

## **Eva B. Vélez, P.E.**

Eva serves the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Jacksonville District as the Chief of the Ecosystems Branch in the Programs and Project Management Division, responsible for the management and execution of aquatic ecosystem restoration efforts in the South Florida Ecosystem and the resiliency efforts of the Central and Southern Florida system.

The South Florida Ecosystem Restoration (SFER) program's goal is to restore and protect ~2.4 million acres known as America's Everglades. The Central and Southern Florida (C&SF) system provides flood control, water supply, recreation, navigation and preservation of fish and wildlife to a population of over ~9 million Floridians and spans 16 counties.

Previously, Eva was the Strategic Program Manager of the Everglades restoration program in the Programs and Project Management Division, Ecosystems Branch, South Florida Program Office. She has supported District Command, District leadership, and the Project Delivery Teams in the execution of the South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Program (SFER).

Spanning over twenty-four years, her experience includes both private and public sector work. Prior to joining USACE, Eva served the State of Florida as the Director of Everglades Policy and Coordination for the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD). In that role, she was the SFWMD's executive leader responsible for coordination, development and implementation of comprehensive policy and projects to preserve, restore and protect the South Florida ecosystem, including America's Everglades, while recognizing the needs of external constituents, stakeholders and federally recognized tribes.

In her prior private sector work, Eva formed her own company, Velez Engineering, Inc. where she was the principal for an engineering firm with an emphasis on water resources. Much of her private sector work experience was as a Project Manager and Senior Engineer for AECOM Technical Services, Inc where she was responsible for the management, design, permitting and regulatory certification of water resources projects.

Eva is a licensed professional engineer in the State of Florida since 2004. She earned a Bachelor of Science in Agricultural and Biological Engineering with an Area of Concentration in Natural Resources Conservation (Soil & Water) from the University of Florida. Some highlights of the awards she has received in her career include Young Engineer of the Year, Florida Section, American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers (ASABE), 2006; Engineer of the Year, Florida Section, ASABE, 2016; and 2022 Great Minds in STEM (GMiS/HENAAC) Professional Achievement Level II Award winner.

Eva is a native of Mayaguez, Puerto Rico and is bilingual in the English and Spanish language. Eva is married to her college sweetheart and is the mother of two boys – they live in Port Saint Lucie, Florida.