

# SRWMD Practical Community Resilience through Enhanced Risk MAP Outreach for the Suwannee River Water Management District

## Executive Summary

Despite being the smallest of Florida's five Water Management Districts, the Suwannee River Water Management District (SRWMD) is currently expecting and planning for 40% growth by 2040. Nearly half of all of Florida's fiscally constrained counties are within the SRWMD located right in the heart of some of Florida's best managed floodplains and pristine waterways. (see Figure 1). Practical Community Resilience is a means by which communities and regional planning agencies can become more resilient faster by working together to leverage existing data and relationships with state universities, and other federal, state, or local agencies. The communities will benefit from the transfer of institutional knowledge that the partners and stakeholders involved possess along with innovative solutions to projects and funding that are fundamental to bridging social and environmental vulnerability gaps in the SRWMD, the State of Florida and the Nation as a whole.

The Biden-Harris Administration's Justice40 Initiative aims to deliver 40% of the overall benefits of climate, clean energy affordable and sustainable housing, clean water, and other investments to disadvantaged communities that are marginalized, overburdened, and undeserved. FEMA's Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities and Flood Mitigation Assistance programs are participating in a pilot of the White House's Justice40 Initiative to advance environmental justice. Under this initiative, a minimum of 40% of certain federal benefits will be prioritized to disadvantaged communities (<https://www.fema.gov/about/strategic-plan/goal-1/objective-1-3>). With huge uncertainty related to sea level rise, insurance, disaster recovery planning, Risk Rating 2.0 hurdles along with current and future Community Rating System (CRS) requirements, resilience planning and smart future development, the SRWMD has a unique opportunity right now to educate the districts fourteen (14) Justice 40 counties by enhancing the outreach for ongoing currently funded FEMA Risk MAP projects while harnessing the power of Practical Community Resilience. By funding the proposed Enhanced Risk MAP Outreach activities for all fifteen (15) SRWMD counties, FEMA will further its Justice 40 goals and allow partners like the Florida Atlantic University (FAU) and the SRWMD to find funding together to perform a Regional Watershed Master Plan project that can only succeed with outreach funding. The Regional Watershed Master Plan project will produce a Districtwide Vulnerability Assessment with Future Flood Risk scenarios that both satisfy the State of Florida's Resilience Goals and advance Risk MAP goals for 2022 and beyond.

By funding this Enhanced Risk MAP Outreach project, FEMA will further the Biden-Harris Administration's Justice40 Initiative goals to deliver 40% of the overall benefits. This critical