

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
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April 29, 2022

The Honorable Chairwoman Marcy Kaptur
Chairwoman
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Energy and
Water Development, and Related Agencies
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Michael K. Simpson
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Energy and
Water Development, and Related Agencies
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairwoman Kaptur and Ranking Member Simpson,

As you begin crafting the fiscal year 2023 bill, I respectfully request that you give consideration to the following funding priorities:

1. Provide a funding level of \$1,040,000 for the PED for the stabilization of US 1 community project funding request. The intended recipient is Monroe County, FL located at 1100 Simonton Street Key West, FL 33040.

The project would be a valuable use of taxpayer funds because Monroe County has for the past several years partnered with the ACOE on a CSRM feasibility study using previously-approved hurricane supplemental funding from Congress to propose storm damage mitigation strategies for the County. The study received a Chief of Engineers report on September 24, 2021 and is awaiting construction authorization via the Water Resources Development Act. However, the ACOE does not need to wait for authorization to begin the PED phase if the project is provided funding via the E&W Appropriations bill.

2. Provide a funding level of \$350,000 for the Southcentral Biscayne Bay Hydrologic Monitoring Network community project funding request. The intended recipient is Miami-Dade County located at 111 NW 1st Street, 12th Floor Miami, FL 33131.

The project would be a valuable use of taxpayer funds because the southcentral Biscayne Bay monitoring program, including the nearshore IBBEAM network, is the only and longest-running continuous-monitoring water quality program in Miami-Dade County. It provides data within Biscayne National Park and the southern portion of the state's Biscayne Bay Aquatic Preserves. IBBEAM, a monitoring and assessment project funded

by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, supports the inshore component of this network. The offshore network consists of 27 units between 12 and 21 years old that are failing and presently have no funding for replacement. The technology of these instruments is now outdated, making repairs and replacement parts costly, if even available. Advancements in sensor technology in recent years make it possible to purchase, at reasonable cost, a variety of reliable sensors to broaden the network's coverage to include water quality parameters in addition to its present temperature and salinity (conductivity) sensing capability. These data are applicable in assessing day-to-day water management decision-making as well as guiding longer-term, system-wide restoration activities of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP) and its components, cofounded by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Plan's Local Sponsor, the South Florida Water Management District.

3. Provide a funding level of \$5,000,000 for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Construction account as a community project funding request. The intended recipient is the Jacksonville District Office for the Florida Keys Water Quality Improvement Project located at 701 San Marco Blvd., Jacksonville, FL 32207. The project would be a valuable use of taxpayer funds because the communities of the Florida Keys are required to meet stringent wastewater and storm water management regulations as well as comply with water quality and environmental protection standards. To do so, they need to access Environmental Infrastructure funding to construct state of the art treatment facilities throughout the Keys. Since 2003 the communities of Marathon, Islamorada and the Key Largo Wastewater Treatment District have obtained over \$78 million toward their collective projects, which protect and improve the nearshore waters of the National Marine Sanctuary and ensure the environmental and economic vitality of the Florida Keys.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Carlos A. Gimenez
Member of Congress