

Development of a Southwest Florida  
Regional Resiliency Compact:  
A Collaboration to Better Prepare for the  
Effects of Climate Change

*Presentation to Estero Village Council  
October 21, 2020*

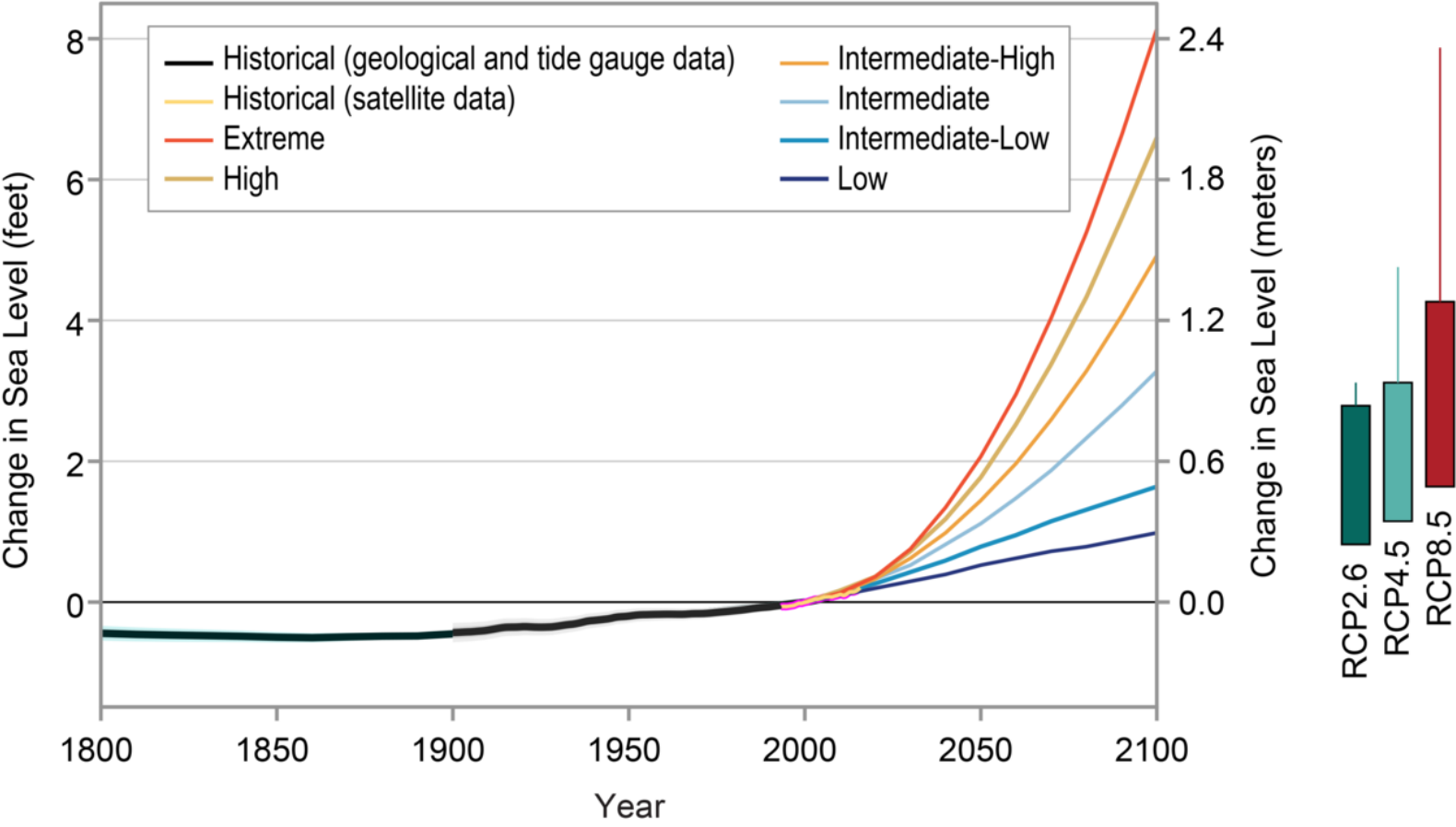
*Michael Savarese, The Water School  
Florida Gulf Coast University*

