

State News for NSPE Members

USF Engineers Awarded \$2.5 Million Federal Grant to Expand Algal Bloom Research

University of South Florida engineers are leading a team of scientists across the state in the development of a new, state-of-the-art system that allows water districts to better predict and manage harmful algal blooms.

The university reports that the \$2.5 million grant from the US Army Corps of Engineers allows USF to work with researchers from the University of Florida and the South Florida Water Management District to address harmful algae blooms in Lake Okeechobee, St. Lucie River, and Caloosahatchee River watersheds, according to a [news release](#).

“Harmful algae blooms cause many negative environmental, health and economic effects throughout the state,” said principal investigator Mauricio Arias, an assistant professor of civil and environmental engineering. “This three-year grant from the US Army Corps of Engineers supports the development of new state-of-the-art water quality data and models to better predict and manage harmful algae blooms in this vitally important and environmentally sensitive ecosystem.” [Read more](#).

\$2.6 Billion Storm and Sea Level Rise Project on Tap for Florida Keys

President Joe Biden recently authorized a US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) \$2.6 billion coastal storm and sea-level rise infrastructure resiliency project in the Florida Keys. Appropriations for the project will require separate, annual approvals by Congress, [Keys Weekly reports](#).

The county also secured a nearly \$1 million initial appropriation, approved in the omnibus spending bill, to fund the planning, engineering, and design of six U.S. 1 stabilization projects in the Keys, the first phase of the plan. The plan includes 5,500 feet of the road at mile markers 79.5, 70, 70.9, 67, 37, and 34.5, identified as

vulnerable to erosion and wave energy.

“We are committed to making Monroe County as resilient as possible against the effects of future storms and sea-level rise,” said Monroe County Administrator Roman Gastesi. “This partnership with USACE allows us to tap into federal money to help offset resiliency costs to Florida Keys residents.” [Read more.](#)

Stay up to date on legislative issues through the [NSPE Advocacy Center](#).

NSPECon23 Call for Presentations

Share your expertise with professional engineers during [NSPECon23](#) in Louisville, Kentucky, August 2-4. Presentation proposals are being accepted on a [submissions site](#) until **January 25**. The sessions will focus on three topics: amplify your leadership human skills; stay informed about issues and trends impacting the profession; and invest in your career.



Accepted presenters will receive:

- The unparalleled opportunity to give back to the professional engineer community at a nationally recognized conference.
 - Recognition on the conference website with a headshot photo, biography, and session description.
 - A customized press release announcing your participation and contribution to the conference to share with your employer and/or clients.
 - Assistance with (and guidelines for) promoting your session on social media outlets.
 - Follow-up survey results and comments related to your presentation.
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Get Ready for Engineers Week: Creating the Future!

Engineers Week (February 19–25, 2023) is dedicated to ensuring a diverse and well-educated future engineering workforce. The latest theme for Engineers Week seeks to inspire the next generation by celebrating all the way engineers are

Creating the Future! A free **Countdown to Engineers Week webinar** will take place on **Wednesday, January 18**, at 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. (ET). [Register and attend the webinar](#) to receive an Engineers Week planning guide and starter pack.



[Access more information and resources.](#)

New Board of Ethical Review Cases

The NSPE [Board of Ethical Review](#) (BER) annually provides advisory opinions to provide guidance on ethical dilemmas. The Board of Ethical Review (BER) has [released a new set of cases](#) on various topics including on conflict of interest, duty to report, and professional qualifications.

Check out a BER case focused on the PE role in protecting the public health, safety, and welfare.

Facts: City passes an ordinance requiring a sprinkler system in residences with less than eight feet between them and makes the ordinance effective as to all construction which has not yet received an occupancy permit. This means that projects under construction must have a sprinkler system added. Engineer A, who happens to have both structural and fire protection credentials, is hired by Homeowner to design a retaining wall system to stabilize a rear yard. Homeowner allowed Engineer A to store equipment in the integral garage. Engineer A observes that the builder routed the piping for the retrofitted sprinkler system through the unheated garage, exposing the pipes to freezing temperatures.



Questions: What are Engineer A's obligations?

[Access the full case to read the BER's discussion and conclusion.](#)

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