



Water  
Partnership  
with **CDM  
Smith**

# Miami Forever

## Reducing Urban Flooding in the Face of Sea Level Rise



2019 Winter Conference

**Alan Dodd, PE, Director**  
**Christopher Bennett, PE, Assistant Director**  
*City of Miami, Resilience and Public Works*

**Michael Schmidt, PE, BCEE, DWRE**  
**Jonathan Goldman, PE, PMP, BCEE**  
*CDM Smith*



# City of Miami Overview

## Incorporated in 1896

### Area

- 56 square miles – Overall
- 36 square miles – Land Area

### Population

- 471,000 (2<sup>nd</sup> in Florida/43<sup>rd</sup> in U.S.)
- 6<sup>th</sup> most densely populated city in the U.S.

### Economy

- Cultural, economic, and financial center of South Florida
- Gross Metropolitan Product of \$257 billion (11<sup>th</sup> in U.S.)

### Tourism

- Home of the busiest cruise port in the world
- 15.9 million visitors, adding \$26.1 billion to the economy





# City of Miami Overview (cont.)

## Climate

- Tropical monsoon climate
- Annual average rainfall of 62 inches

## Geography

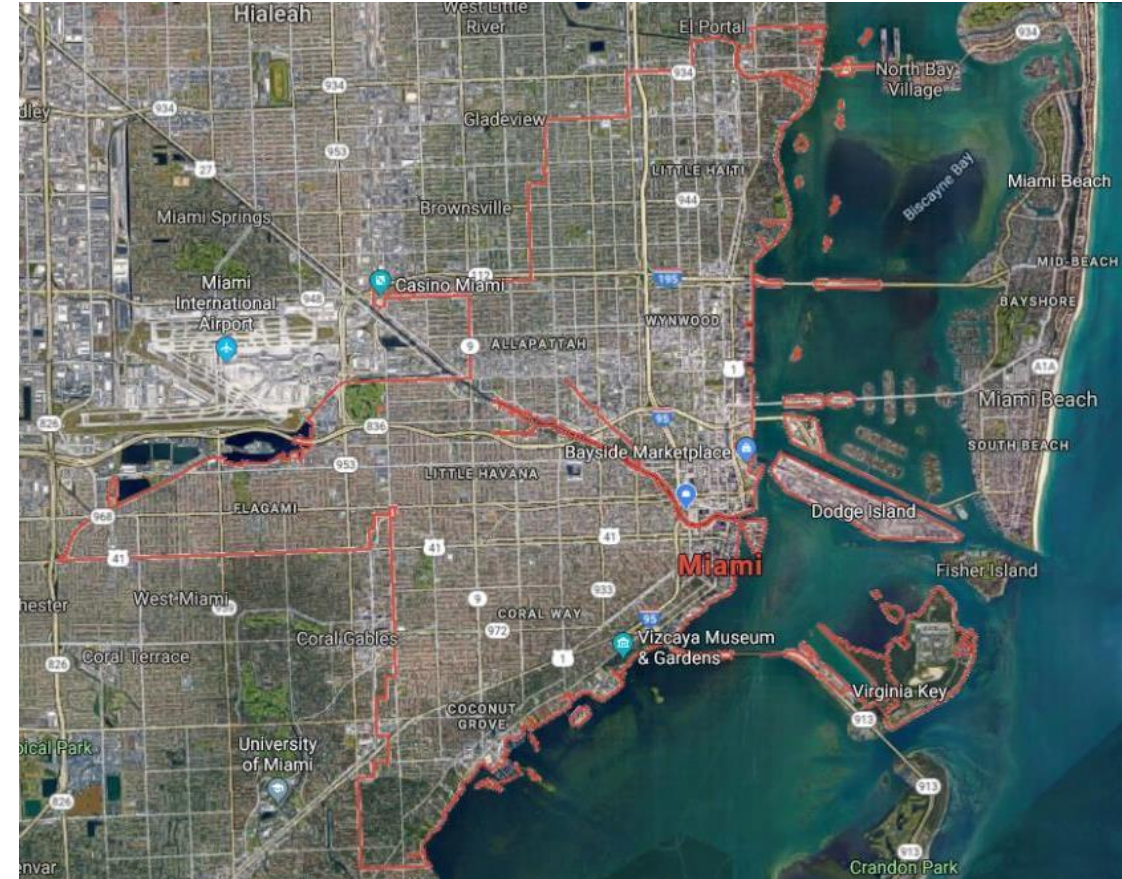
- Located on a broad plain between the Everglades and Biscayne Bay
- Average elevation is 6 feet above sea level (4.45 feet NAVD)
- Many roadways and high-value properties below 4.45 feet NAVD

## Geology

- Situated on porous limestone with Biscayne Aquifer just below

## Shoreline

- Seawalls – Bayside 41.85 miles
- Seawalls – Riverside 6 miles
- Natural Shorelines 40.59 miles





# Stormwater Management

## Existing Stormwater Management System

Underground Pipe	100.3 Miles
Inlets/Catch Basins	28,152
Outfalls	486 (86 major)
Tidal Backflow Prevention Valves	40 (100 more planned)
Pump Stations	13
Grass Swales	15.5 Miles
Covered Ditches/ Conveyance Swales	43.8 Miles

## Stormwater and Tidal Water Management Issues

- Undersized and inadequate infrastructure
- Drainage structures and wells below realized King Tide elevations
- Seawalls below King Tide elevations and in poor condition





# Climate Adaptation

## Revise Construction Standards and Codes

- Update waterfront and stormwater system design standards
- Revise seawall elevation requirements
- Require additional BMPs on new stormwater installations

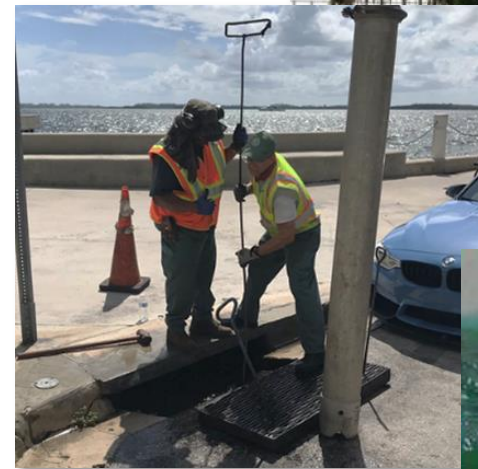
## Improve Existing Stormwater Management System

- Add tidal valves to outfalls (40 complete / 100 more planned)
- Increase system cleaning frequency
- Line/replace outfall pipes and pipes connected to pump stations

## Improve Water Quality in Miami River and Biscayne Bay

- Increase monitoring and enforcement of illicit discharges
- Increase frequency and coverage of street sweeping program
- Add inlet screens and pollution retardant baffles where appropriate

## Implement Stormwater Master Plan Recommendations



# City of Miami Stormwater Master Plan Mission

- 🌊 Flood protection
- 🌊 Water quality & environment
- 🌊 Land use
- 🌊 Sea level rise
- 🌊 Storm surge
- 🌊 Resilient coastal features
- 🌊 Saltwater intrusion
- 🌊 Changes in groundwater levels
- 🌊 Protection of Biscayne Bay
- 🌊 Current and future regulations

Allowing the City to establish a **policy framework** with **public support protecting** and **enhancing** the City's future over time.





# SWMP Vision and Metrics for Success

- Flood Control
- Water Quality Protection
- Aquifer Recharge and Water Supply
- Conservation and Harvesting
- Operation and Maintenance
- Long Term Financing
- Community Acceptance



**Adaptability,  
Resiliency, &  
Sustainability**



**MIAMI FOREVER**  
GENERAL OBLIGATION BOND

# Miami Stormwater Management Issues and Constraints

- Sensitive and protected receiving water Biscayne Bay
- Low and relatively flat terrain
- High groundwater table
- Near build-out development high impervious area
- Saltwater intrusion
- Increasing high tides and backflow with rising sea levels and tidal surge
- Need for increased maintenance of existing stormwater system
- Manatee access to stormwater systems



**2018 SOUTH FLORIDA KING TIDES**

**King Tide Safety and Tips**

- Floodwater may contain sewage, debris, and other pollutants. Do not enter floodwater and do not allow children to play in floodwater. If you or your children come into contact with floodwater, be sure to clean skin with soap and hot water.
- King Tide tidal flooding can be allowed 1-2 hours before and after peak tides.
- Driving through floodwater is not advisable. Do not drive through floodwater as it may be deeper than it appears, and a driver's ability to maneuver will drop.
- Do not park your vehicle in low-lying areas. Vehicles that have come into contact with floodwater should be checked and cleaned.
- Residents should be aware that King Tides can cause river clearance blocks that prevent water flow.
- Properties in low-lying areas should use flood mitigation systems such as sand bags, etc.
- Report King Tides in your neighborhood using the 311 app. Remember to drain and cover.

