



## **Levy County Board of County Commissioners**

PO Box 310, Bronson, Florida, 32621

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**Press Release:** BoCC Formally Requests the Suwannee River Water Management District to Re-Evaluate the Increased Flood Zones in East Bronson and to Schedule Additional Opportunities for Public Input

**Date of Issue:** July 14, 2025

**Bronson, FL –** At the request of Commissioner Charlie Kennedy, District 1, the Levy County Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) has formally petitioned the Suwannee River Water Management District to re-evaluate the recent proposed flood zone changes affecting East Bronson and to provide additional opportunities for public engagement on this matter.

The BoCC expressed particular concern regarding the proposed expansion of designated flood risk areas within East Bronson, where several properties currently classified as Zone X (low risk) are slated for reclassification to Zone A (high risk). In its formal letter, drafted by County Manager Mary-Ellen Harper on behalf of the Board, the BoCC highlighted that many of the areas proposed for reclassification are underlain by Astatula fine sand — a soil type recognized by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection as highly porous and excessively well-drained. The BoCC respectfully requested that the District give further consideration to local soil percolation rates in East Bronson before finalizing any flood zone changes that could unnecessarily impose federal flood insurance requirements on property owners in areas without a documented history of flooding.

Additionally, the BoCC noted the limited attendance at the Suwannee River Water Management District's July 1, 2025, public meeting in Bronson and formally urged the District to conduct further community outreach in Levy County to ensure residents have ample opportunity to participate in the discussion.

A map highlighting the areas of East Bronson proposed for high-risk flood zone reclassification is provided on page two of this press release. The BoCC's formal letter to the Suwannee River Water Management District appears on pages three through five.