# Warmer Oceans: More Intense Storms that are Wetter, Larger, Fuel More Quickly, & Travel Slower

*Hurricane Laura: Cat 1 to 4 in less than 1 day!*



# Projected Sea-level Rise Through 2100



From: 4<sup>th</sup> National Climate Assessment, 2018





**Storm Surge Inundation, Everglades City**

## **Climate Change, Sea-level Rise, and Their Impacts on SWFL**

*The exacerbating effects of SLR on storms*



**Nuisance Flooding, Goodland**

# Context for Estero

- Estero is an environmentally and socioeconomically diverse municipality.
- Freshwater inundation of interior lands / developed & natural lands adjacent to Estero Bay / tidally influenced rivers / climate's exacerbating effects on water quality.
- An affluent and an economically disadvantaged population that is vulnerable.
- “Merely” a city without the advantage of bountiful resources.
- Alliance makes good sense. A compact . . .

# What Are Regional Climate Compacts?

- Improve resilience for sea-level rise, storminess, increased precipitation, and rising temperatures.
- A regional network united by common problems best solved through local leadership and shared resources.
- Efficient means for adjoining local governments to collaboratively “extend beyond” their respective boundaries by working together to:
  - share best practices, resources, and information
  - align their respective initiatives and efforts
  - co-produce assessments, public policy interventions, and other materials beyond the scope of any one single partner



# Compact Objectives



Build and share  
regional tools  
and knowledge



Increase public  
support and political  
will for climate action



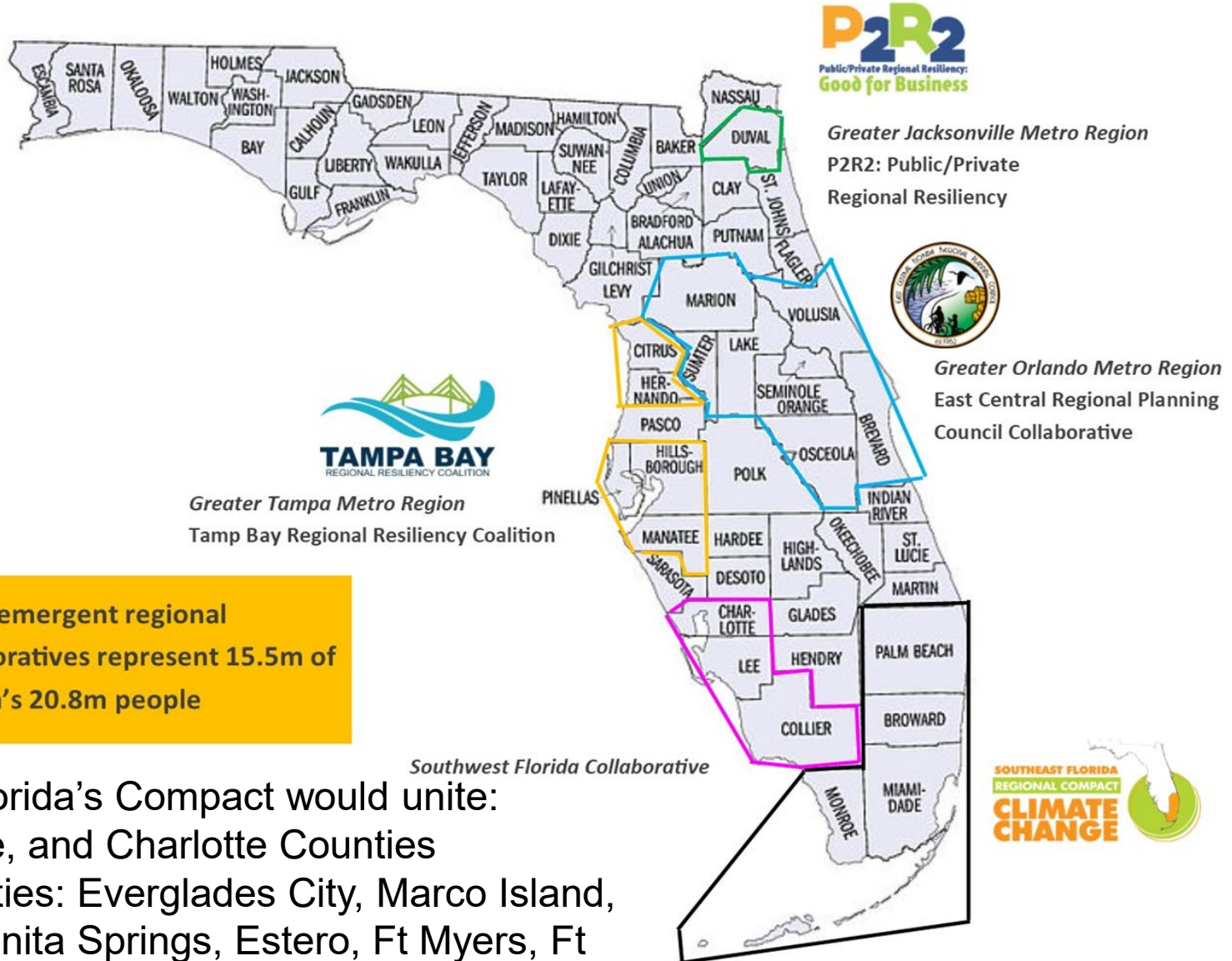
Coordinate action  
across jurisdictions

