

PUBLIC INPUT DURING SCOPING

MIAMI-DADE BACK BAY COASTAL STORM RISK MANAGEMENT FEASIBILITY STUDY

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.

What type of NEPA document will be prepared?

- The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) intends to prepare either an Environmental Assessment (EA) or an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).
- An EA would be prepared if there are no anticipated significant impacts. An EIS would be prepared if significant impacts are anticipated.
- The integrated report/NEPA document is scheduled for public release in February/ March 2020.
- If preparation of an EIS is needed, a Notice of Intent would be published online in the Federal Register (<https://www.federalregister.gov/>) and the NEPA public scoping period would be extended.

What environmental topics may be considered?

- Air Quality
- Climate Change/Sea Level Rise
- Cultural and Historic Resources
- Demographics
- Economics
- Wetlands
- Fish and Wildlife Resources
- Hazardous, Toxic, and Radioactive Materials
- Hydrology
- Land Use
- Navigation
- Noise and Vibration
- Recreation
- Protected Species
- Socioeconomic and Environmental Justice
- Traffic
- Water Quality

How can I provide comments?

- You may fill out a written comment form at this meeting and place it in the comment box.
- You may e-mail or mail comments to:
Carissa Agnese
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Email:
Carissa.R.Agnese@usace.army.mil

Street Address:
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers,
Norfolk District
ATTN: Carissa Agnese
Planning and Policy Branch
803 Front Street
Norfolk, VA 23510

Phone Number: 757-201-7752

NEPA Scoping Comments are due by January 9, 2019; the comment period will be extended if an EIS is prepared.

What is "scoping"?

"Scoping" is the step in the NEPA process when the public is invited to participate in identifying issues, alternatives, and potentially significant effects to be considered in the analysis. This helps the USACE identify and eliminate from detailed study issues that are not significant or that have been covered by prior environmental review.



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THE FEASIBILITY STUDY PROCESS: KEY DECISION & PRODUCT MILESTONES



Alternatives Milestone
January 2019

Tentatively Selected Plan Milestone
January 2020

Agency Decision Milestone
September 2020

Draft Report Released for Concurrent Review
February/March 2020

Chief's Report Signed
September 2021

 Decision Milestone
 Product Milestone

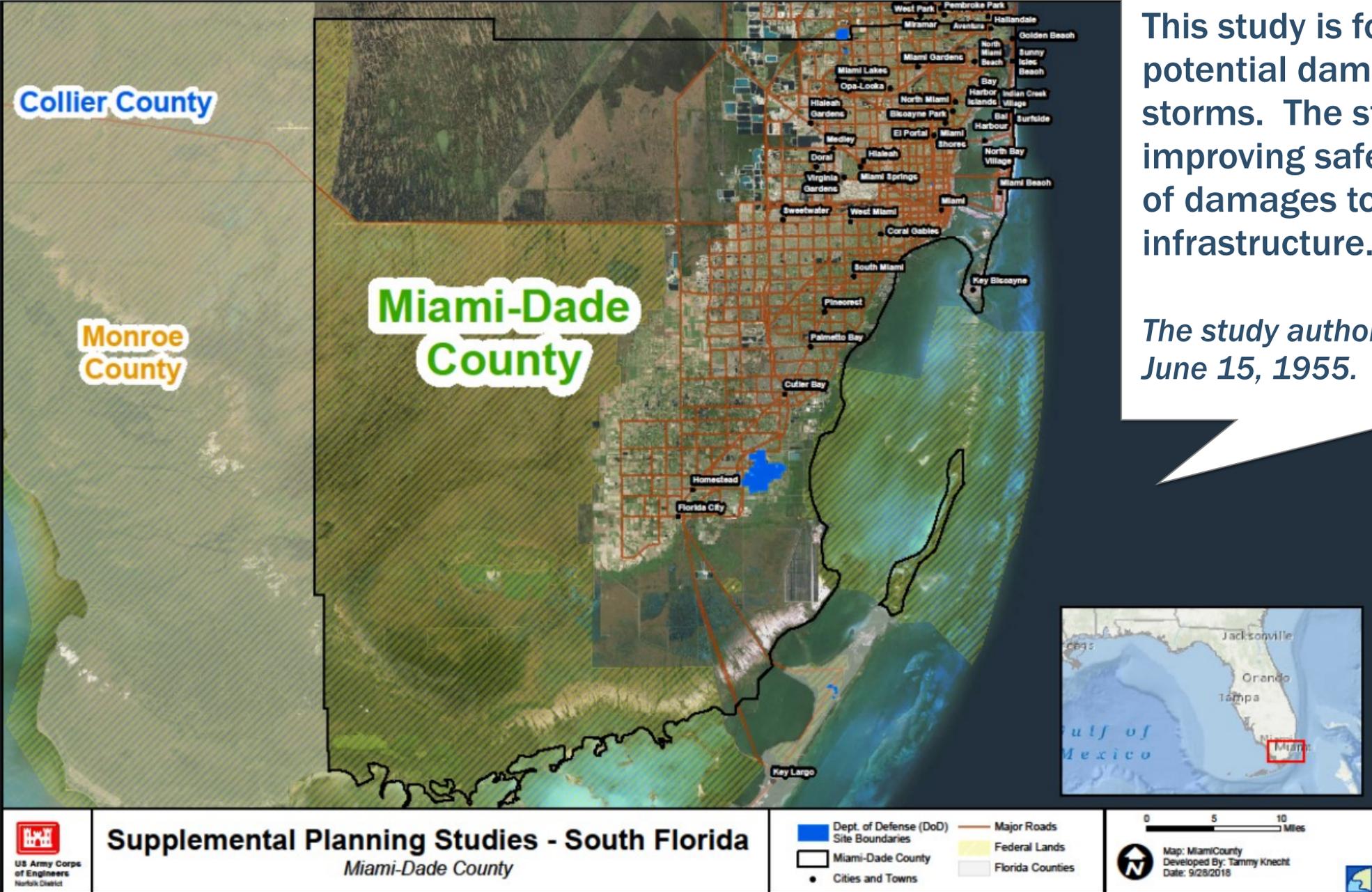
Focus on alternatives identification and evaluation to identify a recommended plan for more detailed design