**2018 King Tide Dates:**

- SEPTEMBER 8-13
- OCTOBER 6-12
- OCTOBER 24-28
- NOVEMBER 4-9

**CITY OF MIAMI**  
Office of Resilience and Sustainability  
444 SW 2nd Ave  
Miami, FL 33130

For more information contact  
311 or visit [miami.gov/311](http://miami.gov/311)

**A King Tide is a higher-than-normal tidal flood that lasts about 3 hours**

**High water levels caused by King Tides can cause flooding on streets near waterways and the coast**

**King Tides occur annually and predictably; in September through November in Miami**



# Miami Stormwater Management Opportunities

- Coordination of stormwater and coastal resilient infrastructure
- Coordination and collaboration with public and private partnerships
- Green infrastructure opportunities
  - Exfiltration
  - Recharge wells
  - Coordination with landscaping and bioswales
  - Retention and detention
  - Coastal features – grassed levees, sea grasses, mangroves
  - Stormwater harvesting (vaults and tanks, rooftops, sides of buildings)





# Overview of the SWMP Process

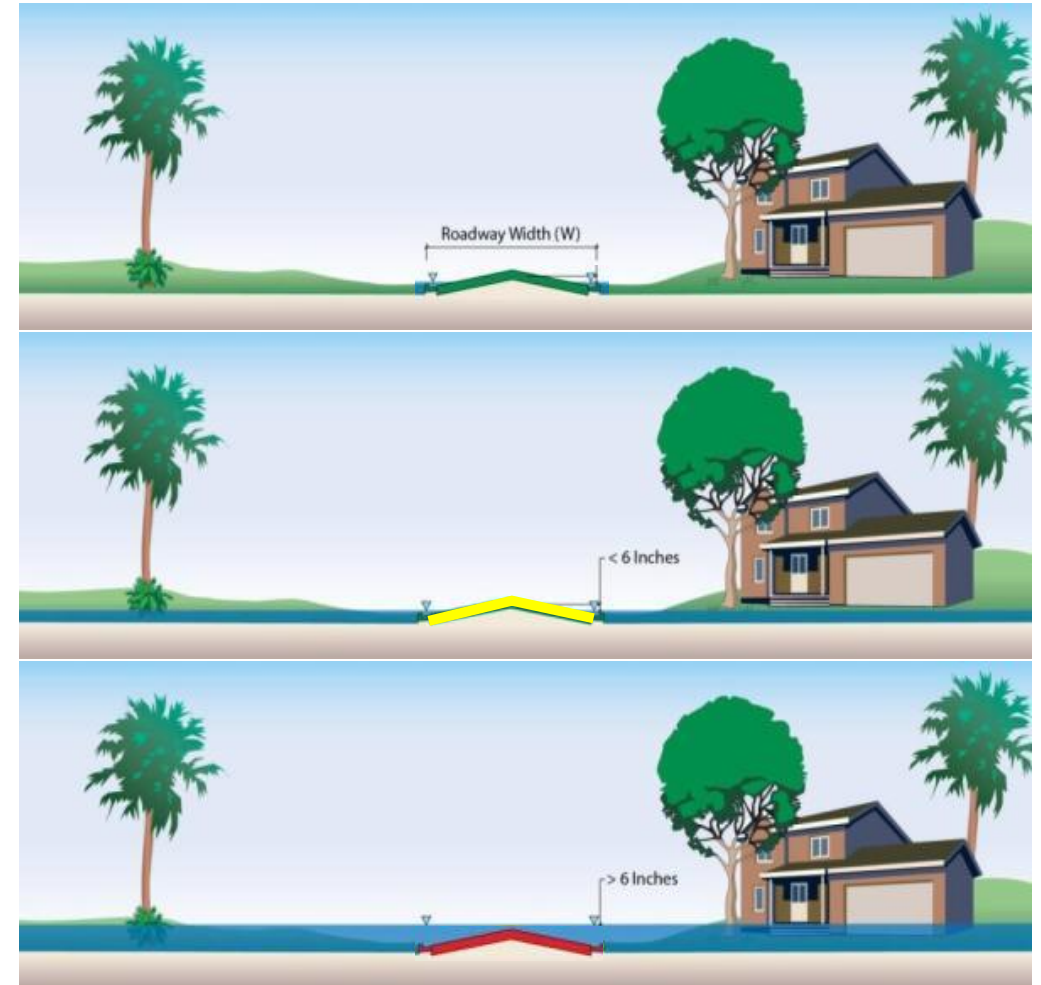
- Establish comprehensive program goals
- Create a new stormwater asset geodatabase (GIS)
- Flood stage-gauge network plan
- Develop prioritized CIP recommendations for the desired LOS and funding
- Provide guidance with future policies
- Update stormwater design standards for developers and B&Z
- Develop data tools and training of City Staff





# Defining Level of Service (LOS) for Flood Control

- Consider standards by FEMA, SFWMD, and FDOT
- Goals for Retrofit:
  - Keep flooding below homes and buildings
  - Keep roads passable for emergency and evacuation traffic
  - Evaluate 10-yr storm level of service
  - If not practicable, reduce depth and duration of flooding





# Data Collection and Evaluation Phase

## Primary Stormwater System Pipes Inventory

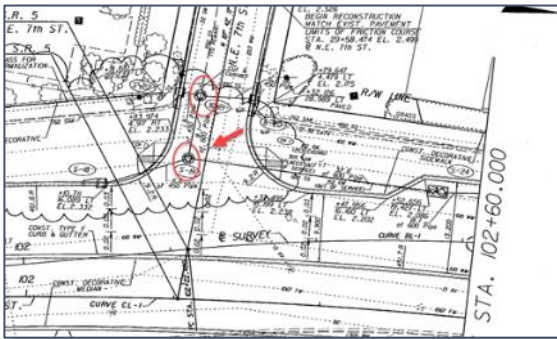
Digitizing of Approximately:

- 33,000 plan sheets of stormwater drainage systems
- 2,500 archived paper plans and documents
- Field survey verification program for:
  - Stormwater structures
  - Critical building finished floor elevations
  - Canal cross sections
  - Seawall Elevations
  - Land topography and evacuation routes
  - 462 outfalls and counting