### **Commissioners**

Charlie Kennedy, District 1

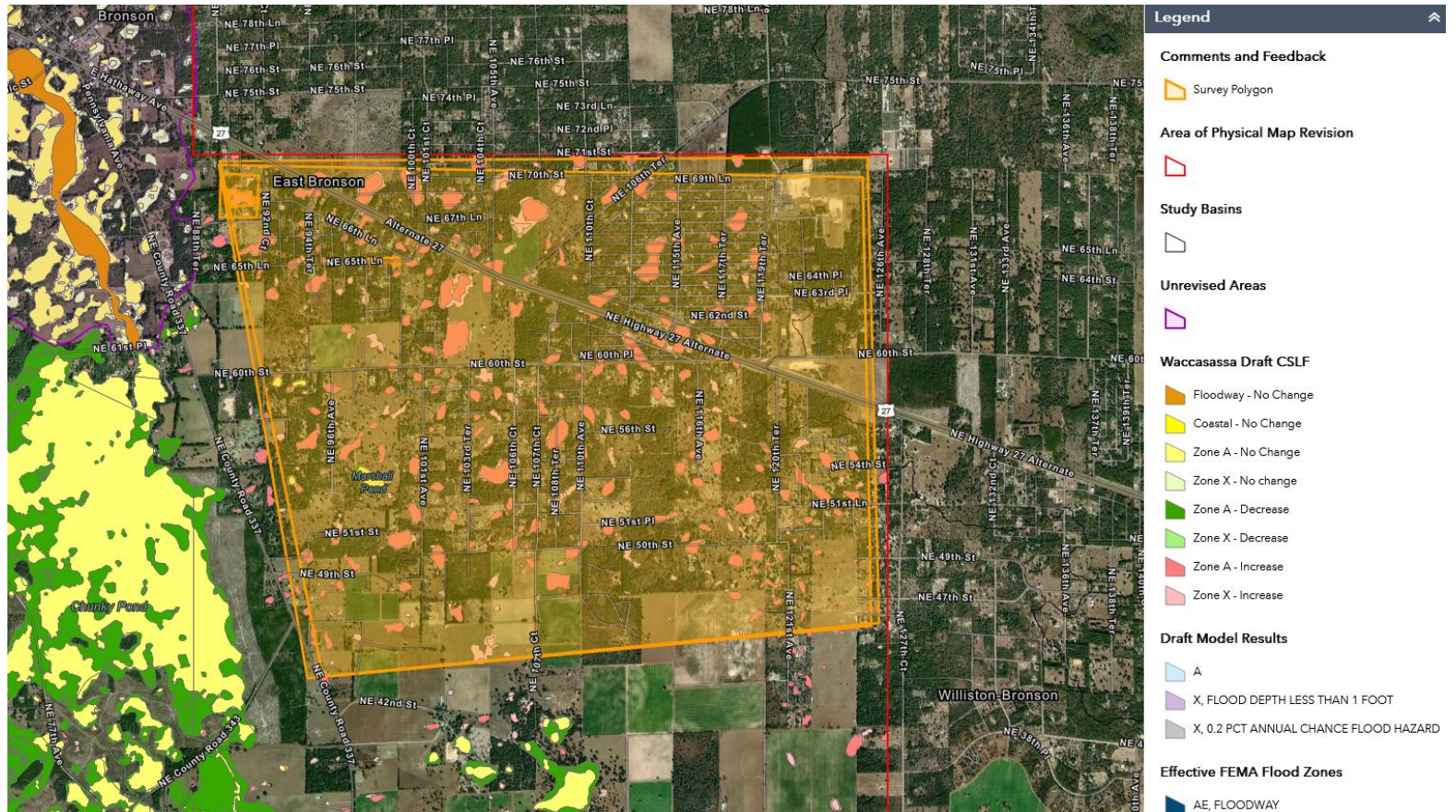
Rock Meeks, District 2

Desiree Mills, Chair, District 3

Tim Hodge, Vice Chair, District 4

Johnny Hiers, District 5

## Proposed Flood Zones in East Bronson: Areas in Red Would Increase to High-Risk Flooding





Leroy Marshall, P.E., PMP, CFM, Director, Resource Management & Projects Division  
Suwannee River Water Management District  
9225 CR 49, Live Oak, FL 32060

Dear Mr. Marshall,

I am writing on behalf of the Levy County Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) to express concern about the proposed changes in the flood insurance rate maps. Of particular concern to the BoCC is the increase in designated flood risk areas in East Bronson, where several properties are proposed to be reclassified from X (low risk) to A (high risk). As part of our investigation of this change, we have observed that these areas are well-drained. Reviewing the soil properties for East Bronson from the USDA, the primary soil classification is Astatula fine sand, which has a high porosity and is considered excessively drained soil by FDEP. This is also evident by the limited number of wetlands within this area, as illustrated by the National Wetland Inventory. This reclassification may well cause flood insurance to be federally required for mortgages in an area that does not have a history of flooding. **The BoCC respectfully requests that this area be re-evaluated and that additional consideration be given to the soil percolation rates in East Bronson.**

The BoCC is also concerned that attendance at the public meeting in Bronson on July 1, 2025, was minimal. **Please accept this formal request for additional community outreach within Levy County.** At a minimum, the BoCC would like to host an evening meeting at the Government Center in Bronson and at least two additional days of "office hours" at the Government Center to allow further opportunities for Levy County residents to learn about the proposed flood insurance rate maps. The BoCC is willing to coordinate with the District in notifying these meetings to share the information on our website and social media, including specifically identifying the areas of Levy County that may be reclassified, and to explain to the residents what these changes could mean for them.

**Please accept this letter as a formal request to reevaluate the changes to the Flood Insurance Rate Maps for East Bronson and for the district to schedule an evening meeting and two days of office hours at the Levy County Government Center.** My contact information is below.

