

Mitigating Flood Risk with a Real-Time Flood Forecasting

Pete Singhofen/Kent Boulicault



The Team

- **Streamline Technologies**
 - Software development firm
 - Pete Singhofen, PE
 - ICPR model (integrated surface water / groundwater)
 - Innovator – Major advances in RTFF
- **Singhofen & Associates**
 - Civil engineering firm / water resources firm
 - 38-yr specialty in flood risk modeling and mitigation design
 - Kent Boulicault, PE
 - Pete is our founder and long-time partner

Hurricane Irma – September 2017



- Most of Florida
- 15" rain in many places
- ~\$50B

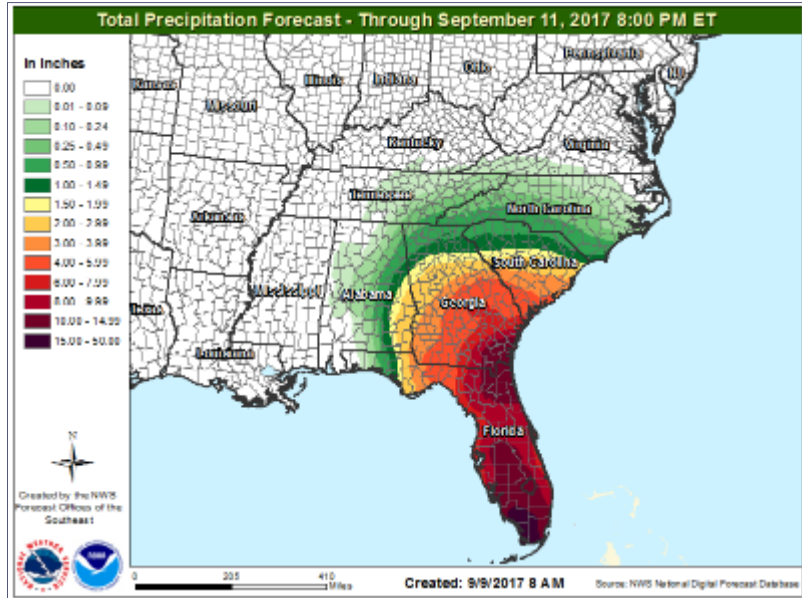
Real-Time Flood Forecasting at the Street Level

- Resilience planning tool
- Flood Risk Management - Move from reactive to proactive
- **Prepare** – More specific emergency management coordination
- **Mitigate** – Advance actions to minimize risks, consequences, damages
- **Recover** – Accelerate recovery by initiating specific recovery effort coordination earlier

RTFF Questions

1. Can existing (hyper-resolution) watershed models be leveraged for flood forecasting purposes?
2. Are reliable and reasonably accurate forecast data readily available?
3. Can the process be automated?
4. Can a RTFF system be used for operational decision making?

NWS Gridded (1-km²) Forcing Data Products (Rainfall/ET)



- Near Real-Time
 - ✓ updated hourly
- Short Range Forecast
 - ✓ 18-hour projection issued hourly
- Medium Range Forecast
 - ✓ 10-day projection issued every 6 hours

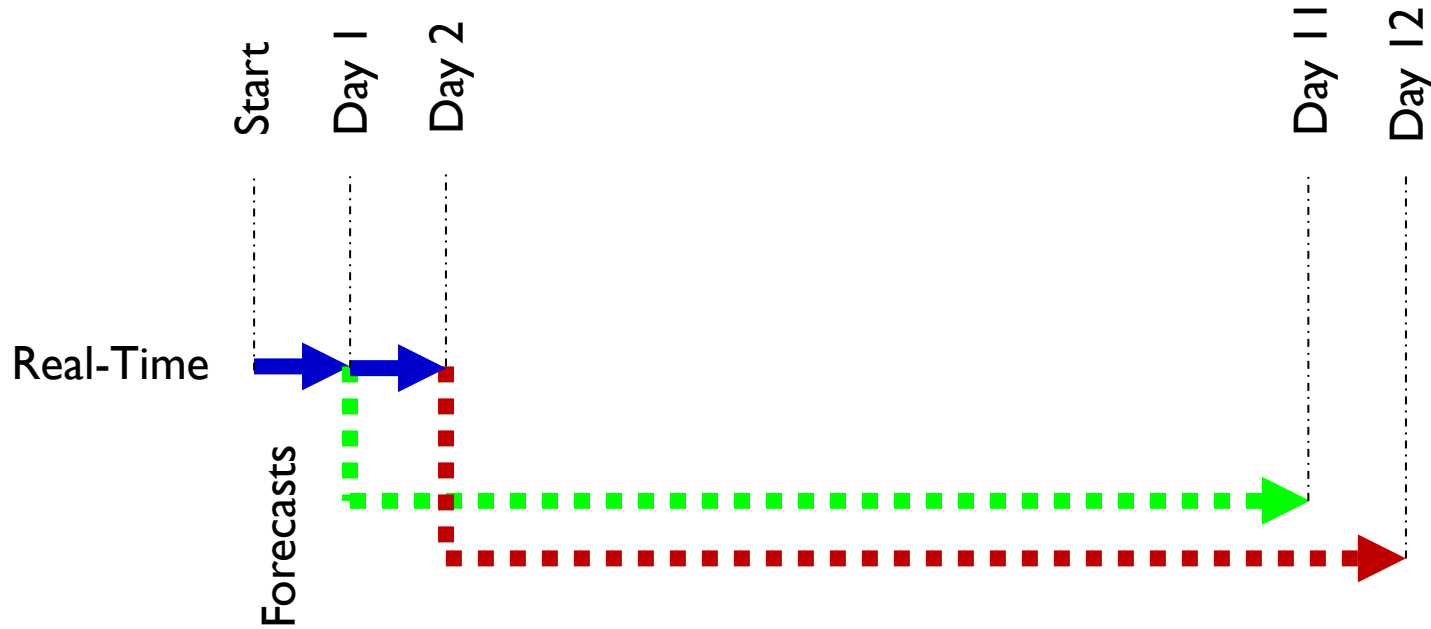
Daily Medium Range Forecast Progression



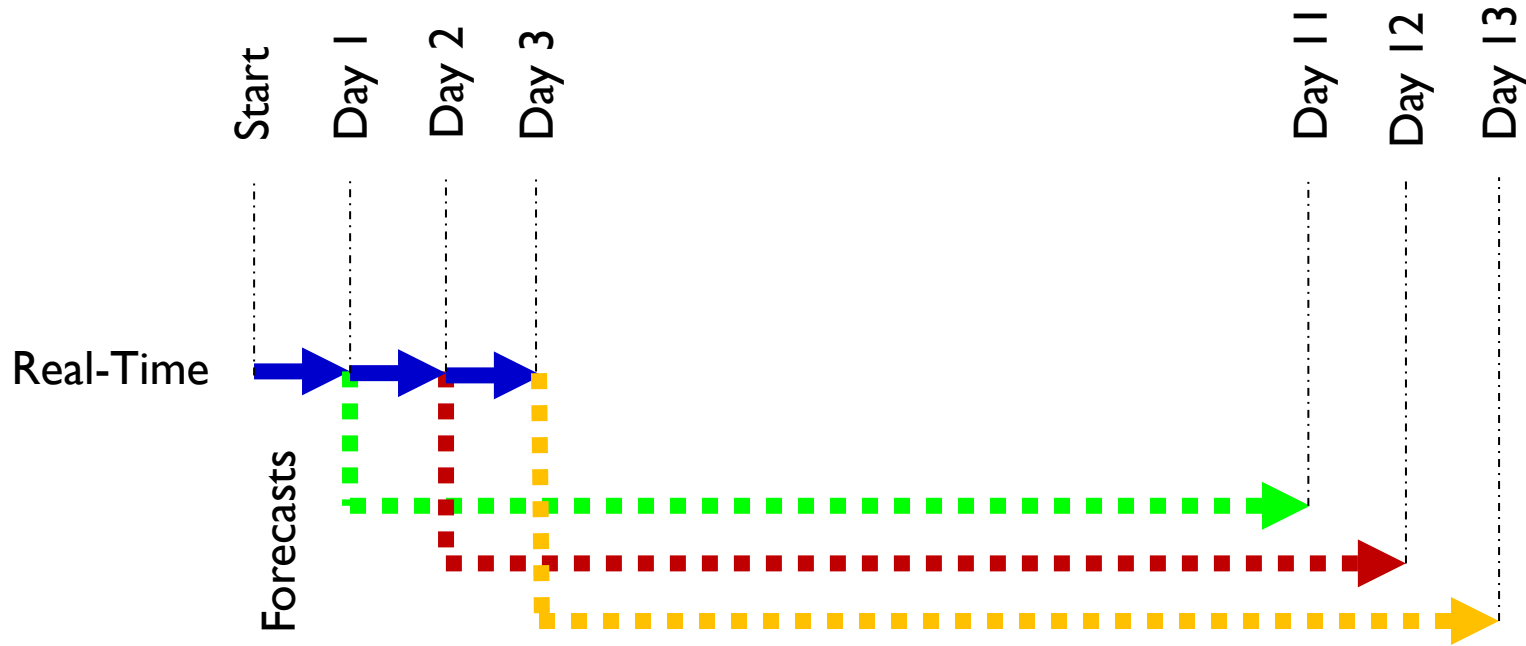
Real-Time Simulation
(tracks cumulative impacts)

10-day Medium Range Forecast
(predicts what might happen)