Focus on scaling the measures and features for the recommended plan

The draft integrated report/NEPA document will be available for public review in approximately February/March 2020.



MIAMI-DADE BACK BAY COASTAL STORM RISK MANAGEMENT FEASIBILITY STUDY PURPOSE AND AUTHORITY



This study is focused on reducing the potential damages caused by coastal storms. The study will focus on improving safety and reducing the risk of damages to buildings and other infrastructure.

The study authority is Public Law 84-71, June 15, 1955.



PROBLEMS, OPPORTUNITIES, OBJECTIVES AND CONSIDERATIONS

PROBLEMS

- Storm surge from hurricanes and tropical storms
- Increasing high tides and king tides from sea level rise result in 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 higher groundwater elevations and sea level rise threatens properties and infrastructure
- Flooding results in damages to homes, businesses, and critical infrastructure

Specific problems related to the above flooding include:

- Risks to human life and health
- Risk to critical facilities such as the port, airport, and power infrastructure
- Decreasing level of service provided by the regional water management infrastructure
- Salt water intrusion into freshwater supplies for drinking and agriculture
- Bridge clearances shrinking along navigable rivers/canals
- Chronic flooding of roadways and transportation disruptions including inundation of evacuation routes and risks to coastal causeways

OPPORTUNITIES

- Reduce the risk to human life and health due to coastal flooding
- Reduce flood risk and damages to residential, commercial, historic, cultural, and critical assets and infrastructure
- Reduce economic damages and improve economic resiliency of the local economy and communities, including vulnerable populations
- Increase resiliency and reliability of critical infrastructure
- Improve neighborhood cohesion and social fabric
- Conversion of flooding zones to reduce insurance expenses
- Improve community awareness about flooding risks
- Reduce transportation impacts
- Use and acquire new natural areas and open spaces
- Create and maintain recreational opportunities
- Enhance and support Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan projects
- Reduce public and environmental health risks associate with failing septic systems

OBJECTIVES

- Reduce economic damages to structures due to coastal flooding over a 50 year period of analysis
- Reduce the risk to human life, health, and safety by assessing flood impacts to structures, evacuation routes, and critical infrastructure
- Improve the resiliency of Miami-Dade County to function effectively before, during, and after significant coastal storm events
- Reduce the risk of increased economic inequality by qualitatively assessing alternative impacts to vulnerable populations
- Improve the resiliency of the area's natural defenses recognizing that the healthy ecosystem and beautiful environment are the foundation of the region's economy
- Leverage projects to address additional local infrastructure needs at the same time

CONSTRAINTS AND CONSIDERATIONS

- Construction waterward of the high tide line not currently permitted within Biscayne Bay Aquatic Preserve
- Navigable channels, including those in the Miami Harbor and the Miami River should not be negatively impacted
- Proposed measures cannot degrade water quality or environmental quality in Biscayne Bay (National Park and Aquatic Preserve)
- Avoid interference with military interests including Homestead Air Force Base and other national security assets
- Cannot exacerbate saltwater intrusion which will negatively impact fresh water for drinking and agriculture
- Avoid creating or exacerbating existing social justice issues
- Avoid and/or minimize impacts to existing environmental and cultural resources
- Maintain cultural and socio-economic cohesiveness across different neighborhoods and areas of the city and avoid isolating neighborhoods as a result of the recommended project
- Integrate structural, nonstructural and Natural and Nature-Based features
- Avoid creating or exacerbating flooding within the project area, to other municipalities, and to local military installations