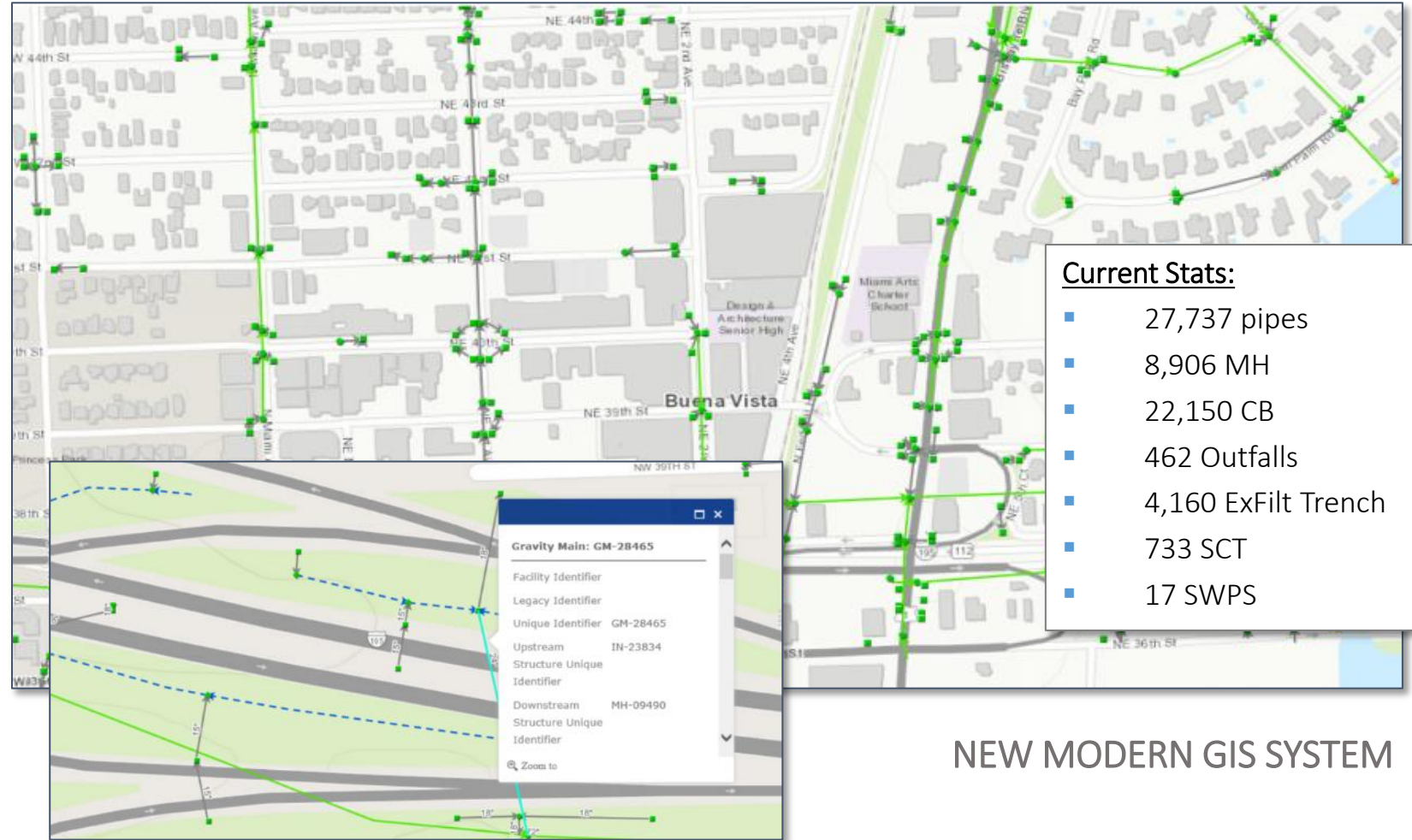




# Creating Digital Maps of Stormwater Assets Modernizing to GIS



CURRENT PAPER  
PLANS ARCHIVES



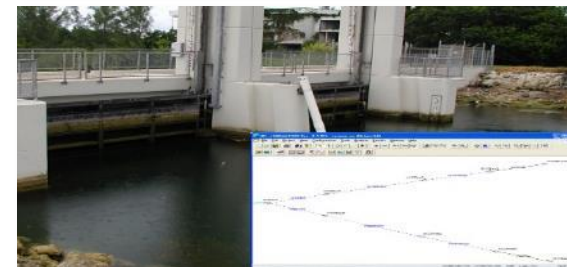
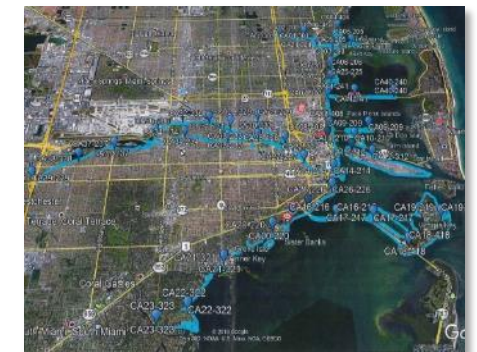
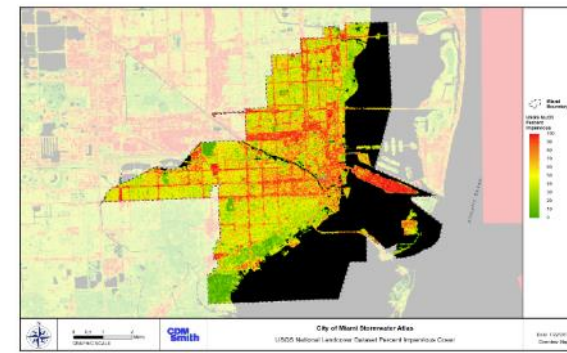
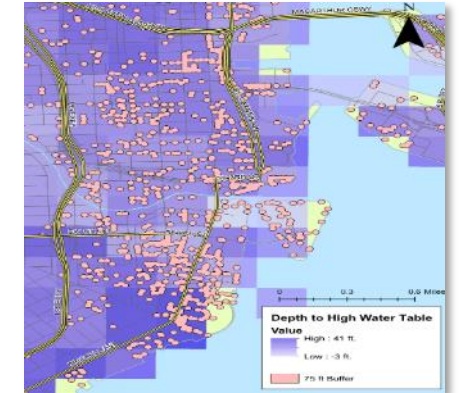
- Current Stats:**
- 27,737 pipes
  - 8,906 MH
  - 22,150 CB
  - 462 Outfalls
  - 4,160 ExFilt Trench
  - 733 SCT
  - 17 SWPS

NEW MODERN GIS SYSTEM



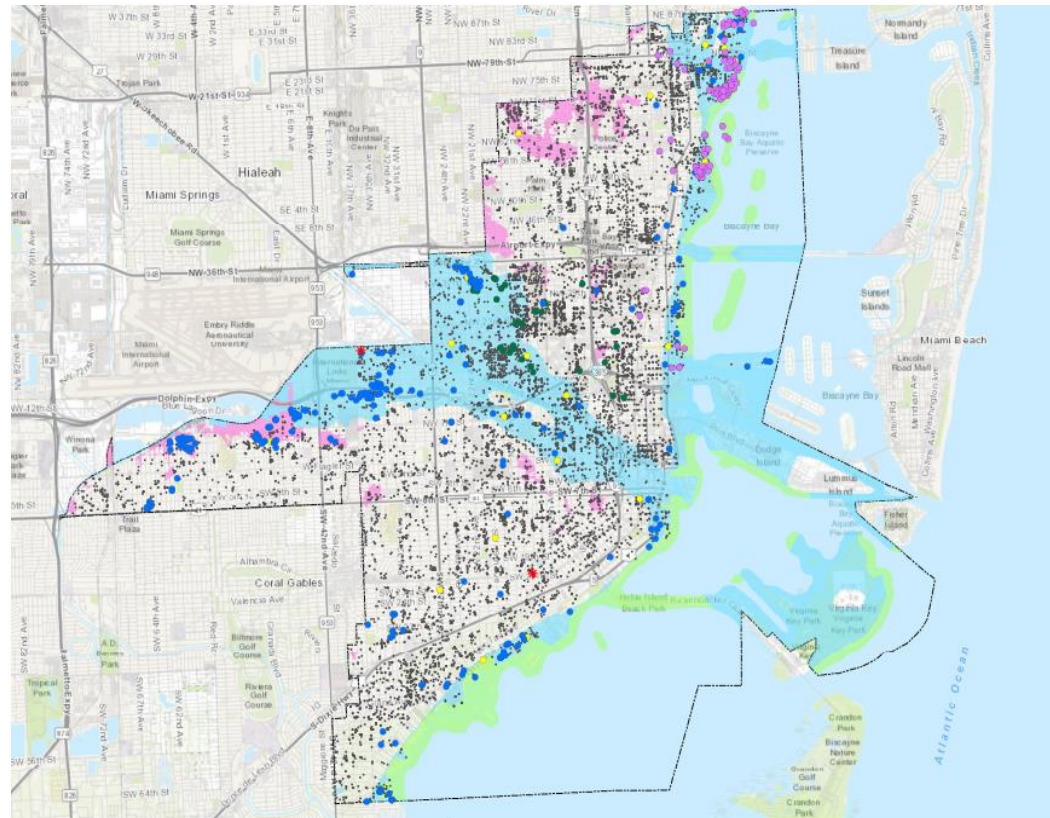
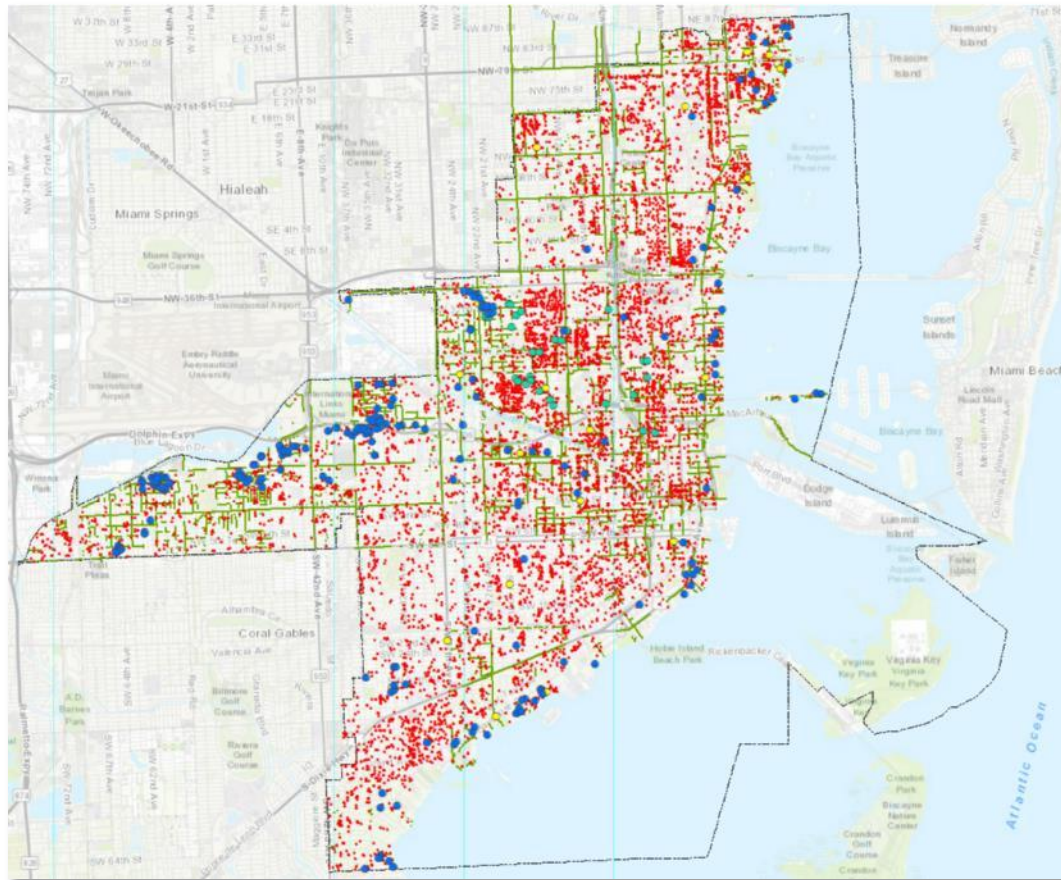
# Data Development Phase for Stormwater Model