# Advocacy for Compacts in Florida

- Common nationwide, particularly in coastal states.
- Governor DeSantis, Secretary Noah Valenstein (DEP), and CSO Thomas Frazer have all shown interest in the concept.
- The State Office of Resilience and its former CRO Julia Nesheiwat support regional collaborations addressing resilience.
- 3 collaboratives are now in existence in FL; a 4<sup>th</sup> in the NE is under development; the Southeast Florida Regional Compact for Climate Change has been in operation for 11 years.



# Emergent Florida Collaboratives



These emergent regional collaboratives represent 15.5m of Florida's 20.8m people

Southwest Florida's Compact would unite:

- Collier, Lee, and Charlotte Counties
- Their 10 cities: Everglades City, Marco Island, Naples, Bonita Springs, Estero, Ft Myers, Ft Myers Beach, Cape Coral, Sanibel, Punta Gorda
- CEPD

# How Do they Operate?

## Hierarchical levels of cooperation

How Regional Climate Collaboratives Conduct Activities		
Connectivity Network	Alignment Network	Production Network
Members <b>plan and produce outcomes independently</b> , but share knowledge with each other	Members develop shared plans together and <b>align their priorities, but produce outcomes independently</b>	Members develop shared plans and priorities, and <b>jointly produce outcomes together</b>

*All approaches show success but efficacy improves through greater cooperation.*

# Accomplishments SE FL Compact

**SOUTHEAST FLORIDA**  
**REGIONAL COMPACT**  
**CLIMATE  
CHANGE**



- 4 counties (Monroe, Miami-Dade, Broward, & Palm Beach Counties) + 100 cities
- Group has / is addressing vulnerability, adaptation, and mitigation
- 11 years of operation; highly successful
- Produced: unified SLR projections; a Regional Climate Action Plan (to reduce greenhouse emissions & build climate resilience); economic resilience work group; external funding for infrastructure improvement
- [www.southeastfloridaclimatecompact.org](http://www.southeastfloridaclimatecompact.org)



# Benefits for Estero

- Sharing scientific data & planning tools.
- Development of a unified action plan.
- Mutual support for adaptation planning.
- Coordinating compliance for “peril of flood” mandate.
- Provide a vehicle to apply for federal, state, and private foundation funding.

# Progress to Date and Next Steps

1. Representatives from the 3 counties and 10 municipal governments compose a steering committee (50 mbrs).
2. The 13 jurisdictions have agreed on a purpose and set of objectives.
3. The group has composed and finalized an MOU.
4. The MOU explicitly states that participation does not require financial investment.
5. The concept of the SWFL Compact is being presented to the various jurisdictions.
6. The MOU is being considered for ratification within many jurisdictions this fall.
7. Charlotte County, Sanibel, Marco Island, Everglades City, & Punta Gorda have ratified the MOU.

# Our Ask & Our Commitment

- Ask Estero Village Council to ratify the MOU.
- The Water School will seek the funding necessary to administratively operate the Compact for the first two years.
- Once the Compact becomes successfully operational, the financing would come from elsewhere.