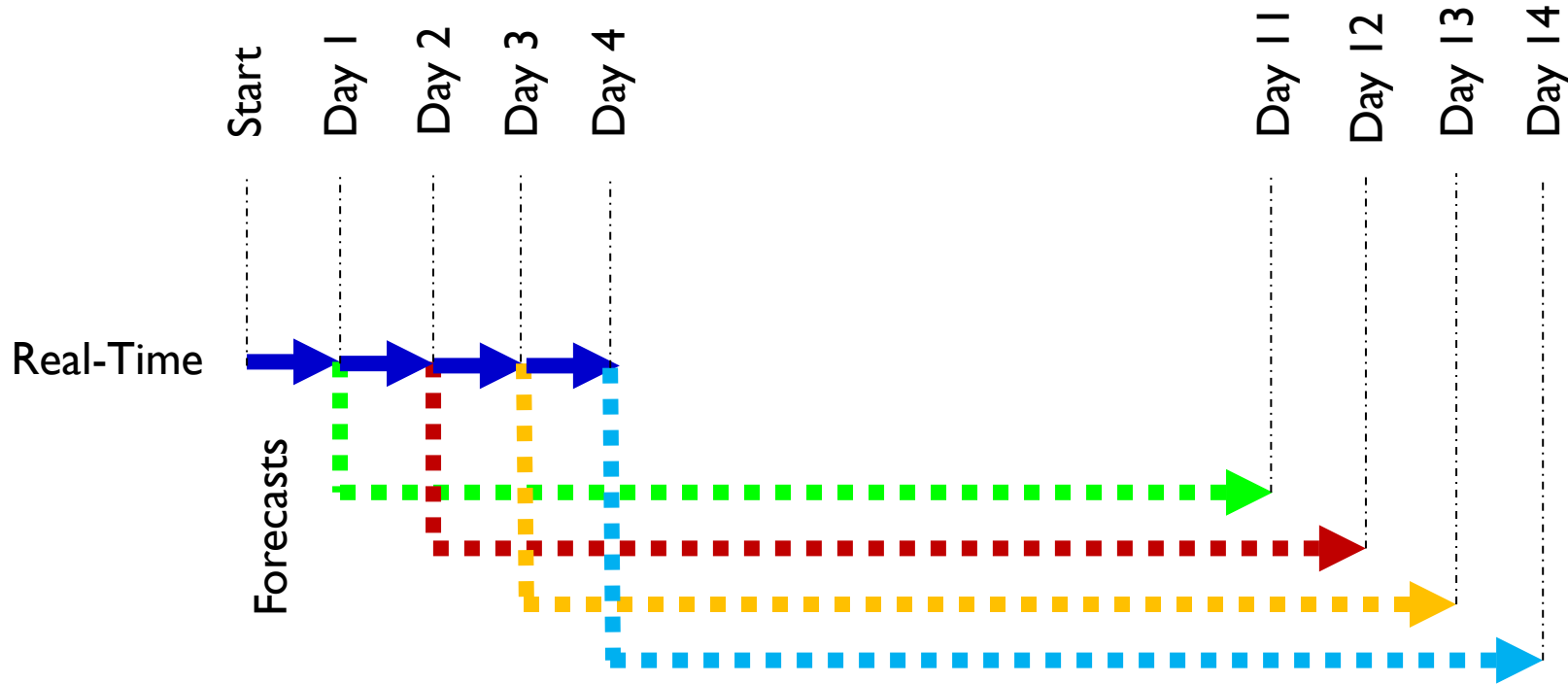
Daily Medium Range Forecast Progression



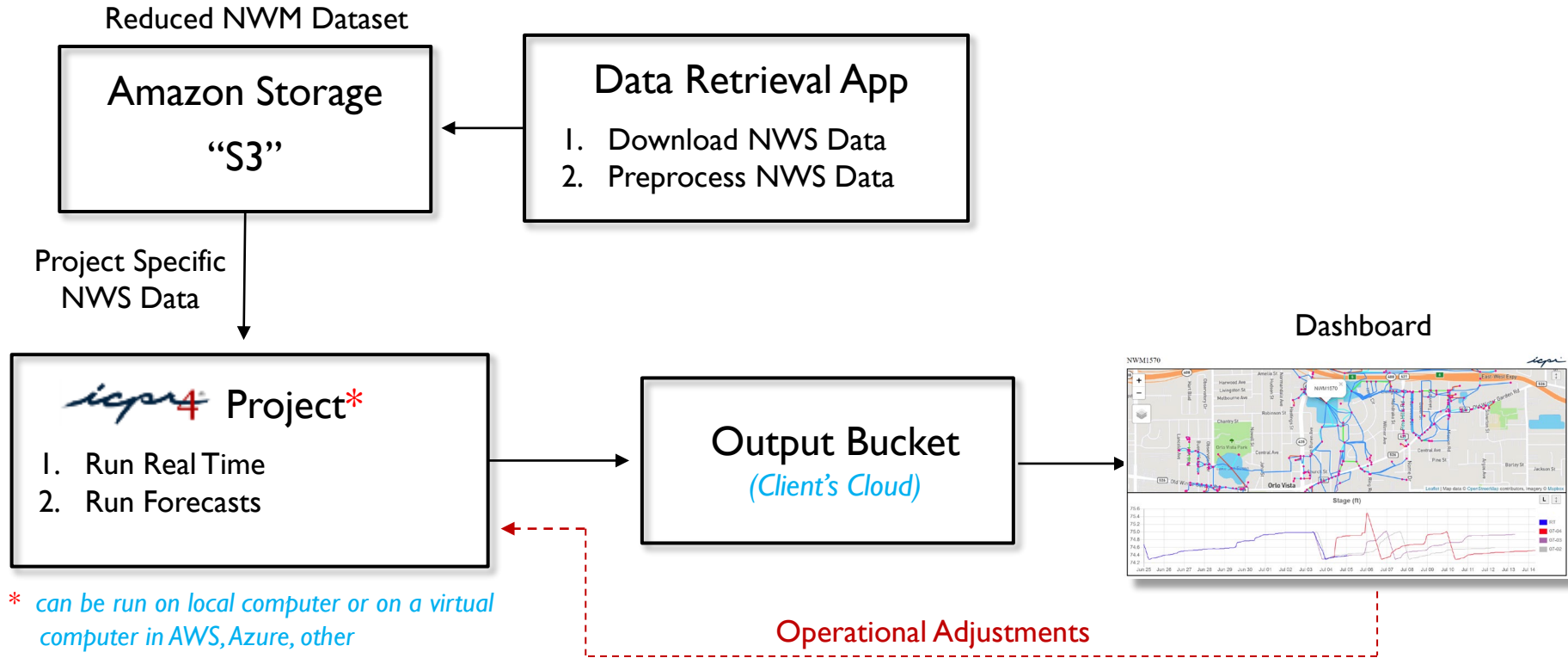
Daily Medium Range Forecast Progression



Daily Medium Range Forecast Progression

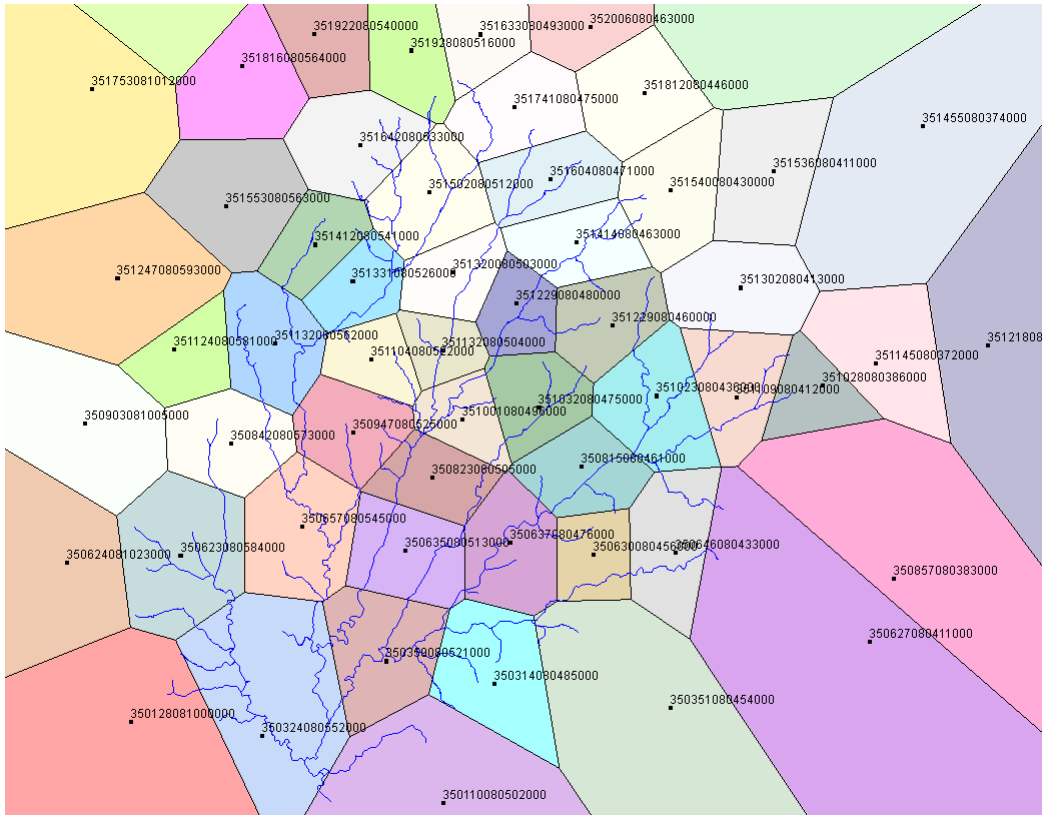


RTFF Implementation



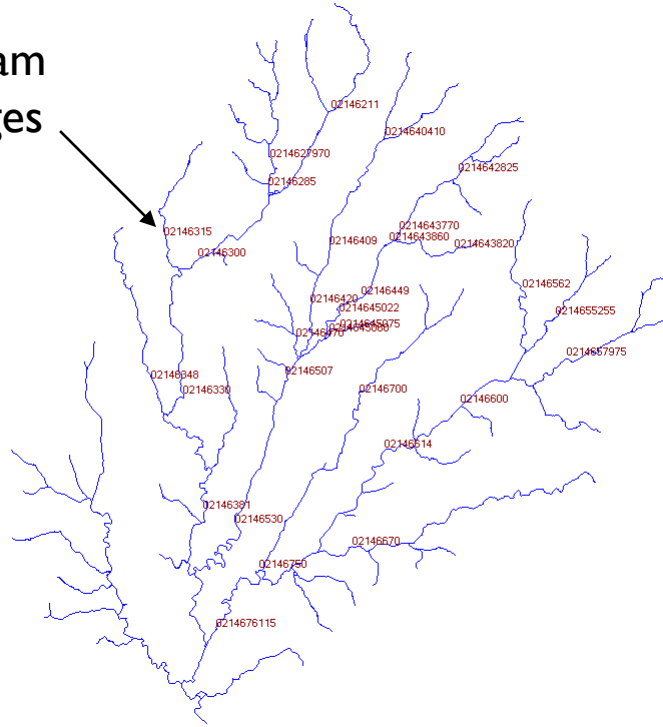
Live Rain Gauge Data used in Real-Time Simulations

- Alternative to NWS data
- More accurate
- Almost live
- Latency reduced from several hours to less than 10 minutes



Network of 71 Rain Gauges for Mecklenburg County, NC
(updated every 5 minutes, maintained by USGS)

stream
gauges



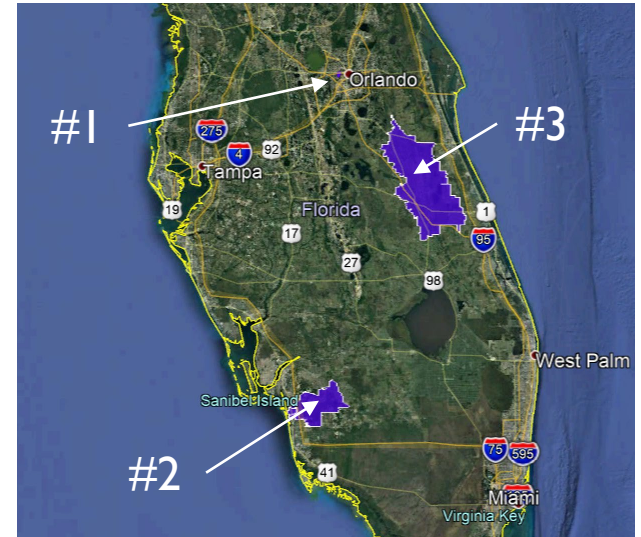
Network of 32 Stream Gauges for Mecklenburg County, NC
(updated every 5 minutes, maintained by USGS)