- SFWMD rainfall design storm data
- Impervious area coverages
- Digital LiDAR topography
- Soils and groundwater data
- Canal, pump station, and control gate data and operations
- County models coordination
- Seawall and shoreline data
- FEMA and MDC repetitive loss and flood elevation data
- Critical structure FF elevations





# Problem Areas Identification (On-Going)



- ★ Direct Public Request
  - Community Workshop
  - Repetitive Loss Areas
  - Wagner Creek Problem Areas
  - Flood Gage Locations
  - 311 Locations
- FEMA Floodzone**
- AE
  - AH
  - VE
- City of Miami Boundary





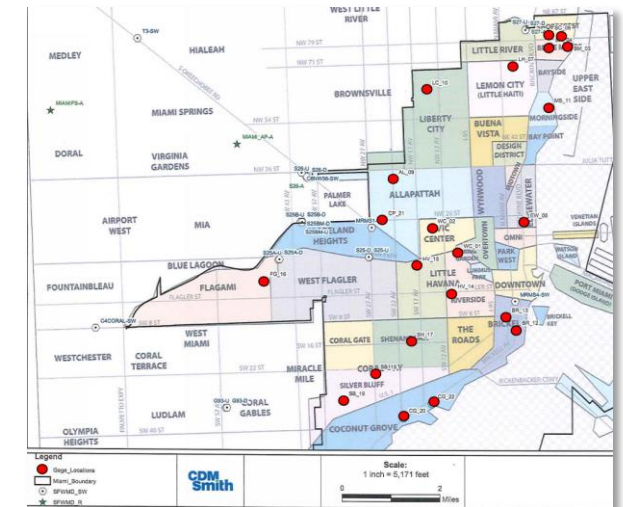
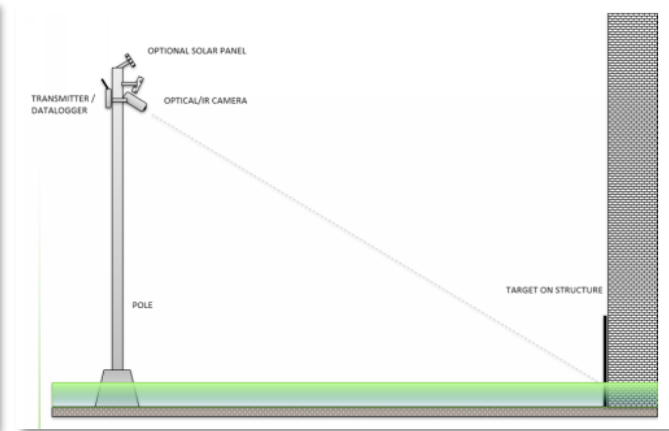
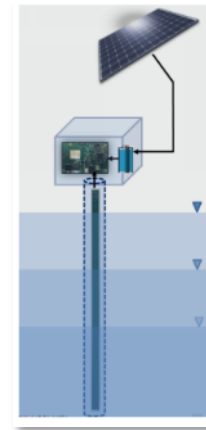
**City of Miami**  
**Problem Areas**

 Date: 5/13/2019  
 Overview Map



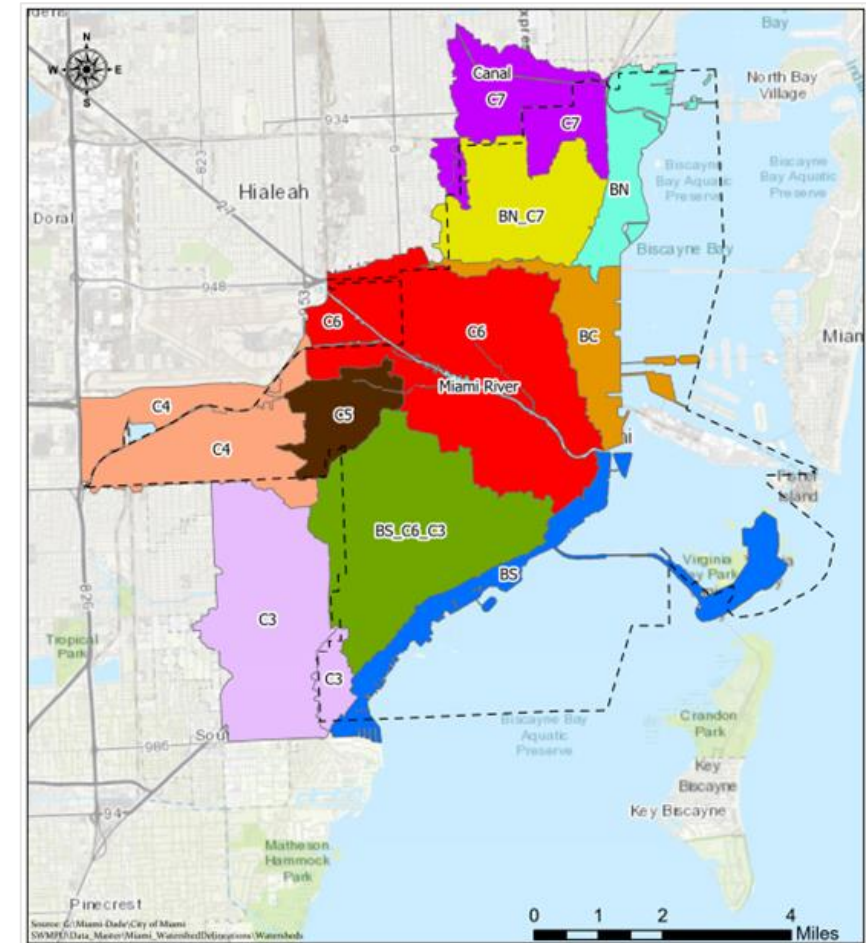
# Citywide Flood Stage Gauge Network Pilot Program

- Urban core, dry-land application
- Electroconductive sensor circuit technology
- 22 node system (Pilot of 6)
- Citywide coverage in known flooding areas
- Realtime cloud-based data
- Can link to emergency management



