



August 25, 2025

The Honorable Adam Telle, Under Secretary of the Army (Civil Works)
108 Army Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20310-0108

Subject: Request for Updated Engineering Studies under the Four Rivers Basin Project (1962 Authorization)

Dear Under Secretary Telle:

We respectfully write to request that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers re-engage and update the engineering studies related to flood control solutions originally authorized under the **Four Rivers Basin Project of 1962** (please see attached documentation). As you are aware, this long-standing project was conceived by Congress to address persistent and damaging flood risks in our region. Unfortunately, while the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers conducted studies and recommended engineering solutions under the original authorization, those measures were never fully implemented. Funding initially allocated for their execution was ultimately diverted to support Everglades Restoration efforts in South Florida.

Our region has since experienced devastating impacts from multiple recent hurricanes, resulting in widespread flooding and significant damage, particularly in the areas along the local river basins. Local officials, informed by hydrologists and other technical experts, believe that much of this damage could have been mitigated—or even prevented—had the Corps' earlier recommendations been carried out. Given the substantial development that has occurred since the 1960s, evolving environmental conditions, and the increasing frequency of extreme weather events, it is critical that these studies be revisited and updated. A reassessment using current data, modern hydrologic modeling, and today's engineering standards is urgently needed to adequately protect our communities and infrastructure. Additionally, we would like to see the examination include flood mitigation strategies for storm surge and an analysis of water supply benefits related to regional water impoundments.

Across the affected areas, residents continue to face severe flood risks that threaten lives, homes, businesses, and local economies. A renewed federal initiative—led by the Corps—would bring much-needed technical expertise and updated analysis to inform effective, forward-looking mitigation efforts in collaboration with state and local agencies. Therefore, we respectfully urge your office to direct the appropriate Corps District to initiate a comprehensive re-evaluation of the Four Rivers Basin Project's engineering studies and flood control recommendations. Doing so would honor the original Congressional intent while addressing today's realities and risks.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent and important matter. We would welcome the opportunity to discuss this request in more detail and stand ready to assist in advancing this vital initiative.

Respectfully,

Gus M. Bilirakis
Member of Congress

Laurel Lee
Member of Congress

Vern Buchanan
Member of Congress