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METROPOLITAN DADE COUNTY - FLORIDA

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

P. O. BOX 3119
MIAMI 22, FLORIDA
FRANKLIN 7-4811

July 14, 1960

Msgr. Dante S. Pezzoli, S. C.
Room 1215, New House Office Building
Washington, D. C.

Dear Dante:

This letter is in response to your request for information concerning the items of work to be submitted by the Office Chief of Engineers to the Bureau of the Budget for inclusion in the F. Y. 1961 appropriation to be recommended for Central and Southern Florida project. Although the restrictions imposed upon the Corps of Engineers make it impossible to ascertain either the total recommended appropriation or the amounts for the several items to be included, it is possible, in the manner outlined below, to become reasonably well informed regarding these matters.

To assist the individual areas such as Dade County in a presentation of views to the Flood Control District for consideration by the District Engineer at Jacksonville, these two agencies agreed on April 29, 1960, upon the partial priority list embodied in the attached schedule, prepared by Mr. Turner Wallis and identified as CWF No. 3. Completion of construction for the entire fifty-two designated priorities, some of which are for all or a part of a canal (or levee) and its attendant structures, calls for an estimated expenditure of \$17,945,000, payable \$14,000,000 with Federal and \$3,945,000 with local funds. While this is not the complete list of priorities for all works presently authorized, it is far more than can be completed from the remaining funds authorized for appropriation which, including the additional \$3,000,000 authorized in the Flood Control act for 1959, and various deductions for the expected \$11,000,000 appropriation for F. Y. 1961, total \$49,290,000.

The stated purpose for the 1960 increase in the amount of funds authorized for appropriation was to provide for only two fiscal years (1960 and 1961) and it is not expected that the recommendation by the Bureau of the Budget for F. Y. 1961 will exceed \$15,000,000.

A comparison of the separate amounts, recommended for appropriation in F. Y. 1961 with the total Federal share of estimated construction costs gives a fair representation of the relatively small proportion the appropriation for a given year bears to the total, particularly when funds are being provided for tentative work.

Activities undertaken jointly by the Public Works and Planning Departments for Metropolitan Dade County, in cooperation with the Water Resources Control Committee of the Miami-Dade Chapter of Dade County, are directed toward the preparation of both construction and planning programs for a three year period - fiscal years 1961 to 1963, inclusive.

July 13, 1960

In addition to providing immediate expressions to the Flood Control District and Corps of Engineers regarding the items of construction under the Central and Southern Florida project for F. Y. 1962, the following additional objectives are envisioned:

1. Presentation to FCB and the cabinet Budget Commission of the justification for the desired appropriation by the 1961 Legislature of the required cost contribution and cost for reallocations of project items included in the program advanced by Dade County for fiscal years 1960 and 1961. The Budget Director's deadline for the receipt of all such requests is November 13, 1960.
2. Review and revision of the Master Plan of Water Control for all Dade County. Among the important, early purposes to be served are:
(a) as an expression of the work desired by local interests for each of the separate areas: southwest and south Dade, Outer Drain and area "F", for which survey-review reports have been directed by Congress; and
(b) as an effective way to inform the Committee of Congress how much more than these projects works are required for solution of the water resources problems of Dade County.
3. The coordination and acceleration of the sequence of steps to be undertaken jointly by the Corps, FCB and Dade County in the development and construction of the detailed features embodied in the Master and Project Plans for Dade County.
4. Almost preparation for obtaining in the anticipated Flood Control Act for 1962 whatever changes in authorization are determined to be necessary and, beyond the administrative discretion of the Chief of Engineers.

Other than an initiation of work on the easterly and southerly reaches of L-31 and its accompanying structures (Priority No. 41), the extension of Little River Canal (C-7, Priority No. 16), and possibly Canal Ombria Canal (C-3, Priority No. 31) and Western Canal (C-4, Priority No. 32), the reasonable certainty that construction work will be started during F. Y. 1961 on the extension of Black Creek Canal (C-12), the intersector levee (L-29) and structures (B-12) along Western Canal, makes it of far greater importance for these items, and continued work on Mustang Canal (C-6) to receive most of the money available in F. Y. 1962 for Dade County items.

It is extremely difficult to reconcile the statements made by the Office Chief of Engineers to the Senate Appropriations Committee and by General Fletcher on the occasion of his recent inspection tour of Dade County, that \$1,500,000 of additional Federal Funds could be expended during F. Y. 1961, with the advice contained in the letter to you by the Deputy District Engineer, dated 20 June 1960. Concern over this matter prompted extended discussion during a conference with the staff of FCB on July 5, 1960. It was agreed that letters should be written by FCB both to you and Senator Holland immediately upon final passage of the appropriation bill for F. Y. 1961, explaining in detail the importance of full compliance, and asking that the matter be brought to the attention of the Chief of Engineers.

July 18, 1960

Completion of the General Weight Measurement for Conservation No. 1, dated June 20, 1960 (Part I-Supplement No. 1), which has been released to FGD and in turn transmitted to West County, permits the making a re-examination of the survey-review report on Area "B", and presents a suitable opportunity for the problems to be resolved before the similar study for southwest Lake can be undertaken.

As the second paragraph of this letter indicates an attached schedule identified as ISF No. 2, it was anticipated that this schedule would be in our hands prior to the mailing of this letter. Since such is not the case we have asked Mr. Turner Wallis to call to you directly from his office, the schedule prepared by him and identified and referred to by him as ISF No. 2. This schedule should reach you at about the same time as this letter.

We deeply appreciate your continued interest in this very important matter and trust that the foregoing can be of assistance to you.

Sincerely yours,

Walter Wiles, Chairman
Water Control Committee
Lake County Commission

ww/jb