# Stormwater Modeling Phase

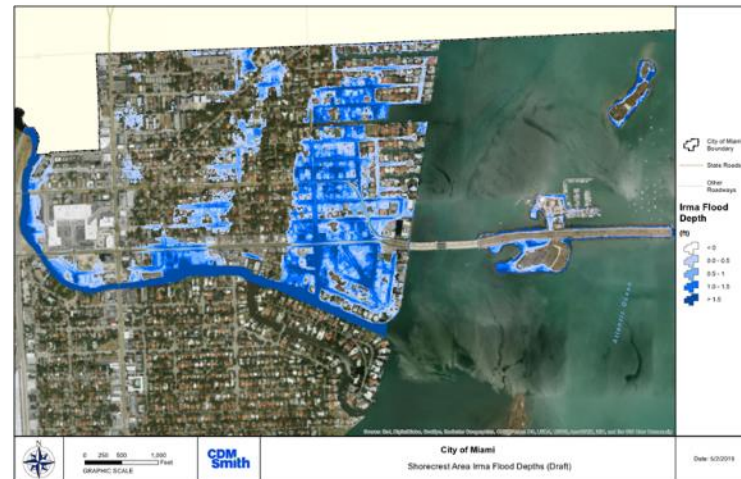
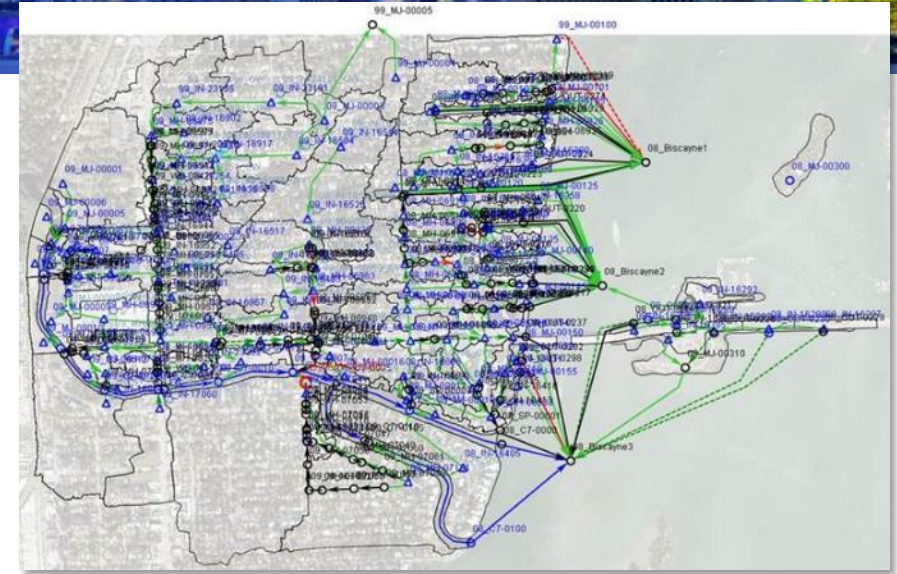
- XP-SWMM (Dynamic) 1D Model
  - Hydrology and hydraulics
  - 1D overland flow channels and surface flooding
  - Faster run times and facilitates alternatives analyses
  - Consistent with Miami-Dade County models
- 8 watersheds based on PSMS and overland flow
- PSMS (>24") and SSMS where necessary
- SFWMD Design Storms 5/24, 10/72, 25/72, 100/72
- “Worst case” storm adjusted for climate change





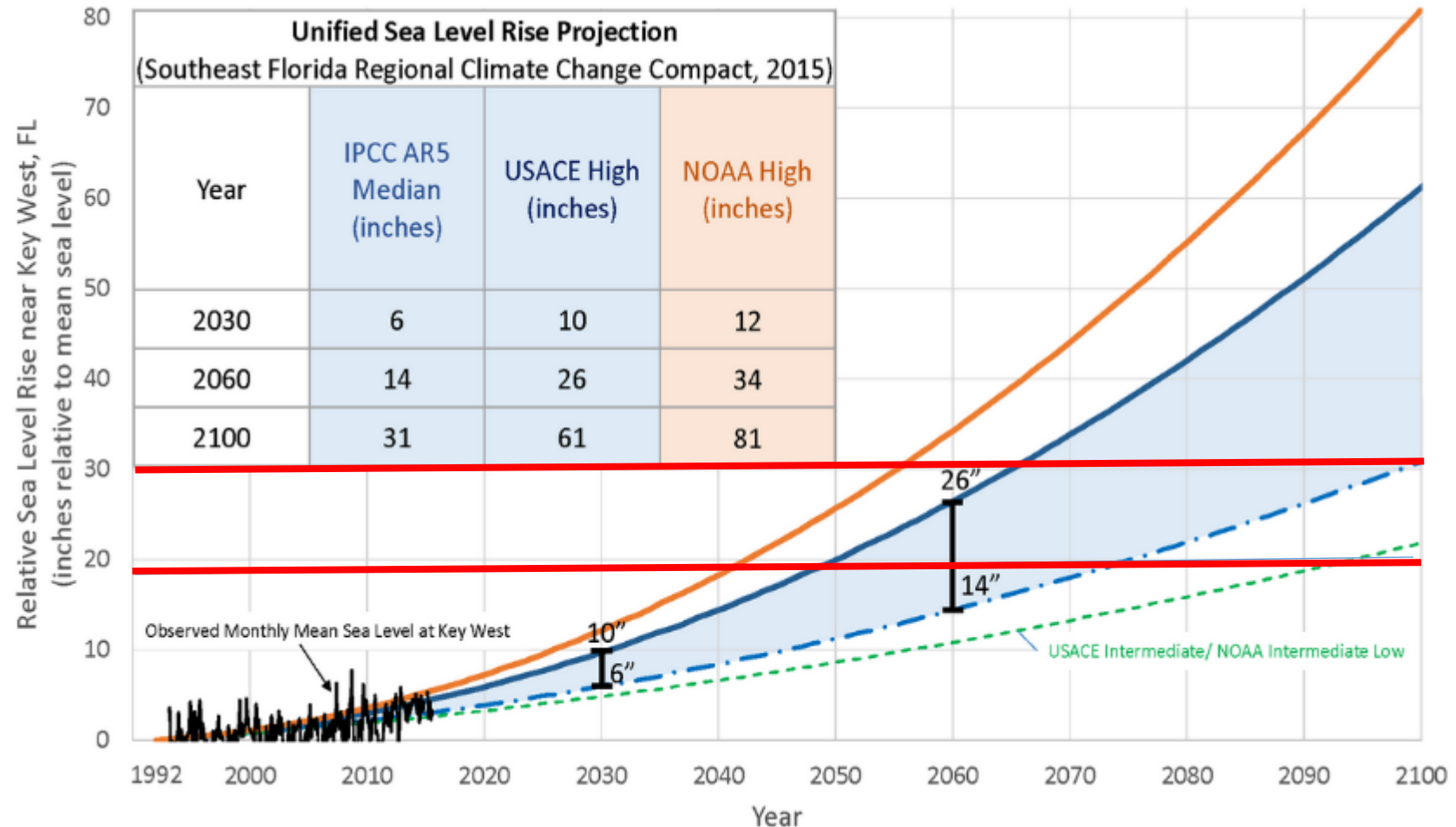
# Stormwater Modeling Phase (cont.)

- SFWMD, FDOT, and MDC systems considered
- 20 City CIP projects incorporated
- Existing conditions model for LOS
- CIP model for improvements
- Cost benefit analysis using FEMA HAZUS
- Two SLR scenarios