Live Stream Gauge Data used in Real-Time Simulations

- Data used as internal boundary conditions in model
- WSEs are calculated in ungauged areas
- More accurate real-time representation
- Model updated a few seconds after retrieving rainfall and stream gauge data

Case Studies

1. Orlo Vista, Orange County
✓ Pump System
2. Southern Lee County
✓ Inland/Tidal Flooding
3. Upper St. Johns River Basin
✓ Large Complex System



Case Study #1, Orlo Vista

Acknowledgements



Geosyntec 
consultants

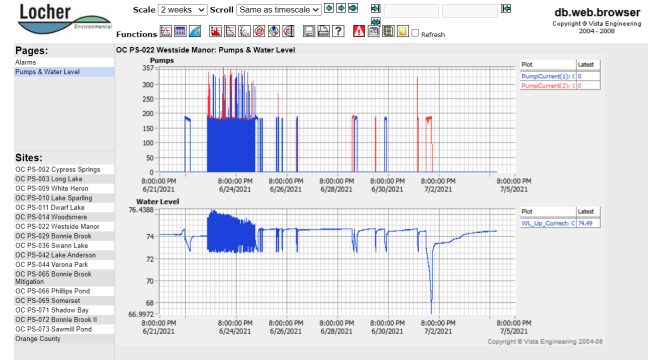
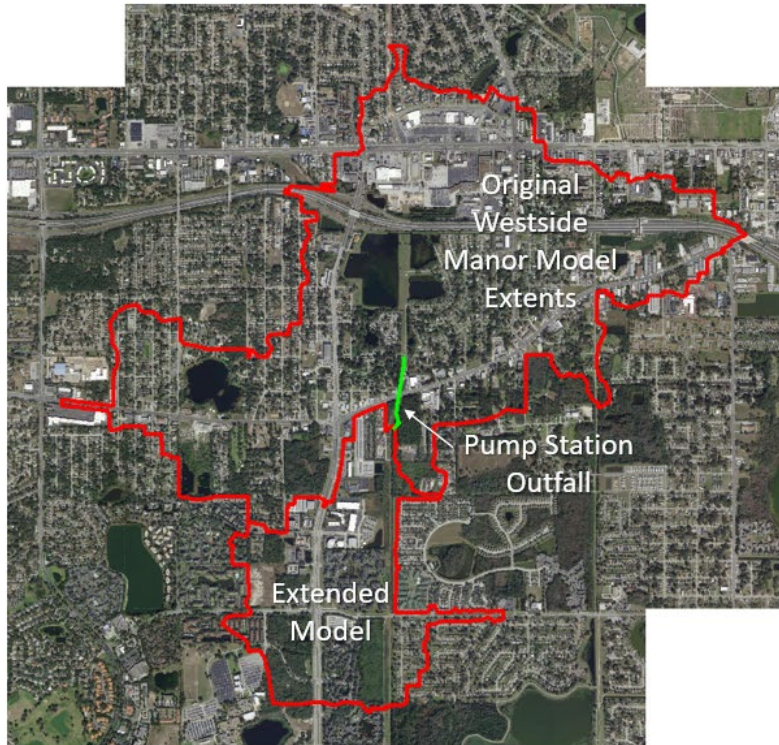
Hurricane Irma Flooding

Case Study #1, Orlo Vista

Alarm Conditions

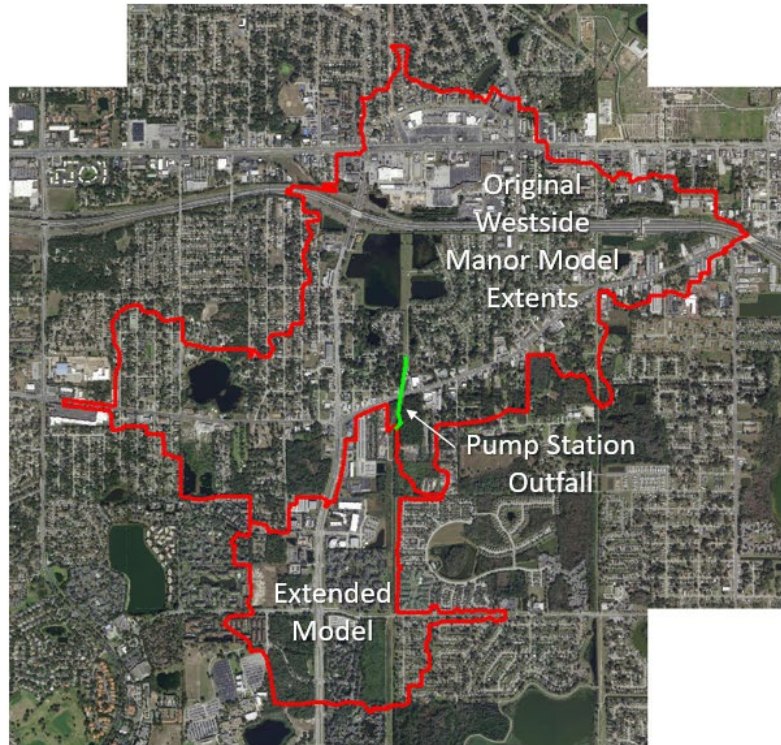
The system will notify 3 assigned individuals in sequence by phone to deliver the alarm messages.

- High Water Levels
- Lag Pump Running
- Pump Failure to Run
- Loss of Power
- Generator Running
- Generator Trouble
- Generator Failure
- Low Fuel



County monitors the pump station online in real time with the Vista Data Vision web service

Case Study #1, Orlo Vista



Alarm Conditions

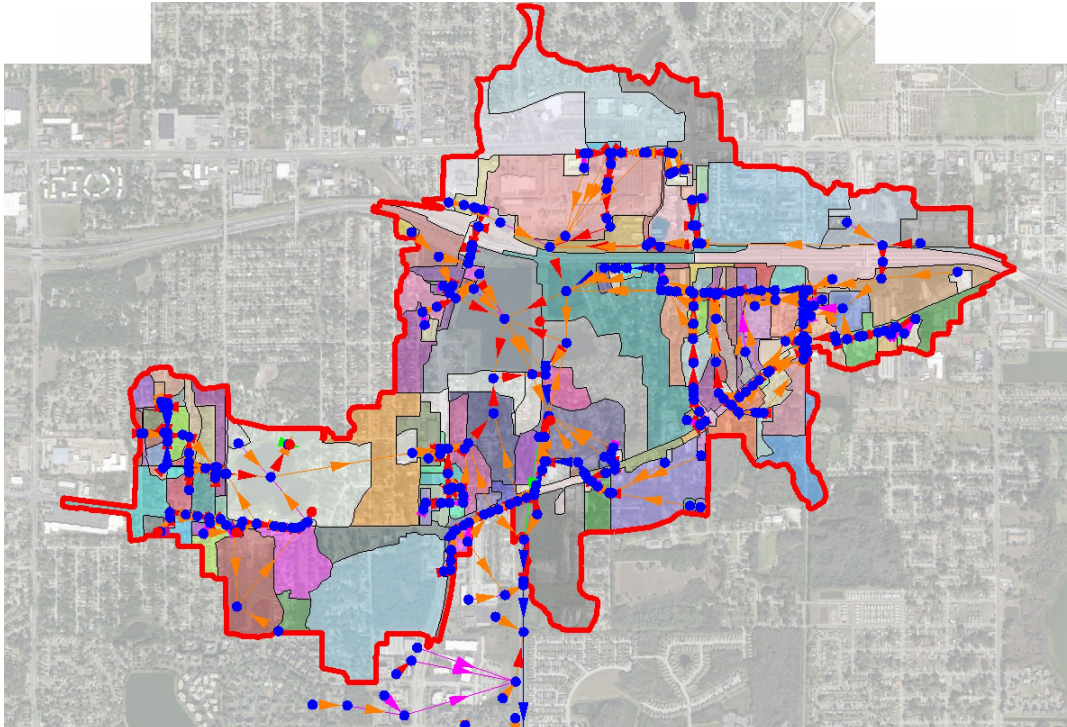
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- High Water Levels
- Lag Pump Running
- Pump Failure to Run
- Loss of Power
- Generator Running
- Generator Trouble
- Generator Failure
- Low Fuel

- ✓ Can flood risk be reduced if high water levels are forecasted 2 to 3 days in advance?
- ✓ Can this knowledge be integrated into the county's alert and notification system?

Case Study #1, Orlo Vista

Model Setup



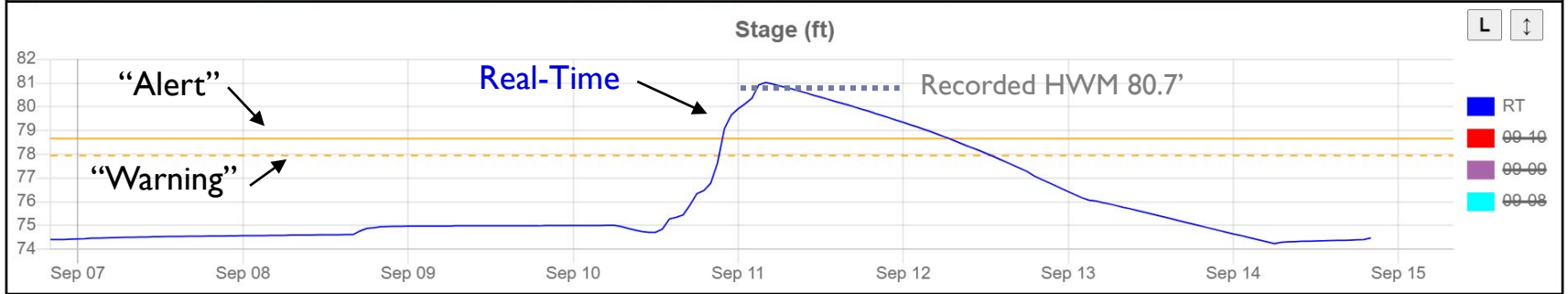
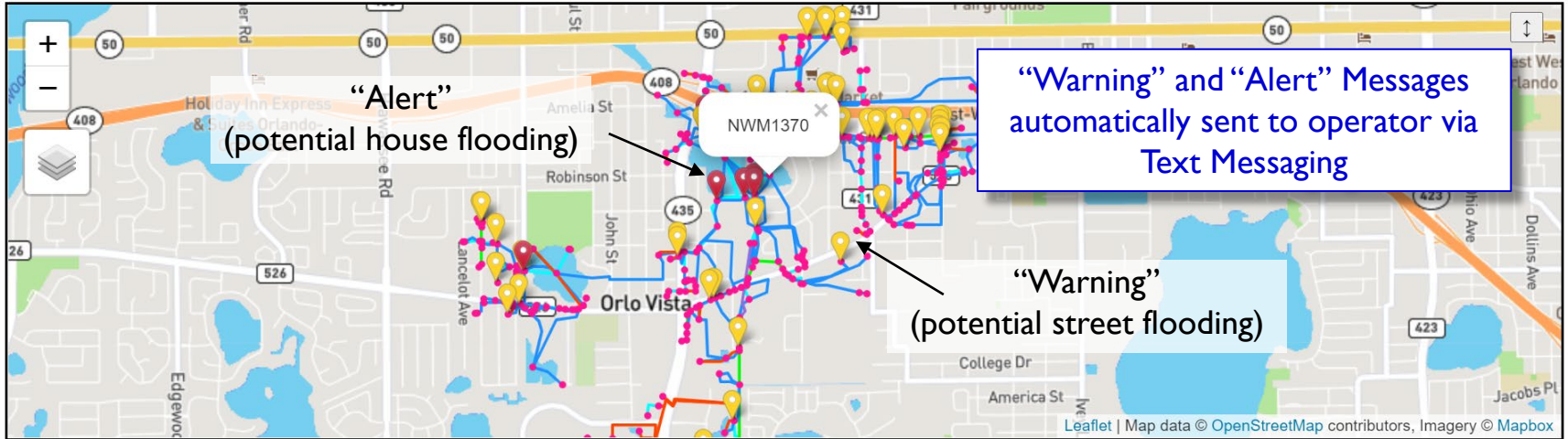
ID Nodal Network

