Review of Initial Recommendations of the Miami-Dade County WATF

Miami-Dade County Wetlands Advisory Task Force

December 19, 2011

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Permitting, Environment and Regulatory Affairs
Recommendation: Propose Code Change to Include a Limited Exemption for Ag

- For use on projects where the proposed impacts are to 10 acres or less of wetlands
- No additional fill may be brought to site except to replace removed trees
- Exotic vegetation coverage for area of proposed work is greater than 90%, or currently in Ag
- Proposed use must be allowable under CDMP and zoning code
- Proposed use must qualify for State Ag wetlands exemption
- Proposed use cannot cause secondary impacts to adjacent wetlands
- Exemption subject to determination by PERA
Recommendation: Proposed Code Change for Deferral of Mitigation for Ag

- Wetland valuation is determined by PERA prior to impacts
- Deferral of mitigation is for Ag use only, change in use requires full mitigation
- No additional fill may be brought to site except to replace removed trees
- Only eligible for areas where exotic vegetation coverage for area of proposed work is greater than 50%
- Proposed use must be allowable under CDMP and zoning code
- Proposed use must qualify for State Ag wetlands exemption
- Proposed use cannot cause secondary impacts to adjacent wetlands
- Landowner must proffer a covenant that will define mitigation requirements upon change of land use
Recommendation: Evaluate the Option of Offering Reduced Mitigation for Ag

- For proposed agricultural operations that do not qualify for County exemption or deferral options
- Proposed use must be allowed under CDMP and zoning code
- Proposed use must qualify for State Ag wetlands exemption
- Proposed use cannot cause secondary impacts to adjacent wetlands
- Option would provide for a payment to a County trust fund in lieu of other mitigation options
- Trust fund payment shall only be used for land purchase programs
- Per acre cost should be dependent upon the quality of wetlands impacted
Recommendation: Proposed code change to Add the Definition of Fallowing

- Would set an appropriate period of time that would apply without active cultivation
- Regardless of on-site conditions, property would be considered in active Ag
Recommendation: Consider One Time Resolution for Unresolved Mulched Hurricane Wilma debris Cases

- Miami-Dade County should explore options for a one-time resolution of cases where landowners accepted and placed mulched hurricane debris from Hurricane Wilma on their property
Recommendation: Support County’s Efforts to Streamline the Wetlands Permitting Process

• Providing for additional administrative permit approvals (i.e. less projects needing BCC approval)

• Additional permitting exemptions
Recommendation: Urge the County to Obtain Delegation for State ERP Permitting

- Miami-Dade County should actively pursue delegation of the State ERP program
- Would provide a local office for a one stop permitting process to obtain state and county approvals