# Sea Level Rise Considerations

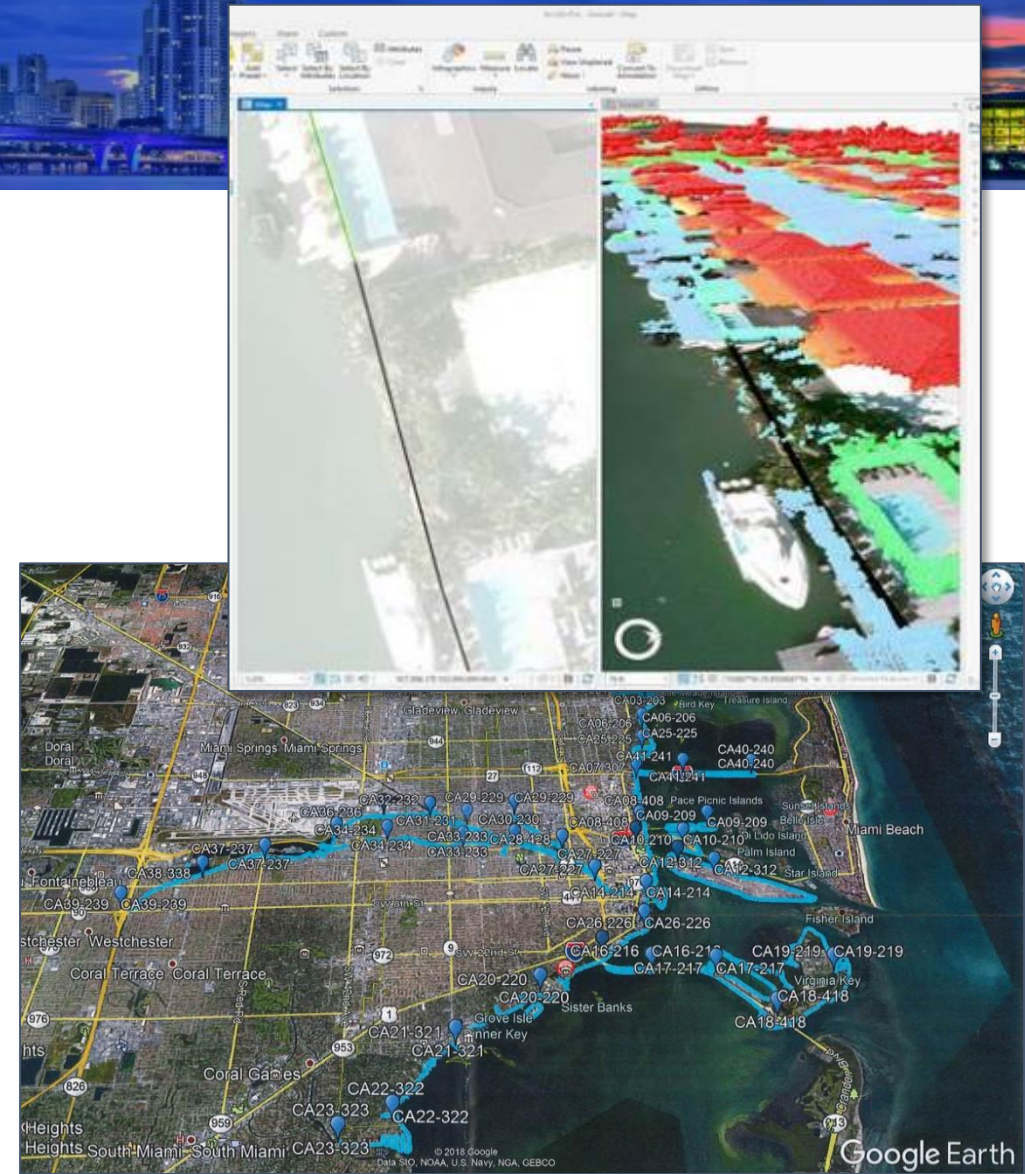
- Plan considers sea level rise changes for two future sea level elevation scenarios
  - 1.5 ft (18 inches)
  - 2.5 ft (30 inches)
- Tailwater and water table conditions
- Tidal influence and surge





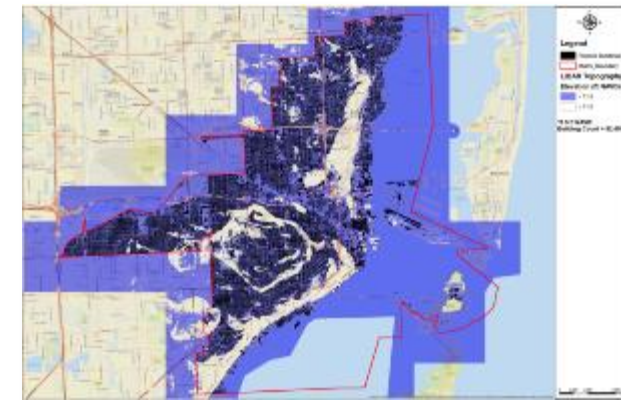
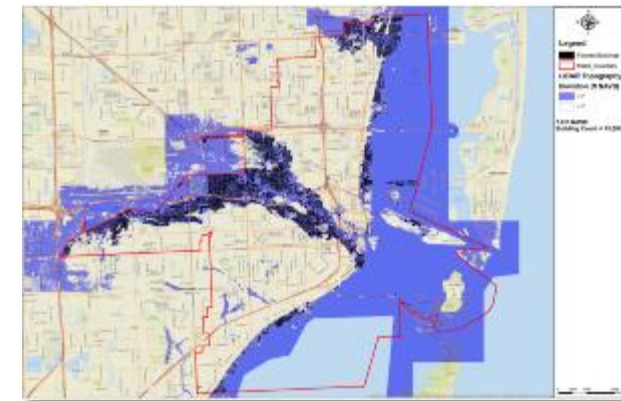
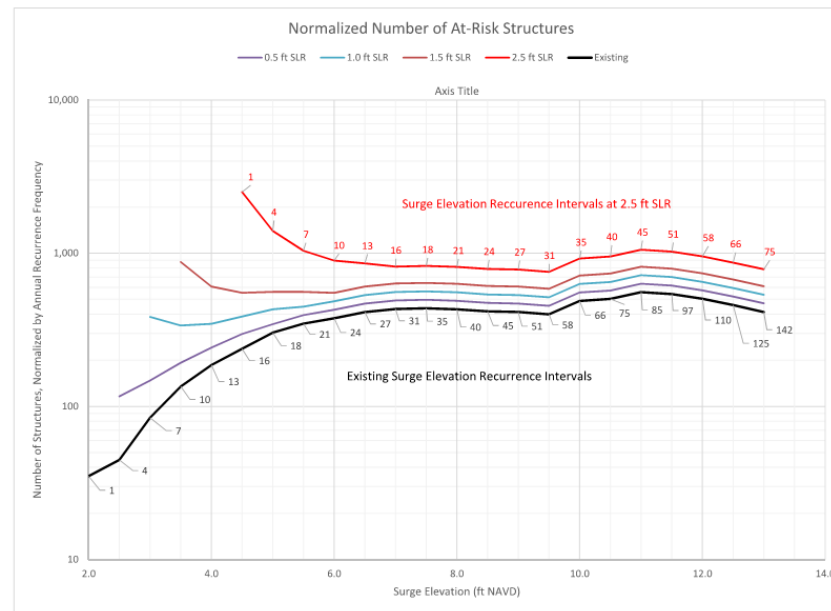
# Citywide Seawall Survey

- Drone and aerial photogrammetry and LiDAR and survey
- Approx. 90 miles of seawall
- Various owners, materials and heights
- Some perimeter with no seawall or rip rap
- Merged through GIS into SWMM Models