- Lakes & Ponds
- Channels
- Pipes
- Weirs
- Drop Structures
- Pump Stations
- Drain Wells

Model also includes
2d groundwater

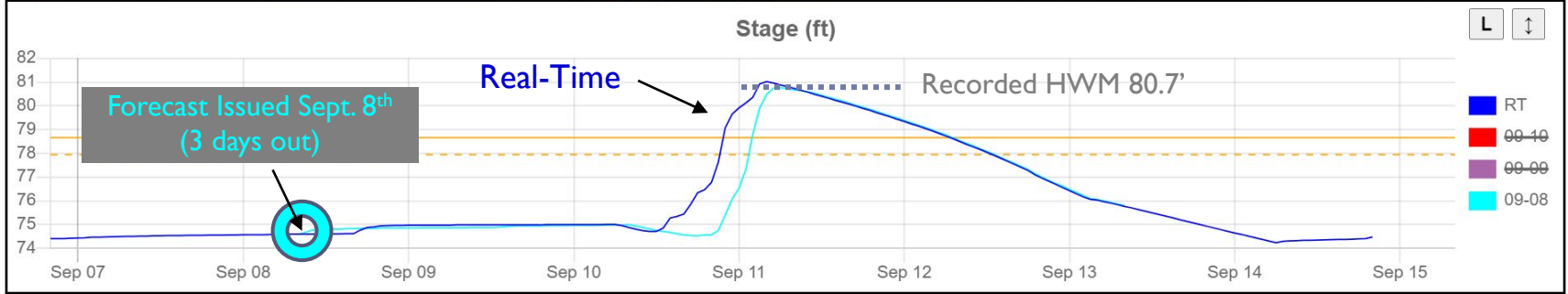
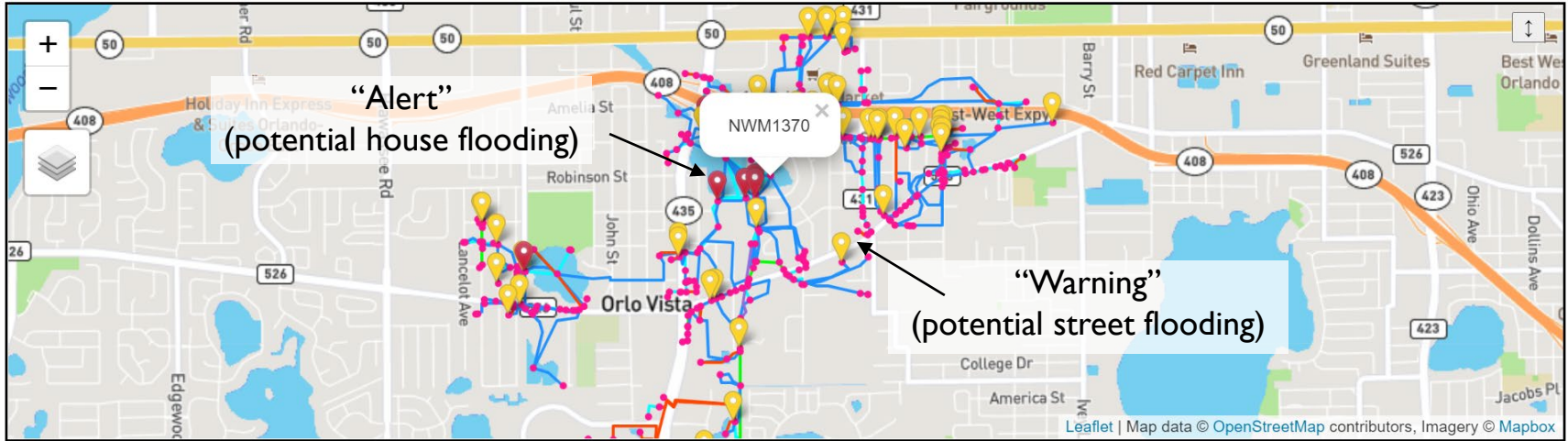
Hurricane Irma Verification Using NWS Forcing Data

NWM1370



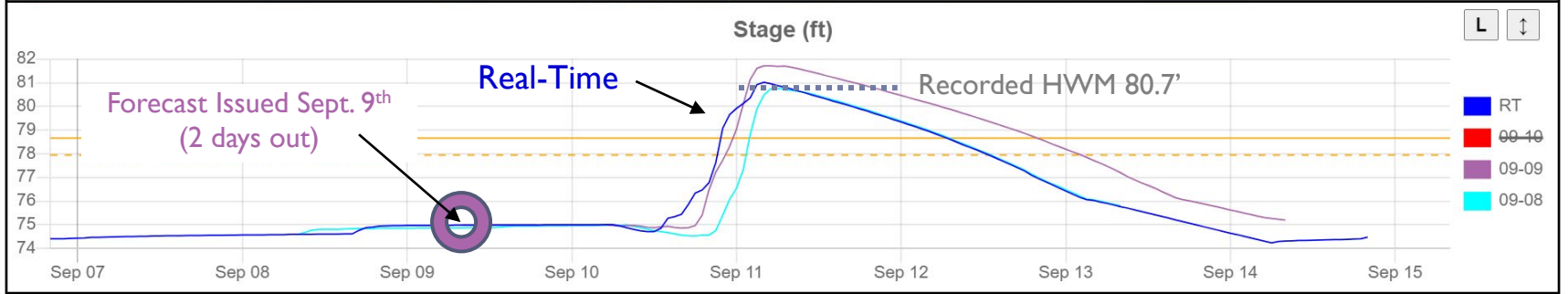
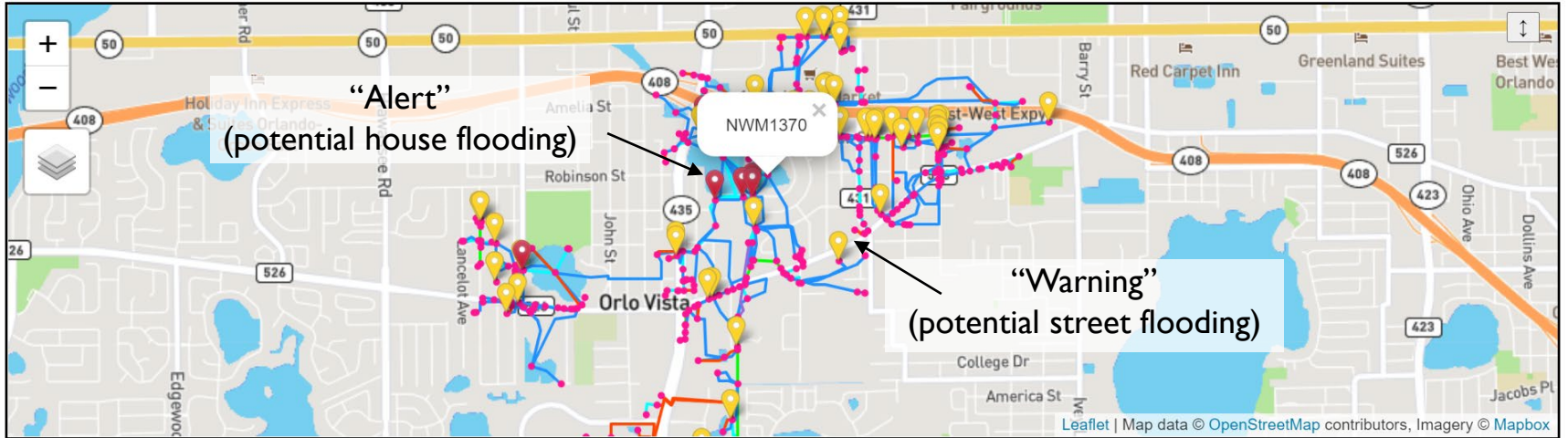
Hurricane Irma Verification Using NWS Forcing Data

NWM1370



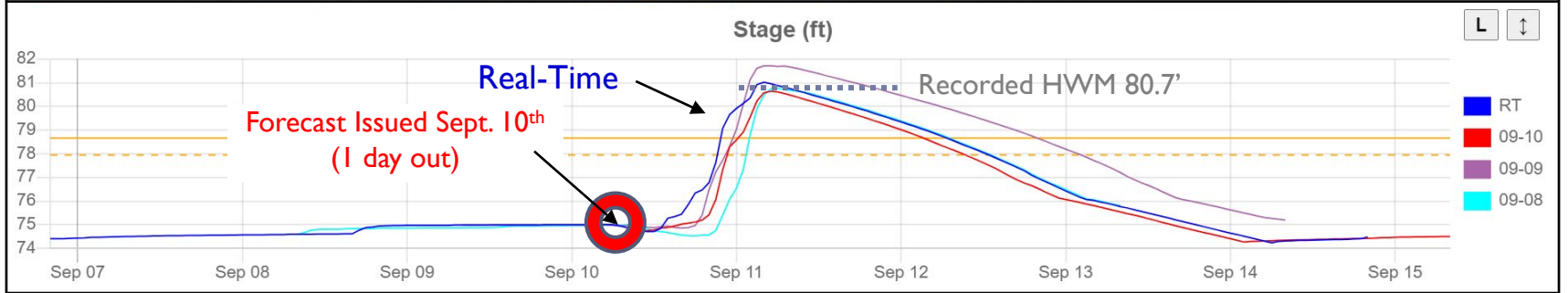
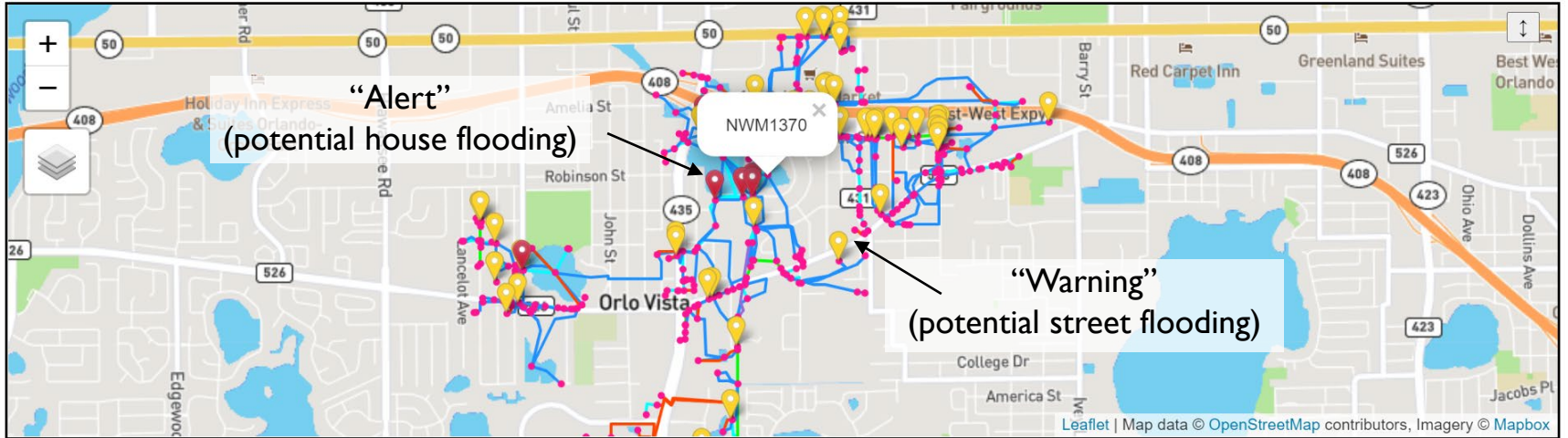
Hurricane Irma Verification Using NWS Forcing Data

