



MEMORANDUM GOE
Agenda Item No. 2(U)

107.07-17A MIAMI-DADE/GSA-MAT. MGT.

TO: Hon. Chairperson Barbara Carey-Shuler, Ed.D.
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

DATE: January 13, 2004

FROM: George M. Burgess
County Manager

SUBJECT: Resolution Relating to the
EPA's Proposed Policy Issued
to Help Improve Management
of the Nation's Wastewater
Treatment Facilities

This is an add-on item to seek the Board of County Commission's support to urge the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to implement the proposed wastewater blending policy and provide said resolution to the EPA prior to the close of the comment period. The public comment period for the blending policy ends February 9, 2004.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Board of County Commissioners adopt the attached resolution urging the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to implement its proposed wastewater blending policy. The policy sets a clear set of parameters for wastewater blending to ensure that it is protective of human health and the environment. It will also greatly improve the County's ability to prevent sewer backups during heavy rain events and eliminate the need to construct additional treatment units estimated at \$500 million.

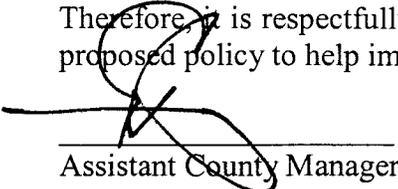
BACKGROUND

In order to prevent sewage from overflowing into homes, streets, and waterways during high rainfall events, wastewater treatment facilities have the unique capability to "blend" a stream of fully treated sewage with a stream of partially treated sewage, at the treatment plant, in such a way that the combined flow meets all the wastewater standards required by the Federal Clean Water Act. When the combined flow is disposed of, it is required to meet all permit limitations. Such "blending" of two wastewater streams would only be done for the duration of the high rainfall event. The EPA's proposed policy recognizes this capability, and properly establishes criteria for utilities to follow to assure compliance with the permit limits.

Recently completed studies in Miami-Dade County reveal that without the proposed EPA policy, expenditures exceeding \$500 million in additional treatment units could be required by the County. These additional treatment facilities would be needed only for approximately ten days of heavy rains per year, would have no environmental benefit, and would not improve the system's ability to meet its effluent requirements. The burden of meeting these federally mandated, unfunded requirements would be left solely to the County's ratepayers, making necessary large rate increases for years to come. As stated in Vol. 68 of the Federal Register, it is EPA's intent, by this proposed policy, to ensure that permit requirements be applied in a nationally consistent manner that improves the capacity, management, operation and maintenance of treatment plants and collection systems and protects human health and environment.

Reducing the frequency and volume of sewage collection system overflows and backups into homes and other buildings and improving the structural integrity of sewer systems to reduce infiltration have been a major goal of the Miami-Dade Water and Sewer Department. In the past ten years, the department has invested more than \$900 million into updating the County's wastewater collection and optimizing the operation of its treatment facilities. The proposed blending policy would allow the County to develop a valid and cost-effective approach for managing wet weather flows that is protective of human health and the environment without unnecessarily burdening our ratepayers.

Therefore, it is respectfully requested that the Board adopt the attached resolution supporting the EPA's proposed policy to help improve management of the wastewater treatment facilities.



Assistant County Manager



MEMORANDUM

(Revised)

TO: Hon. Chairperson Barbara Carey-Shuler, Ed.D.
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

DATE: February 3, 2004

FROM: Robert A. Ginsburg
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Agenda Item No.

Please note any items checked.

- "4-Day Rule" ("3-Day Rule" for committees) applicable if raised
- 6 weeks required between first reading and public hearing
- 4 weeks notification to municipal officials required prior to public hearing
- Decreases revenues or increases expenditures without balancing budget
- Budget required
- Statement of fiscal impact required
- Bid waiver requiring County Manager's written recommendation
- Ordinance creating a new board requires detailed County Manager's report for public hearing
- Housekeeping item (no policy decision required)
- No committee review

Approved _____ Mayor
Veto _____
Override _____

Agenda Item No.

RESOLUTION NO. _____

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION AGENCY'S PROPOSED NATIONAL
WASTEWATER BLENDING POLICY

WHEREAS, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has proposed a national blending policy that provides guidance to help local governments operate their wastewater treatment facilities and to help prevent the overflow of raw sewage into homes and waterways during heavy rain storms; and

WHEREAS, the policy ensures that during periods of heavy rain, blended wastewater flows comply with the Clean Water Act; and

WHEREAS, the EPA believes the proposed policy will provide practical solutions to local governments while maintaining and improving water quality

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, that:

Section 1. The Miami-Dade Board of County Commissioners supports the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's proposed national blending policy.

Section 2. The Clerk of the Board is directed to transmit a certified copy of this resolution to the

President of the Senate and the Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Administrator of the United States Environmental Protection Agency, Michael O. Leavitt, and the Chair of the Miami-Dade County Legislative Delegation.

The foregoing resolution was offered by Commissioner _____, who moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by Commissioner _____ and upon being put to a vote, the vote was as follows:

Dr. Barbara Carey-Shuler, Chairperson	
Katy Sorenson, Vice-Chairperson	
Bruno A. Barreiro	Jose "Pepe" Diaz
Betty T. Ferguson	Sally A. Heyman
Joe A. Martinez	Jimmy L. Morales
Dennis C. Moss	Dorrin D. Rolle
Natacha Seijas	Rebeca Sosa
Sen. Javier D. Souto	

The Chairperson thereupon declared the resolution duly passed and adopted this 3rd day of February, 2004. This resolution shall become effective ten (10) days after the date of its adoption unless vetoed by the Mayor, and if vetoed, shall become effective only upon an override by this Board.

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA
BY ITS BOARD OF
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

HARVEY RUVIN, CLERK

Approved by County Attorney as
to form and legal sufficiency.  By: _____

Deputy Clerk