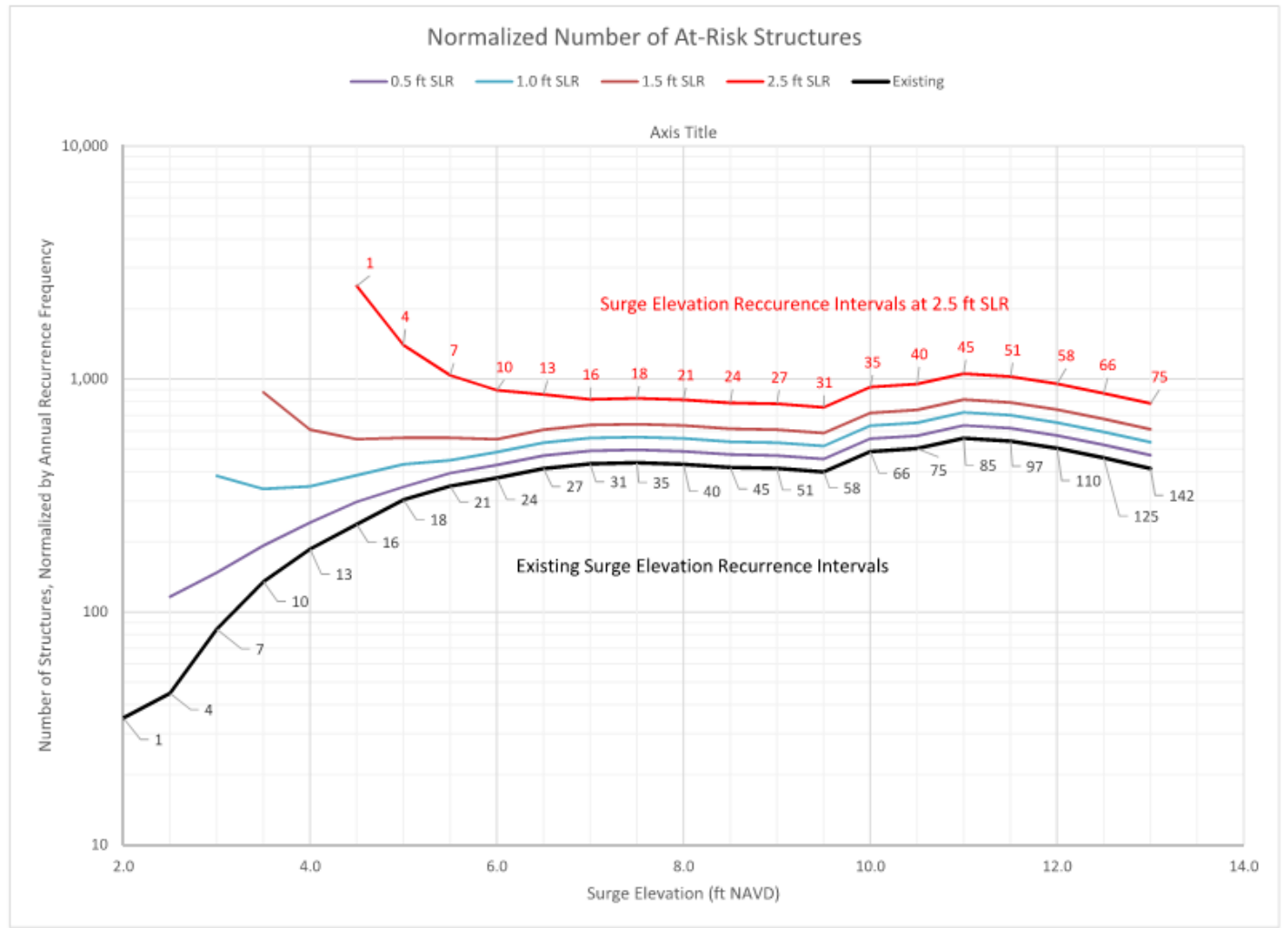
# Inundation Scenarios and Surge Analysis

- Seawall height analysis for surge and sea level rise
- Identifies extent of flooding and at-risk structures
- Consideration for depth of flooding and property loss
- Guidance for policy makers for seawall ordinance