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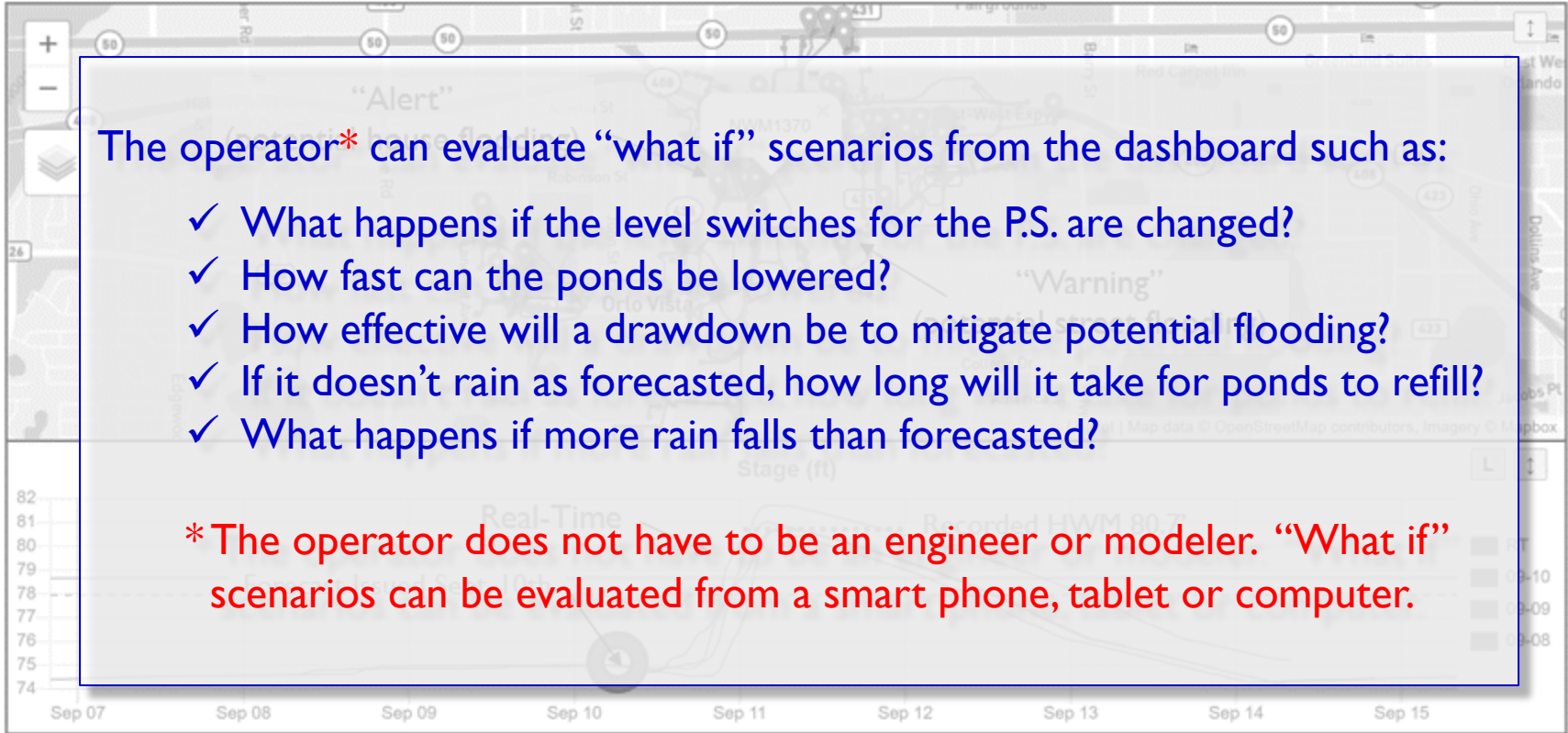
NWM1370



Hurricane Irma Verification Using NWM Forcing Data

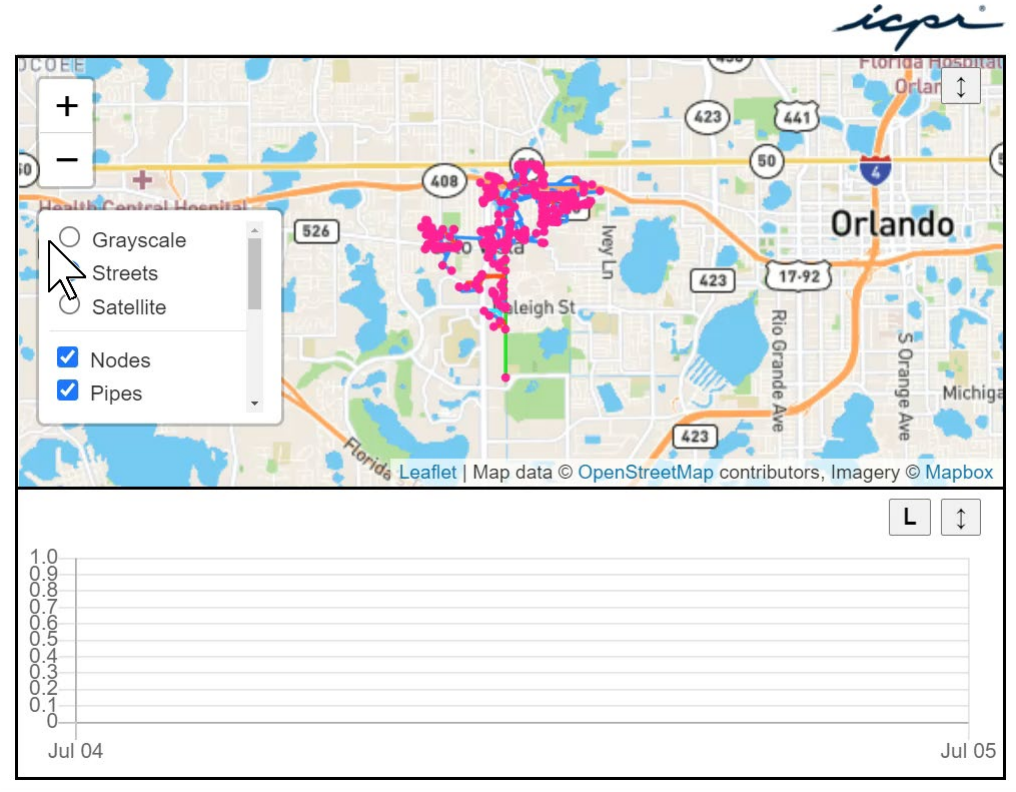
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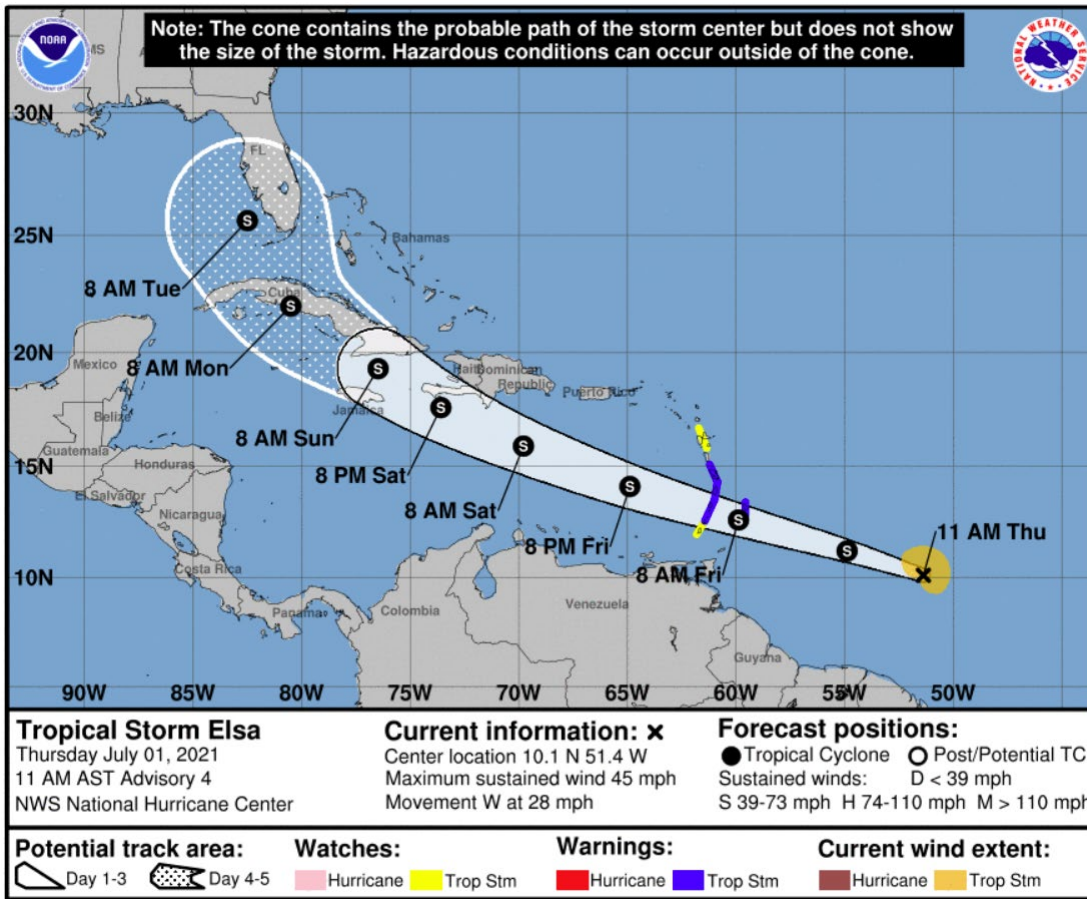
icpi

