

For Immediate Release
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Bilirakis Helps Secure Millions of Federal Dollars to Improve Flooding in Pasco

Washington, DC: Today Congressman Bilirakis proudly announced the first in a series of FEMA grants that will fund flood control projects in Pasco County. This first project will allocate \$1.56 million in federal funding for flood management in the Forest Hills neighborhood, located in southwestern Pasco County. This neighborhood experiences chronic flooding stemming from significant rainfall events and extends from Forest Hills into Country Estates. The neighborhood suffers from minimal topographic relief and generally insufficient conveyance. All activities are part of a storm water improvement effort for flood abatement. The project is designed to provide a 100-year protection for structures. Activities will be completed in strict compliance with federal, state and local regulations. An estimated additional \$4.6 million of FEMA funds has also been tentatively approved for Pasco flooding projects. More details about those projects will be available in the near future.

“After each of the last several tropical storms and significant rain events, I have personally visited the homes of some of my constituents in Pasco who have experienced significant flooding. Their losses were devastating. Despite local government having jurisdiction, I agreed that the magnitude of the infrastructure needs warranted partnership at the federal, state and local level. I promised that I would continue to work on their behalf and I have been honoring that commitment. I started by bringing in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers who funded a needs assessment; thereafter, I have continued to seek and advocate for every possible available federal revenue source that could be targeted for this worthwhile endeavor. These funds will make a big difference in the lives of my constituents. It will mean not having to live in unsanitary conditions for weeks due to improper drainage and not having to completely start their lives over again every time there is a serious rain storm. I will continue to fight to help others in our community who face similar circumstances. My goal is to help ensure that the hard earned tax dollars of my constituents return to our community for their benefit,” said Bilirakis.