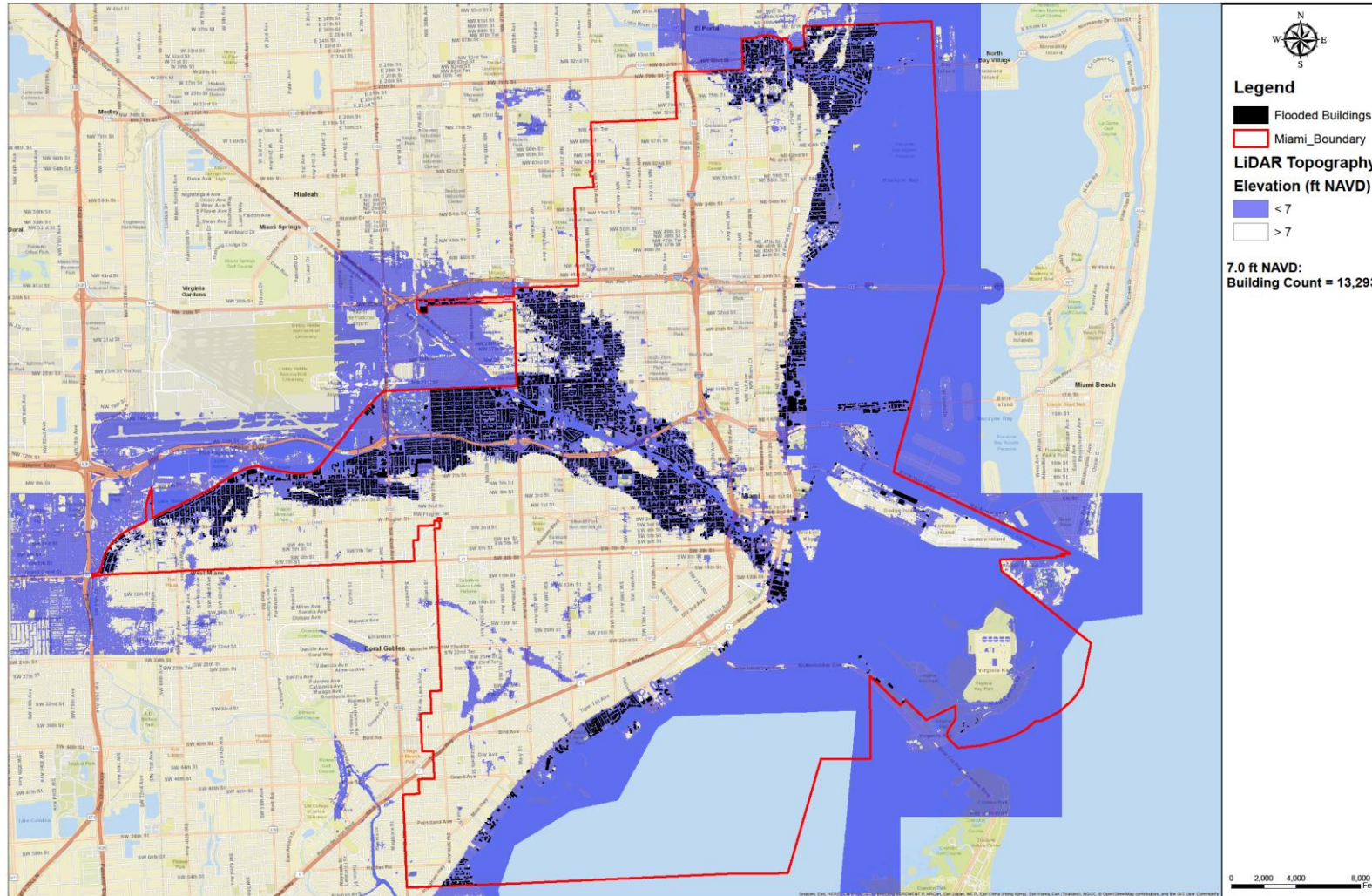




# Inundation Scenarios and Surge Analysis (cont.)

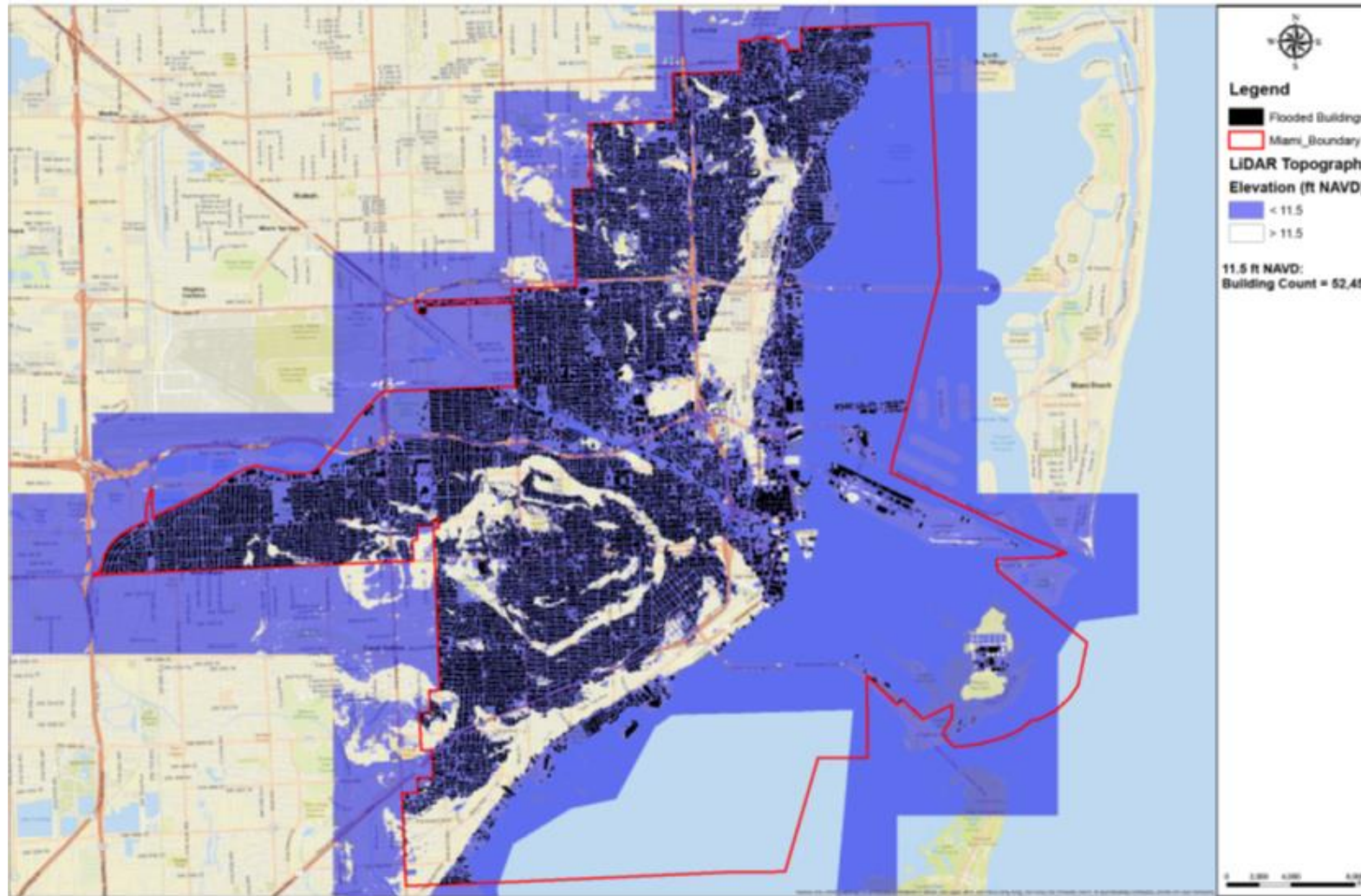


# Inundation Scenarios and Surge Analysis (cont.)



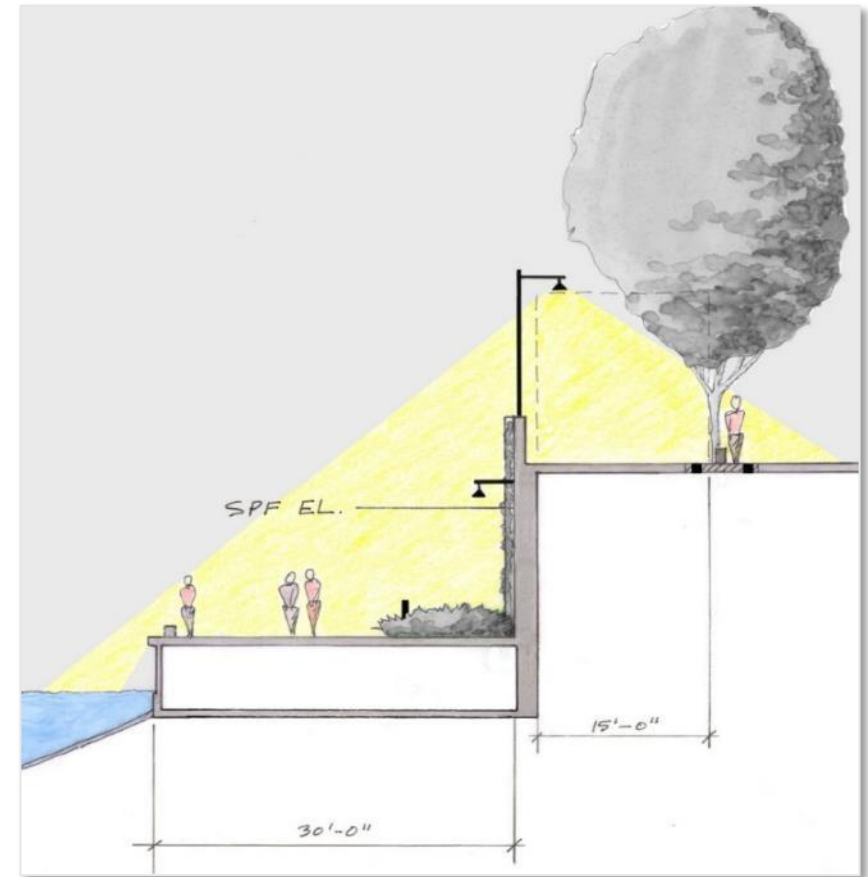


# Inundation Scenarios and Surge Analysis (cont.)



# Waterfront Resilience Strategies Providing Adaptable Community-Based Features in a Phased Approach

- **Hardening/armoring** the perimeter
  - Seaside parks along coastal protection features
  - Seawalls and bulkheads
  - Stormwater outfall backflow preventers
  - Individual buildings and critical roadways
  - Emergency pumps
- **Raising or flood-proofing** critical at-risk infrastructure
  - Evacuation routes
  - Hospitals and housing
  - Police and fire
  - Emergency management facilities
  - Pump stations, water, sewer, gas, and telecommunications
- **Re-locating** at-risk population and infrastructure that cannot be cost-effectively flood protected
- **Combination**

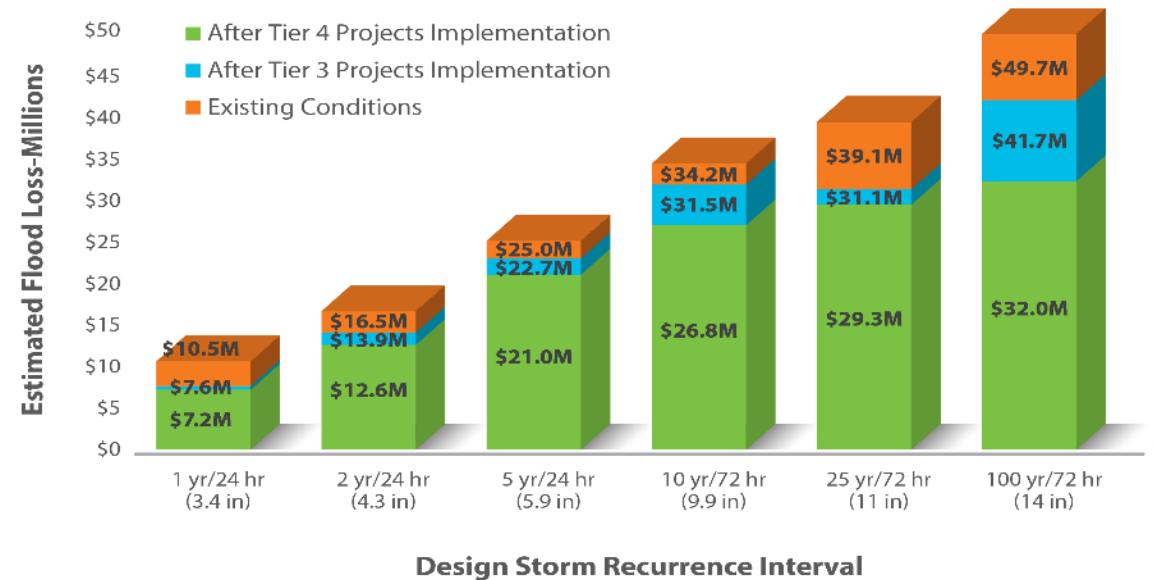




# Identify the “Best Value” Option for the City by Comparing Benefit vs. Cost

- Select most cost-effective alternatives to meet LOS, WQ, and other goals
- Benefit-cost analyses and decision support tools FEMA HAZUS
- Life cycle costs and benefits (B/C)
- Prioritization Matrix
  - Flood mitigation, Public safety, protection of critical infrastructure
  - Regulatory requirements
  - Triple bottom line - Environmental impacts, Social and recreational, Economic benefits

Example Estimated Flood Losses



“This is more than just a stormwater plan.  
This is the City’s roadmap towards resilience.”

An aerial photograph of a city skyline, likely New York City, featuring a suspension bridge and a body of water. The image is framed by large, stylized geometric shapes in blue and black. The word "QUESTIONS?" is written in white, bold, sans-serif capital letters on a black background that overlaps the city image.

QUESTIONS?



# Contact Us!



**Michael F. Schmidt,  
PE, DWRE, BCEE**

CDM Smith

(904) 527-6735

[SchmidtMF@cdmsmith.com](mailto:SchmidtMF@cdmsmith.com)



Find more insights through  
our water partnership at:  
[cdmsmith.com/water](http://cdmsmith.com/water)  
and @CDMSmith

**Christopher R. Bennett, PE  
Alan M. Dodd, PE**

City of Miami

(305) 416-1200

[CBennett@miamigov.com](mailto:CBennett@miamigov.com)

[AMDodd@miamigov.com](mailto:AMDodd@miamigov.com)

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