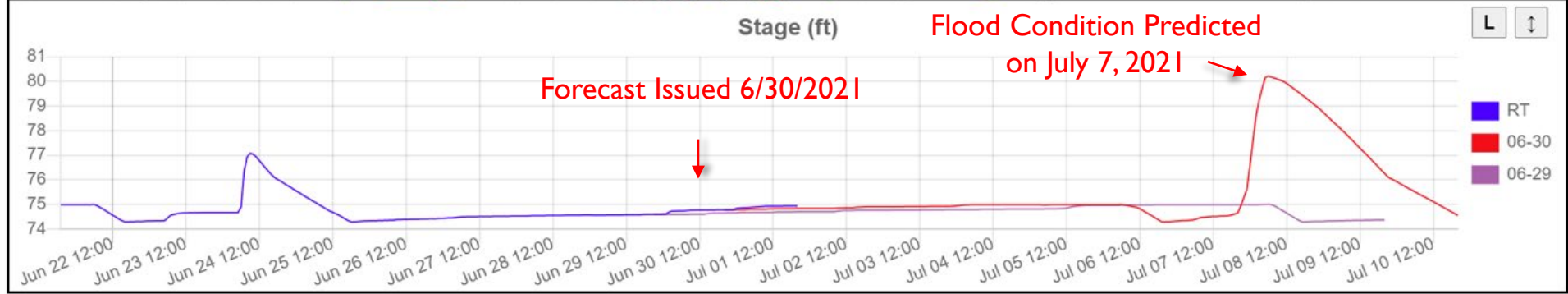
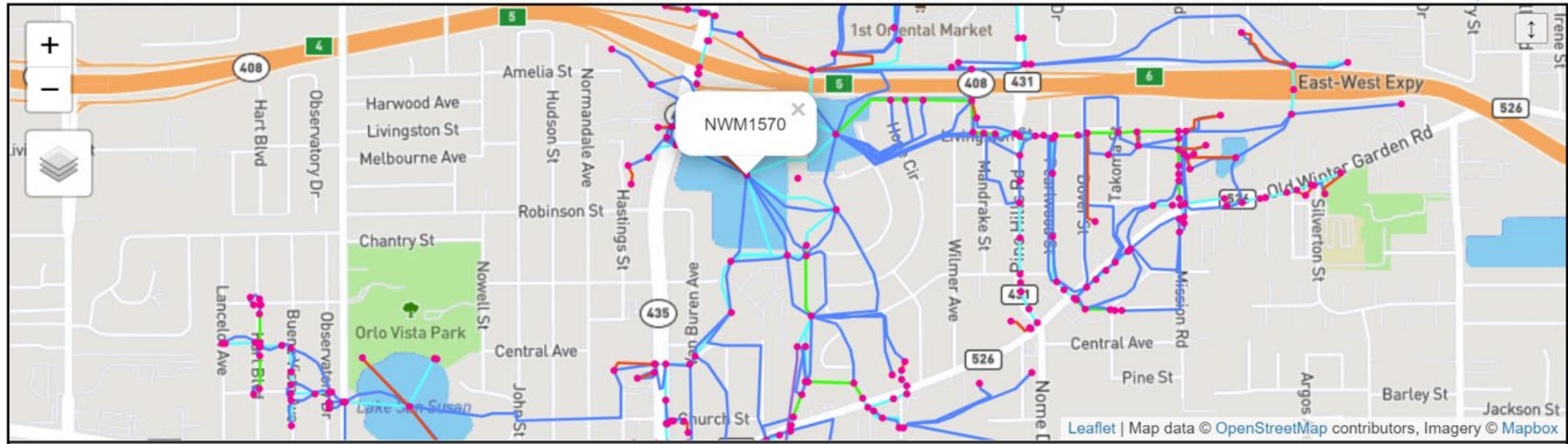


Case Study #1, Orlo Vista

Dashboard
Video







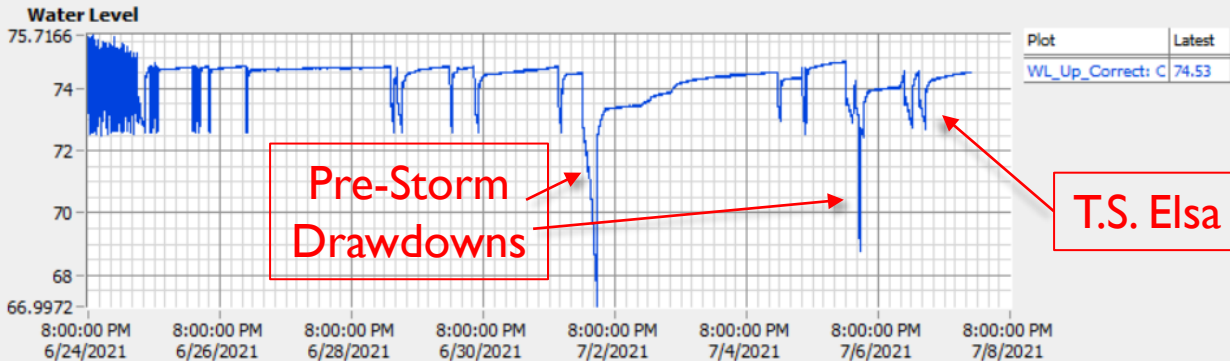
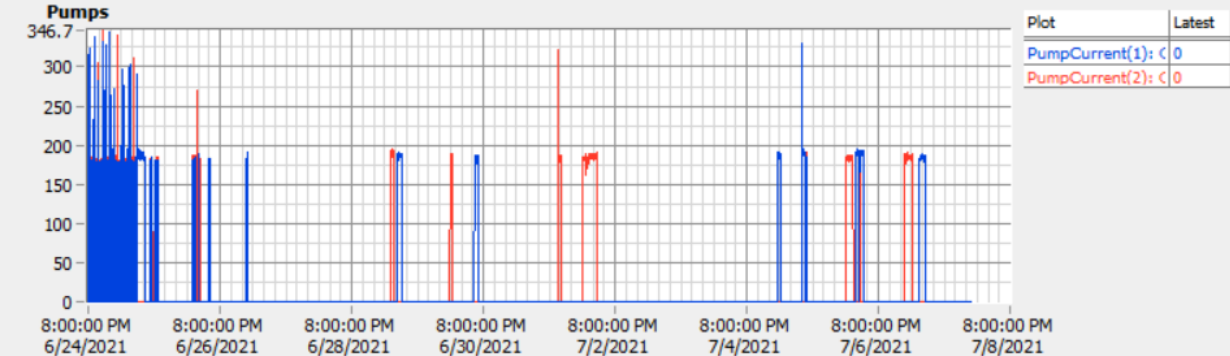
Pages:

- Alarms
- Pumps & Water Level

Sites:

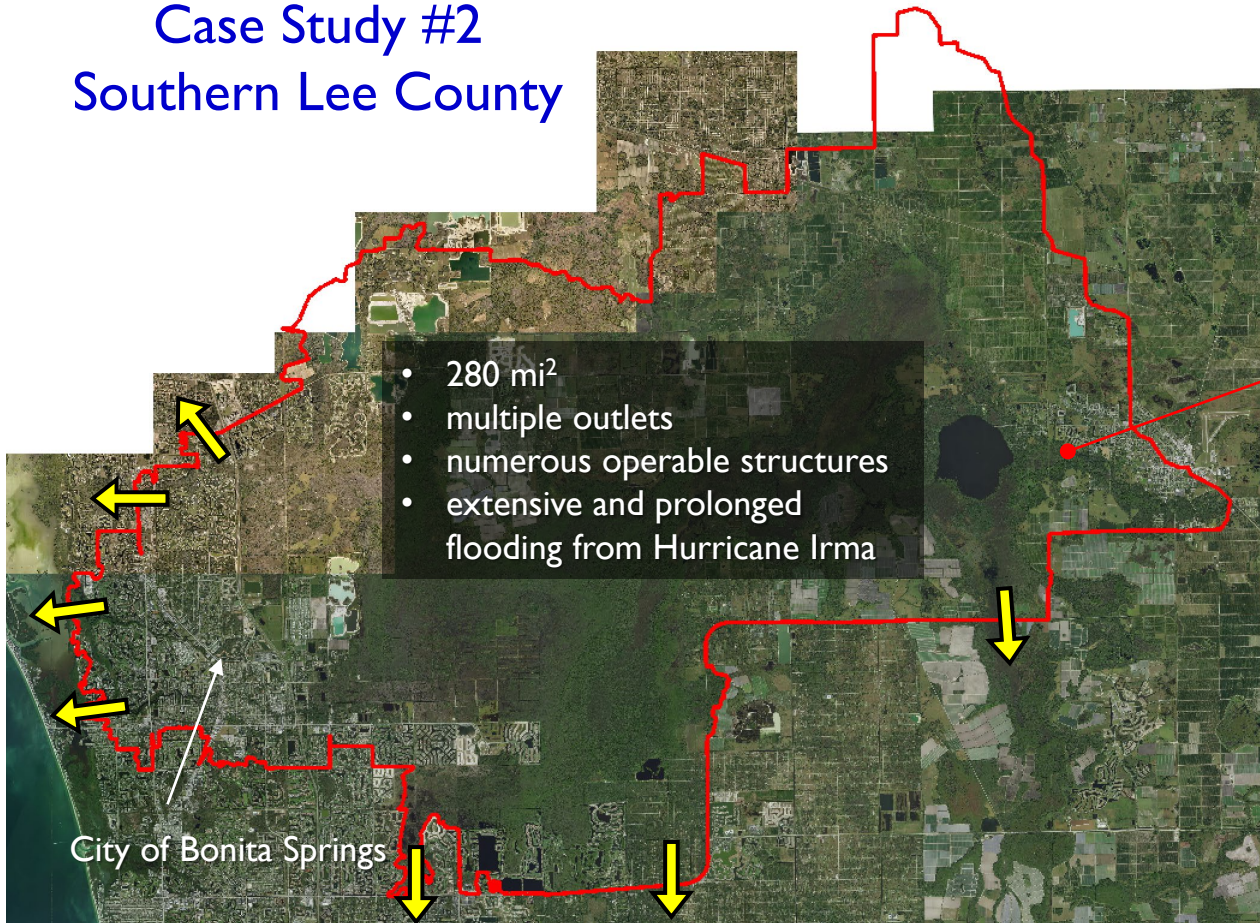
- OC PS-002 Cypress Springs
- OC PS-003 Long Lake
- OC PS-009 White Heron
- OC PS-010 Lake Sparling
- OC PS-011 Dwarf Lake
- OC PS-014 Woodsmere
- OC PS-022 Westside Manor
- OC PS-029 Bonnie Brook
- OC PS-036 Swann Lake
- OC PS-042 Lake Anderson
- OC PS-044 Verona Park
- OC PS-065 Bonnie Brook Mitigation
- OC PS-066 Phillips Pond
- OC PS-069 Somerset
- OC PS-071 Shadow Bay
- OC PS-072 Bonnie Brook II
- OC PS-073 Sawmill Pond
- Orange County