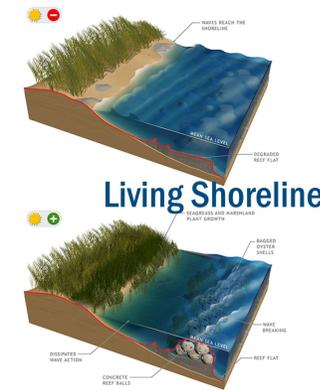
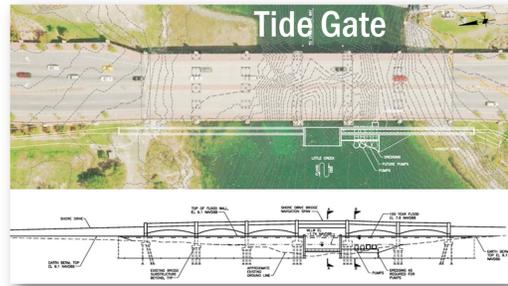
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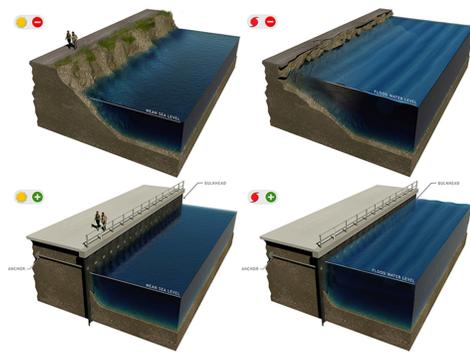
POTENTIAL PROJECT FEATURES FOR CONSIDERATION

Structural & Non-structural

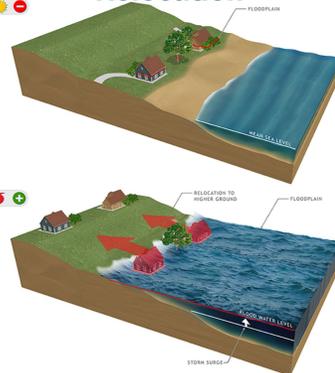
Natural and Nature-based



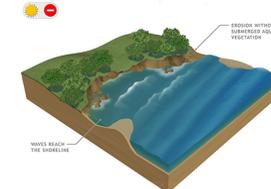
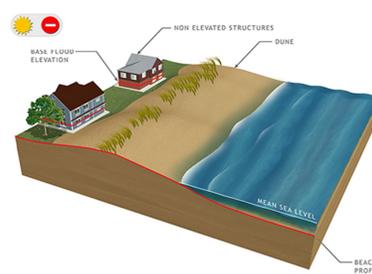
Bulkheads



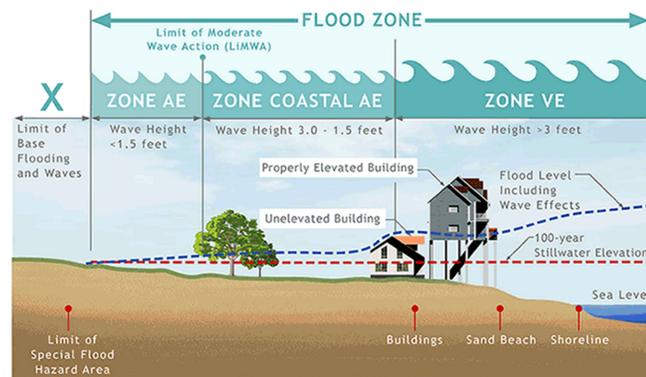
Relocation



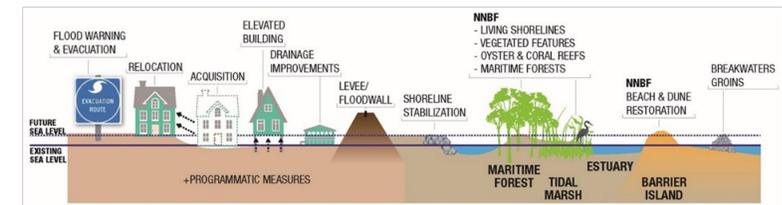
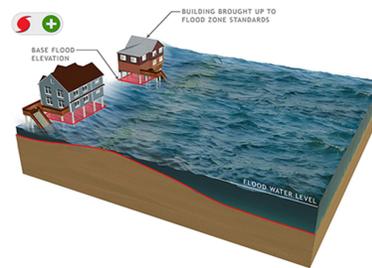
Elevation or Acquisition



Higher Floodplain Standards



Enhanced Warning System



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TOPICS TO BE EXAMINED IN THE INTEGRATED REPORT/NEPA DOCUMENT



- Air Quality
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OTHER COASTAL STORM RISK AND RELATED PROJECTS

