

# County of Monroe

## The Florida Keys



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April 15, 2021

Representative Carlos Gimenez  
419 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Gimenez,

On behalf of the Monroe County Board of County Commissioners, I respectfully request your support for our only Fiscal Year 2022 Community Project Funding request that is among the highest priorities in our community: addressing the ongoing flooding challenges of the Twin Lakes subdivision in Key Largo. As you know firsthand, Monroe County is on the front lines of sea level rise and Twin Lakes is one of two communities in Monroe County most impacted thus far, facing days after days of perpetual sunny day flooding. Our request from the Department of Homeland Security, Federal Emergency Management Agency's Pre-Disaster Mitigation program for 75 percent of the overall project cost will go a long way towards improving the situation for the Twin Lakes community.

The project in the Twin Lakes Subdivision of Key Largo will mitigate 4,633 linear feet of County roadways and construct a "pump and treat" storm water drainage system including construction of drainage structures, wet wells, pollution treatment device, and a related elevated pump station. This strategic investment will minimize risk and reduce losses along three roads in the community, Shaw Drive, Crane Street and Adams Drive. These roads are bordered by wetlands and two canals, are low lying, and frequently impacted by storms, tides and sea level rise, making them subject to repetitive prolonged flooding of the streets.

The Twin Lakes community regularly faces the following impacts due to flooding:

- Access: residents are either trapped or prevented from reaching their homes;

- Emergency Responder Access: emergency responders fail to reach victims or emergency response times may increase escalating risk to life and safety;
- Infrastructure Damage: frequent, sustained saltwater inundation damages roads, infrastructure, and private homes;
- Vehicle Damage: Public and private vehicles experience severe damage and shortened life spans due to repeated saltwater exposure;
- Post Disaster Operations: search and rescue, damage assessment, debris removal, and infrastructure repairs are delayed;
- Economic Impact: Blocked streets create traffic congestion, which in turn delays business and causes other commercial interruption.

The project will elevate low portions of the streets, construct a gravity wall along a portion of the boundary between the edge of the road and the wetland and install a storm water collection, treatment and disposal system to manage stormwater on the roadway. Currently there is no engineered drainage system in the subdivision; stormwater drainage has occurred by gravity via swales and exfiltration trenches that no longer function due to sea level rise and king tide impacts.

We appreciate your attention to this critical request and thank you in advance for prioritizing it highly when working with the Committee on Appropriations.

Sincerely,



Roman Gastesi  
Monroe County Administrator