

## Hurricane Irma The Reality of “Government Funding”

The NRCS (National Resource Conservation Service) is the federal agency that provides funding for States and local governments to facilitate canals and waterway cleanup after major storms. Below is a list of some of the rules of which we were informed during a September meeting between CSID officials and representatives from the NRCS.

In their final tally of trees that can be hauled away under the funding program, NRCS will only include those trees that are in the waterway or are obstructing the flow of the waterway.

Per NRCS rules, **trees on canal banks would not be eligible for removal and reimbursement** under the program as it exists today.

NRCS will pay the District up to 75% of the cost of removal for the downed trees in the canal or waterway provided CSID does not start removing the trees before being notified that our project will be funded.

NRCS has not been funded by the U.S. government so there are NO funds available at this time.

NRCS could not say if or when their government agency would be funded.

If CSID starts to clean up the canals while waiting for funding, then CSID would not receive funding retroactively for work already finished...in other words “Wait for funding or we Pay the bill ourselves”.

At this time, CSID officials are meeting to formulate a strategy to self-fund the canal cleanup instead of using the government program, NRCS, and waiting for funds that may or may not ever filter down to CSID. We will keep our residents informed of any decisions or schedules that we may make via our website at [csidfl.org](http://csidfl.org)

CSID is not the only District in the area that is in this predicament. There are other districts that are in the same condition as we are. The Sunshine Water Control District has two canals that run North to South through our District and pump into the C-14 canal as we do. We are coordinating with them on this project.