OC PS-022 Westside Manor: Pumps & Water Level



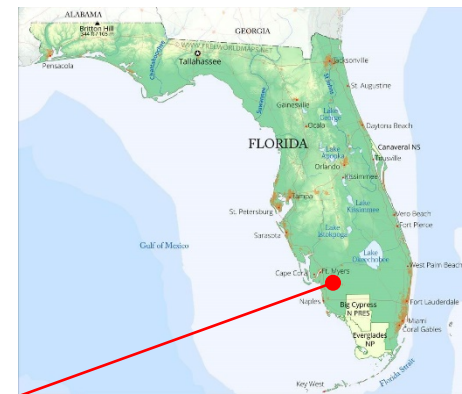
Case Study #2

Southern Lee County



- 280 mi²
- multiple outlets
- numerous operable structures
- extensive and prolonged flooding from Hurricane Irma

City of Bonita Springs



Acknowledgements

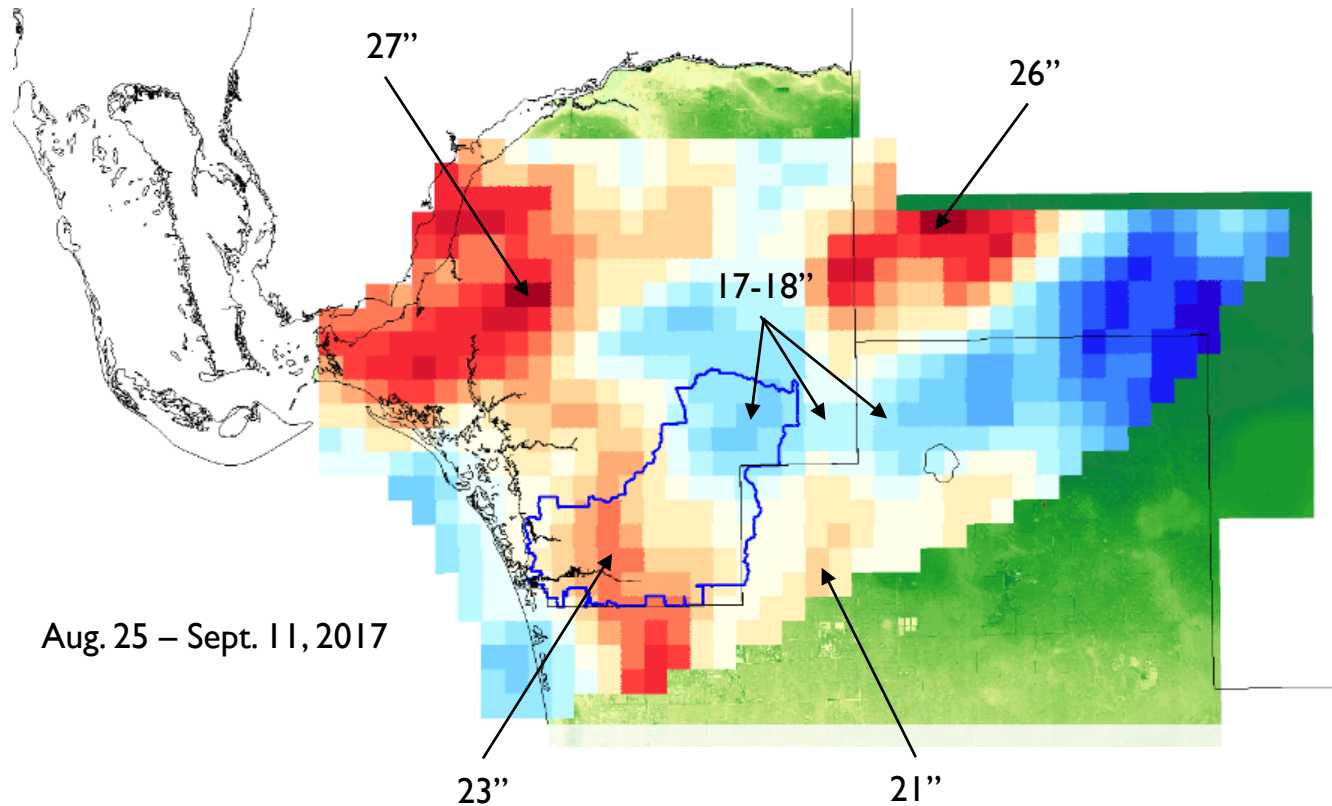


Case Study #2, Southern Lee County



Kehl Canal Structure – 80-foot fixed crest weir and (3) low flow gated weirs

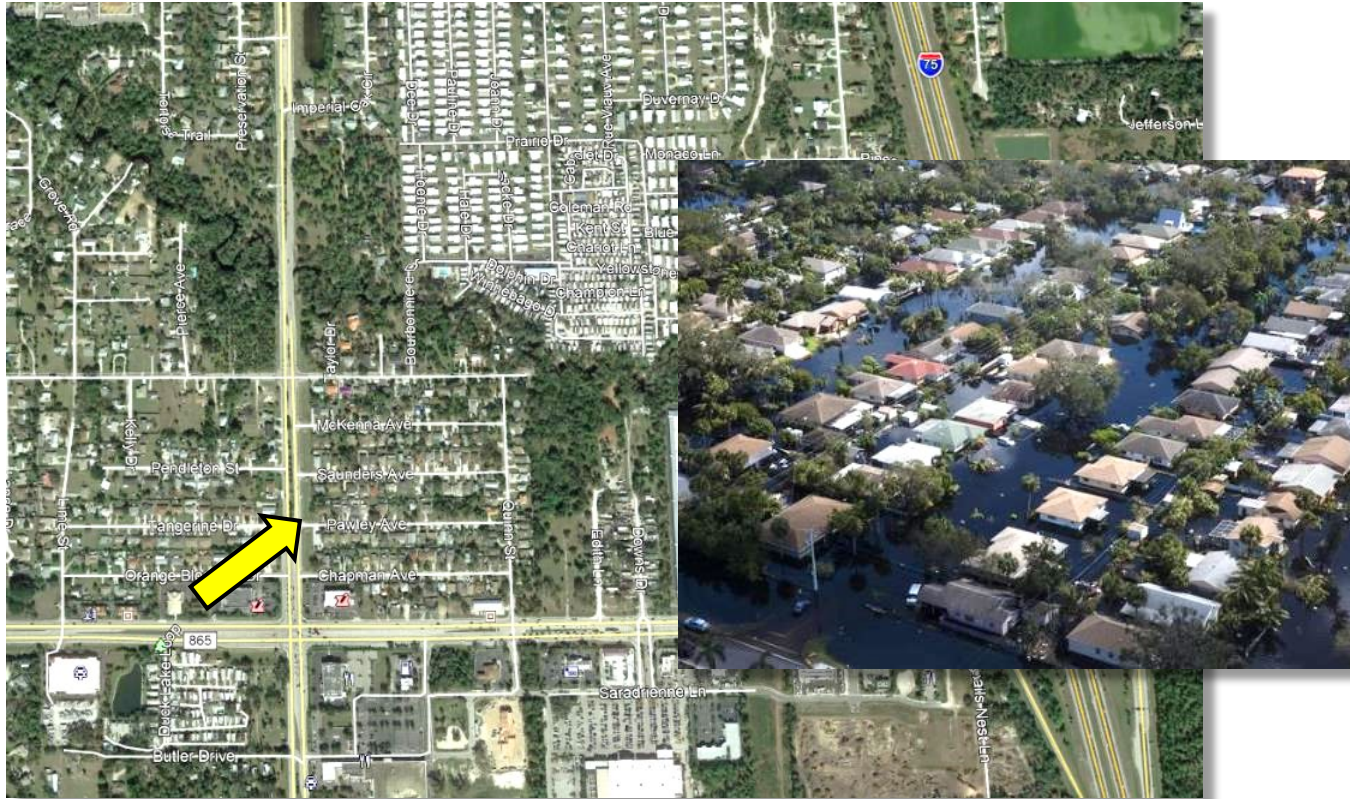
Case Study #2, Southern Lee County



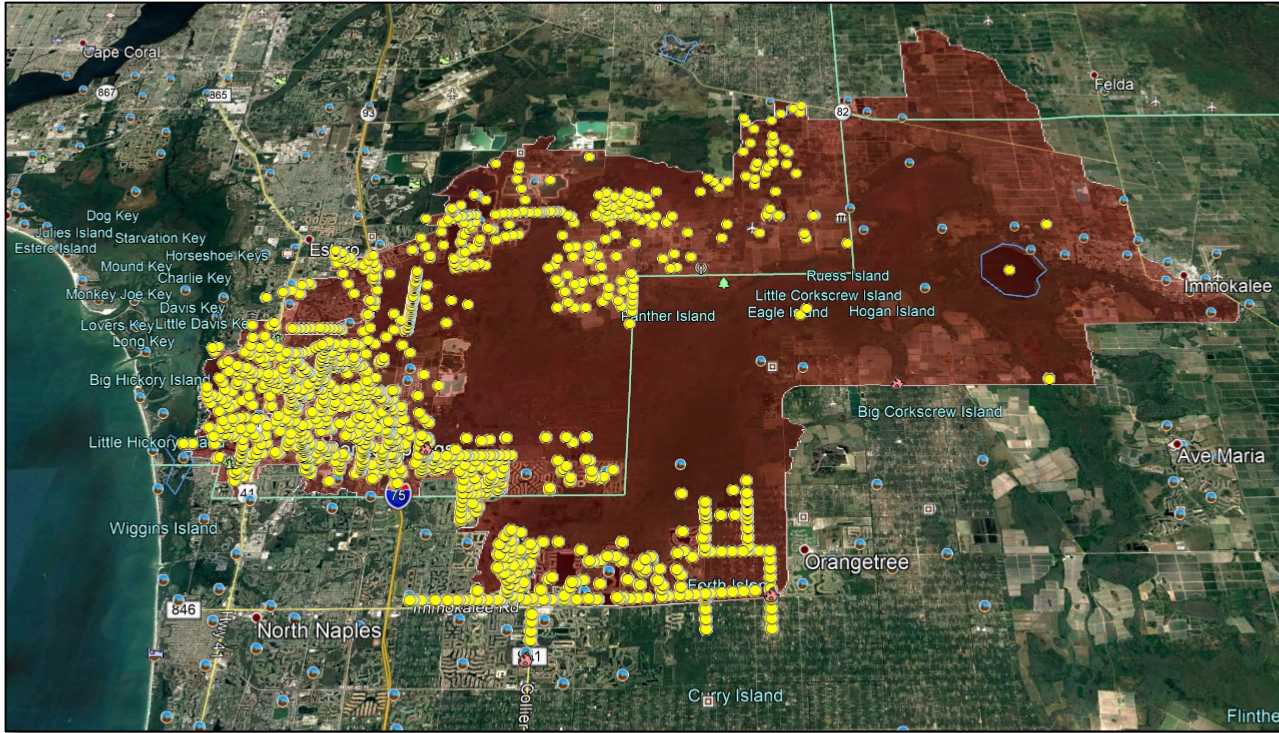
INVEST 92L
August 25-27, 2017

IRMA
September 9-11, 2017

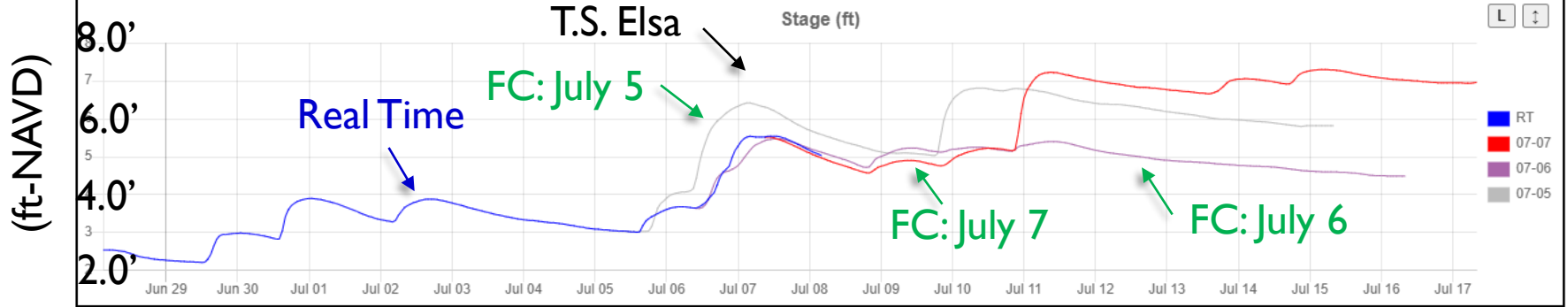
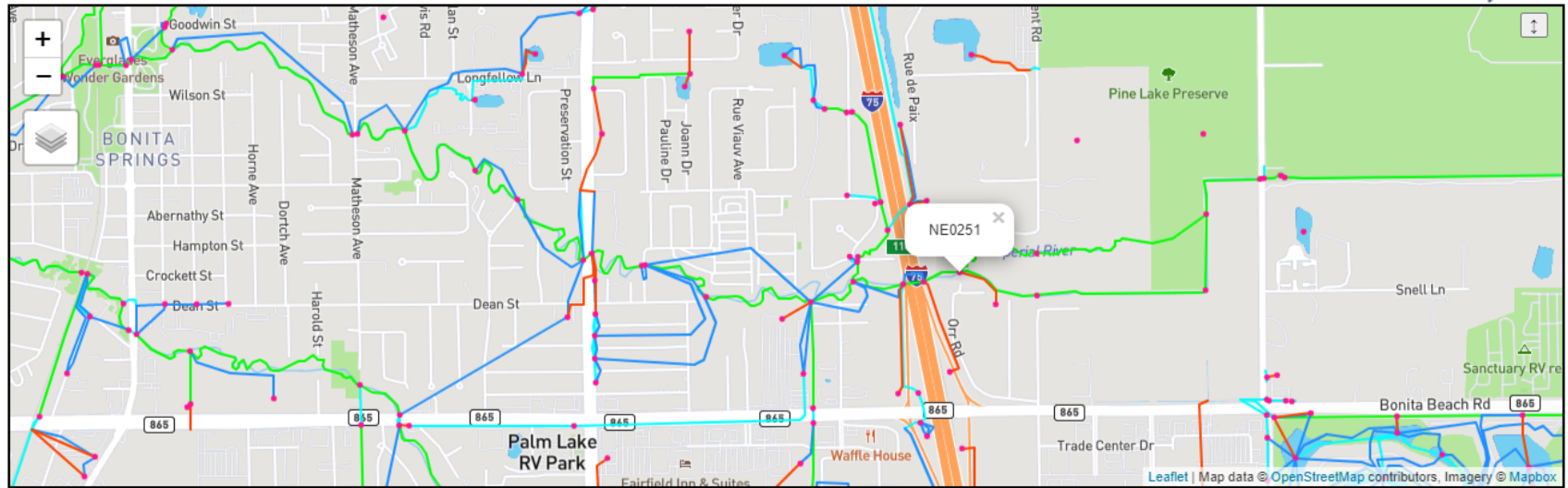
Case Study #2, Southern Lee County



Case Study #2, Southern Lee County



Coastal/Inland Integration
Possible



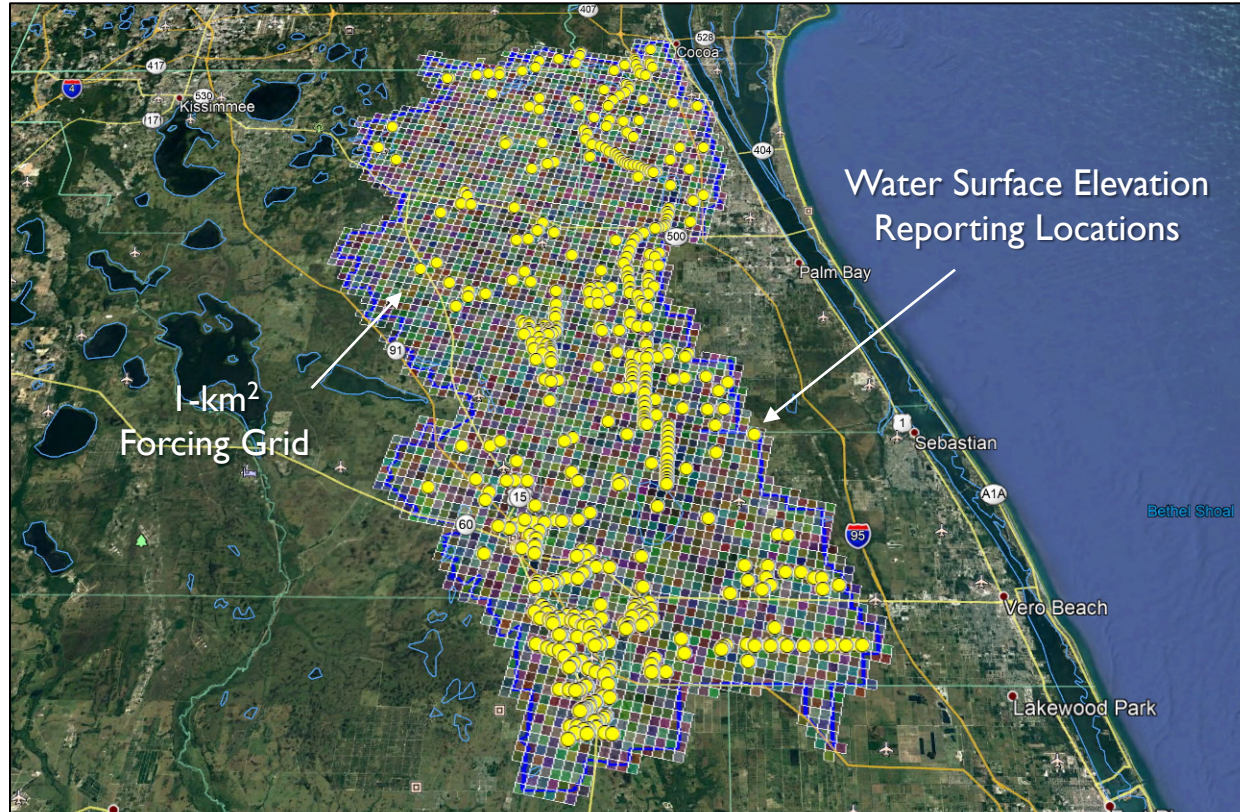
Case Study #3, Upper St. Johns River Basin



Acknowledgements



Case Study #3, Upper St. Johns River Basin



- Model Domain – 1,333 mi²
- 3,900 1-km² forcing grids