Sincerely,

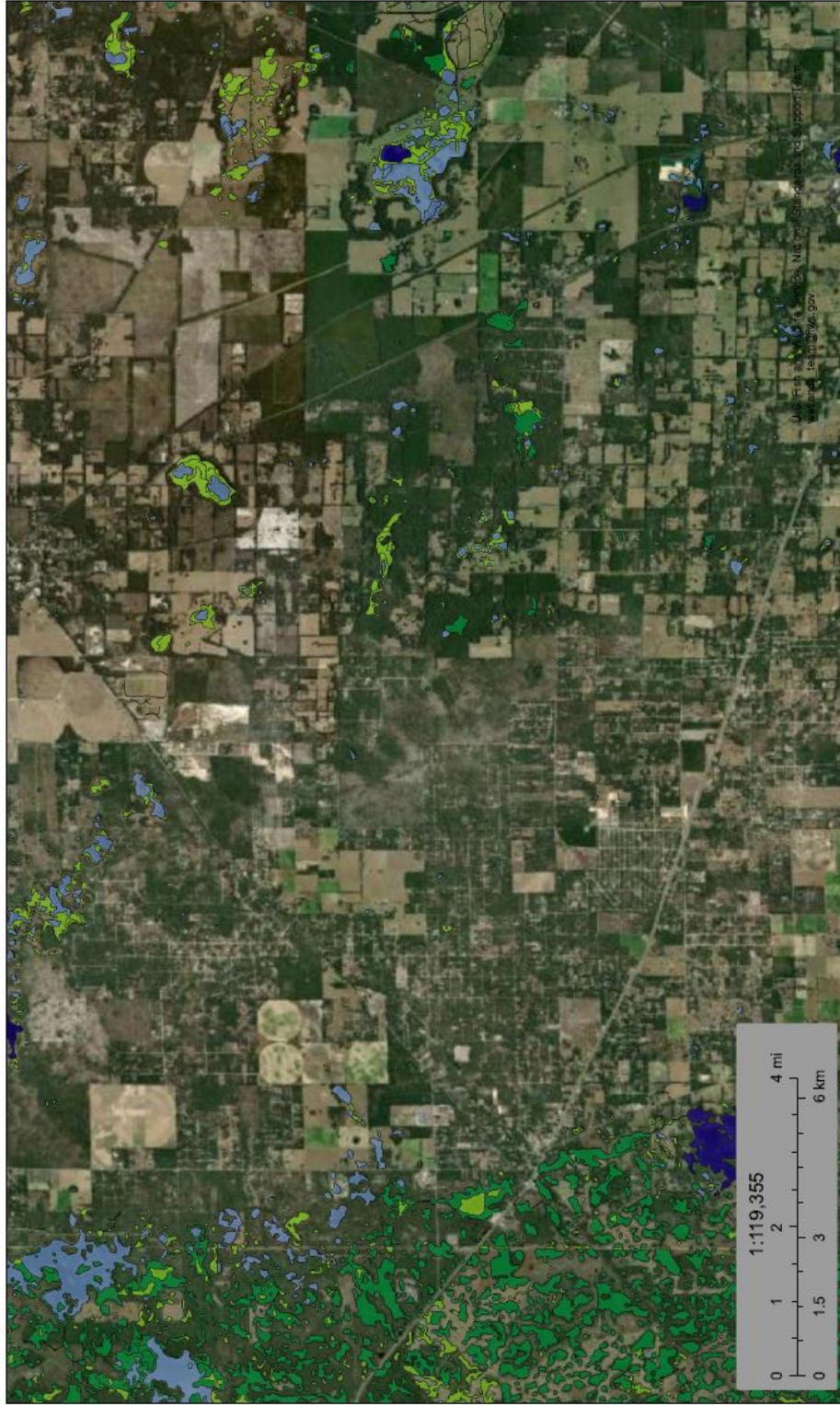
Mary-Ellen L. Harper, County Manager  
[Harper-Mary-Ellen@LevyCounty.org](mailto:Harper-Mary-Ellen@LevyCounty.org)  
352.914.7029





# LEVY COUNTY

## East Bronson



July 11, 2025

### Wetlands

- |  |                                |  |                                   |  |          |
|--|--------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|--|----------|
|  | Estuarine and Marine Deepwater |  | Freshwater Emergent Wetland       |  | Lake     |
|  | Estuarine and Marine Wetland   |  | Freshwater Forested/Shrub Wetland |  | Other    |
|  |                                |  | Freshwater Pond                   |  | Riverine |

This map is for general reference only. The US Fish and Wildlife Service is not responsible for the accuracy or currentness of the base data shown on this map. All wetlands related data should be used in accordance with the layer metadata found on the Wetlands Mapper web site.

National Wetlands Inventory (NWI)  
This page was produced by the NWI mapper





# LEVY COUNTY

