level rise threaten properties and infrastructure and exacerbate coastal storm risk.

**OPPORTUNITIES**
- Reduce the risk to human life and health due to coastal flooding, high flooding events or infrastructure failure.
- Reduce coastal storm-related economic damage and improve economic resiliency of the local economy and communities, particularly low-income communities and vulnerable populations.
- Increase resiliency, structural integrity, and reliability of critical infrastructure.
- Reduce transportation impacts due to high flooding events.
- Utilize available natural areas and open spaces for improving wave attenuation, water retention, and/or water storage.

**OBJECTIVES**
- Increase the resiliency of Miami-Dade County to function effectively before, during, and after coastal storm events by decreasing the vulnerability of critical infrastructure to flooding damage from storm surge with consideration for sea level rise.
- Reduce economic damage to structures in communities vulnerable to severe flooding damage from storm surge with consideration for sea level rise.
- Incorporate natural and nature based features to reduce flood damage and complement the recommended nonstructural and structural measures.

**CONSTRAINTS AND CONSIDERATIONS**
- Avoid creating or exacerbating flooding within the project area, to other local municipalities, and to local military installations.
- Avoid flooding solutions for the study area that would induce increased flooding issues in locations outside of the study area.
- Avoid and/or minimize impacts to existing environmental and cultural/historic resources in the study area and nearby (e.g. Biscayne Bay National Park, Miami Circle National Historic Landmark).
- Cannot exacerbate saltwater intrusion which will negatively impact fresh water for drinking and agriculture.
**Management Measures for Consideration**

**Structural**
- Structural coastal storm risk management measures are engineering solutions to manage flood risk and reduce damage from coastal storms by physically limiting flood water inundation.

**Nonstructural**
- Nonstructural measures are permanent or contingent measures applied to a structure and/or its contents that prevent or provide resistance to damage from flooding. They differ from structural measures in that they focus on reducing the consequences of flooding instead of focusing on reducing the probability of flooding.

**Natural and Nature-Based Features**
- Nonstructural measures are permanent or contingent measures applied to a structure and/or its contents that prevent or provide resistance to damage from flooding. They differ from structural measures in that they focus on reducing the consequences of flooding instead of focusing on reducing the probability of flooding.

**Examples**
- Floodwall with road closure, Norfolk, Virginia
- Bayou Bienvenue Sector Gate, Louisiana

**Types of Flood Shields**
- Application of waterproof membrane on exterior wall (left) and fiber-reinforced polymer wrap applied to interior wall (right)

**Experiments**
- Removable flood barriers of an office, Bothell, Washington
- Elevated home with drive under garage, New Orleans, Louisiana

**Mangrove Planting and Restoring**
- Mangroves may contribute to reducing damage to property from storms and cyclones as they reduce the impacts of waves, storm surges and high winds. Mangroves offer critical nursing environments for juveniles of thousands of species.