- Flood control, water supply, environmental conservation
- Complex levee and canal systems
- ~50 agricultural pump stations
- ~35 major water control structures with gated spillways, gated culverts and large fixed crested weirs

Case Study #3, Upper St. Johns River Basin

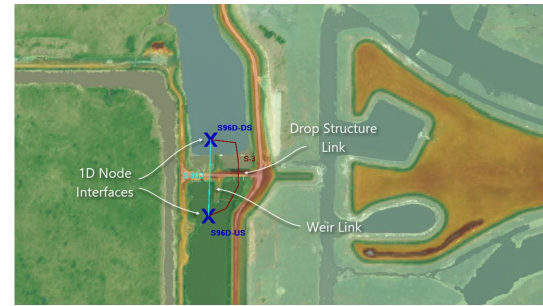


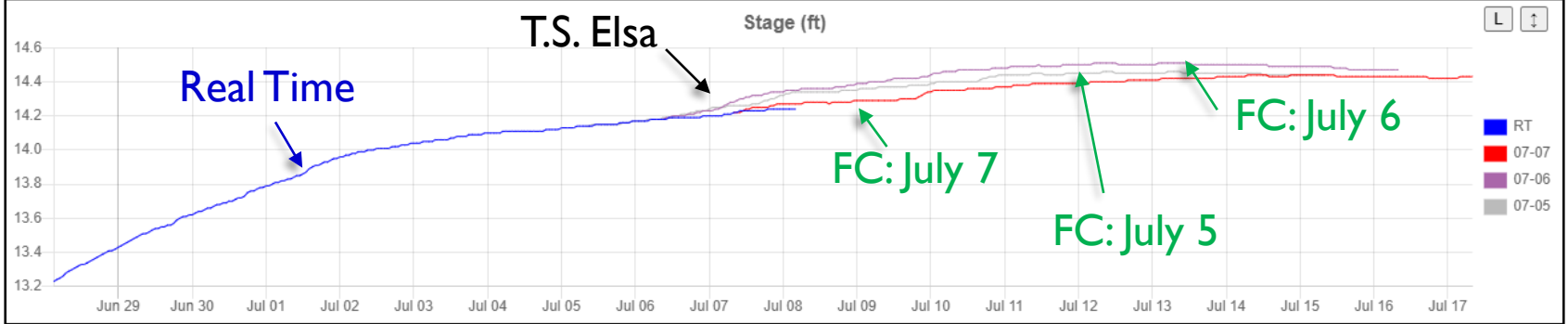
Gate Structures S-96B and S-96C
(Source: Star Controls)



Gate Structure S-96D and S-3
(Source: Star Controls)

Complex operable
structures
incorporated into
model





Back to Our Original RTFF Questions

1. Can existing (hyper-resolution) watershed models be leveraged for flood forecasting purposes? **YES**
2. Are reliable and reasonably accurate forecast data readily available? **YES**
3. Can the process be automated? **YES**
4. Can a RTFF system be used for operational decision making? **YES**

Mitigating Flood Risk with a Real-Time Flood Forecasting System

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Questions?

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Kent Boulicault: kjb@saiengineers.com