



South Florida Hydrologic Society

Presents

Margarita Wells

LEED AP, M. ASCE

City of Miami Beach, Environment & Sustainability Assistant Director

Miami Beach Rising Above: How the City of Miami Beach is Closing Data Gaps and Adapting to Sea Level Rise

Due to its geographic location and low-lying topography, the City of Miami Beach is inherently vulnerable to high intensity rainfall, significant tidal influence, storm surge, and other sources of flooding exacerbated by sea level rise. In the last decade, the City has progressively experienced more frequent street flooding, which is at its worst during spring and autumn tides. In an effort to proactively prepare for the continued impacts of sea level rise, the City has embarked on a significant expansion of our public infrastructure to better manage flood waters, protect our community, and improve the health of local ecosystem. However, due to limited data for the area, this process often generates more questions than answers. In my presentation, I will provide an overview of Miami Beach's sea level rise adaptation, how the work we have been conducting for the past three years was the catalyst for developing a community-wide resiliency plan, and how we have been closing the data gaps we have encountered along the way.

Margarita Wells, LEED AP, M. ASCE is the City of Miami Beach's Environment & Sustainability Assistant Director, where she leads the city's habitat management, environmental permitting, and regulatory compliance programs. Ms. Wells is also responsible for providing technical support in the development and implementation of the city's sea level rise adaptation and resiliency planning programs. She holds a Bachelor's Degree in Marine Affairs and policy, French Literature, and International Studies from the University of Miami and a Master's Degree in Marine Affairs and Policy from the University of Miami, Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science. Ms. Wells has served for two years on the Board of Directions and is currently the Chair of the Environmental and Water Resources Institute's Miami-Dade Chapter.

THURSDAY - March 8, 2018

Social hour begins at 5:30 pm, followed by brief meeting and talk at 6:30

Please **RSVP** to Carolina Maran (cmaran@broward.org)

Wings in Weston

1354 SW 160th Ave

Weston, FL 33326

<https://goo.gl/maps/v1eqwKFpfj82>

The South Florida Hydrologic Society (SFHS <http://sfhs.fiu.edu>) is a non-profit, professional society, established to provide:

- A forum for the exchange of information related to the unique groundwater and surface water hydrology of South Florida
- Professional networking opportunities for students, scientists, consultants, regulators, and utilities
- Professional development through mentoring and education
- Outreach to the general public on South Florida-related hydrologic issues