Memorandum

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY

GOE
Agenda Item No.
2(C)

Date: February 12, 2008

To: Honorable Chairman Bruno A. Barreiro and Members, Board of County Commissioners

From: George M. Burgess
County Manager

Subject: Resolution Adding MetroZoo Pinelands to the Environmentally Endangered Lands (EEL) Priority A List and Cutler Wetlands North Addition Hammock to the EEL Priority B List

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Recommendation
It is recommended that the Board approve the attached resolution adding the MetroZoo Pineland to the EEL Priority A Acquisition List and adding the Cutler Wetlands North Addition Hammock to the EEL Priority B Acquisition List. This resolution is based on the unanimous recommendations of the Land Acquisition Selection Committee (LASC) at their December 10, 2007 public hearing.

Scope
These two sites are in Commission Districts 8 and 9.

Fiscal Impact/Funding Source
There is no acquisition cost for the MetroZoo pinelands. The EEL Management Trust Fund will provide the land management funding.

Once added to the EEL Priority B Acquisition List, the Cutler Wetlands North Addition Hammock can be purchased with up to 50% EEL funds from the Building Better Communities General Obligation Bond (GOB) or, if GOB funds are unavailable, the EEL Acquisition Trust Fund. A funding partner will need to be identified for the other 50% of the acquisition cost.

Track Record/Monitor
Not Applicable

Background
Funding provided by the Miami-Dade Park and Recreation Department (MDPR) to support the management of natural areas has decreased in recent years. Since September 2003, MDPR has proposed transferring the management of 17 natural areas in existing County parks to the EEL Program and the Board of County Commissioners has approved 16 of these. Placing the MetroZoo Pinelands on the EEL Priority A List allows the EEL Program to accept the property for management. The LASC deferred consideration of the MetroZoo property until the referendum on the MetroZoo improvements was approved in 2006. The subject natural areas lie within the boundaries of Miami MetroZoo (see Attachment A) and portions abut environmental lands currently managed by EEL at Larry & Penny Thompson Park and the Martinez Pineland. This resolution will unify the management of these natural areas while MDPR will continue to maintain buildings and other developed, landscaped, or cleared areas.

The Cutler Wetlands North Addition Hammock proposed for addition to the EEL Priority B List consists of 37 acres within two non-contiguous natural areas located west and south of the privately owned Palmetto Bay Village Center/former Burger King Headquarters complex (see Attachment B). The natural areas consist of mixed upland forest (transitional pineland and

hammock), transverse glade (exotics-dominated freshwater wetlands), exotics-dominated coastal wetlands, herbaceous flats, white mangroves and a small band of dense and sparse scrub mangroves. The diversity of the natural habitats on the property and their high degree of biological continuity with adjacent and nearby natural areas, such as the coastal areas of Biscayne National Park, are clearly beneficial to high wildlife usage and biological diversity.

Assistant County Manager

MEMORANDUM

(Revised)

TO: Honorable Chairman Bruno A. Barreiro and Members, Board of County Commissioners

DATE: March 4, 2008

FROM: R. A. Cuevas, Jr. 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 Agenda Item No.

Veto _____

Override _____

RESOLUTION NO. _____

RESOLUTION ADDING METROZOO PINELANDS TO THE ENVIRONMENTALLY ENDANGERED LANDS (EEL) PRIORITY A LIST AND CUTLER WETLANDS NORTH ADDITION HAMMOCK TO THE EEL PRIORITY B LIST

WHEREAS, this Board desires to accomplish the purposes outlined in the accompanying memorandum, a copy of which is incorporated herein by reference; and

WHEREAS, this Board desires to accomplish the purposes of Section 24-50 of the Code of Miami-Dade County,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, that this Board hereby approves the addition of the natural areas of Miami MetroZoo as shown in Attachment A to the EEL Priority A Acquisition List and into the EEL Program for the purpose of management in perpetuity as environmental lands in accordance with the purposes and requirements of the EEL program; approves the addition of 37 acres of the Cutler Wetlands North Addition Hammock as shown in Attachment B to the EEL Priority B Acquisition List; and authorizes the County Manager to proceed with appraisals, environmental assessments, and other activities as necessary to pursue the acquisition of the projects on the EEL Acquisition Lists, to negotiate for the acquisition of each project in its entirety, or for any portion thereof that would further the purposes for which the EEL Program was established, and to present any and all purchase contracts which are negotiated pursuant to this resolution to the Board of County Commissioners for final approval.

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:

Bruno A. Barreiro, Chairman
Barbara J. Jordan, Vice-Chairwoman

Jose "Pepe" Diaz	Audrey M. Edmonson
Carlos A. Gimenez	Sally A. Heyman
Joe A. Martinez	Dennis C. Moss
Dorrin D. Rolle	Natacha Seijas
Katy Sorenson	Rebeca Sosa
Sen. Javier D. Souto	

The Chairperson thereupon declared the resolution duly passed and adopted this 4th day of March, 2008. 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

By:_____
Deputy Clerk

Approved by County Attorney as
to form and legal sufficiency.

Robert A. Duvall

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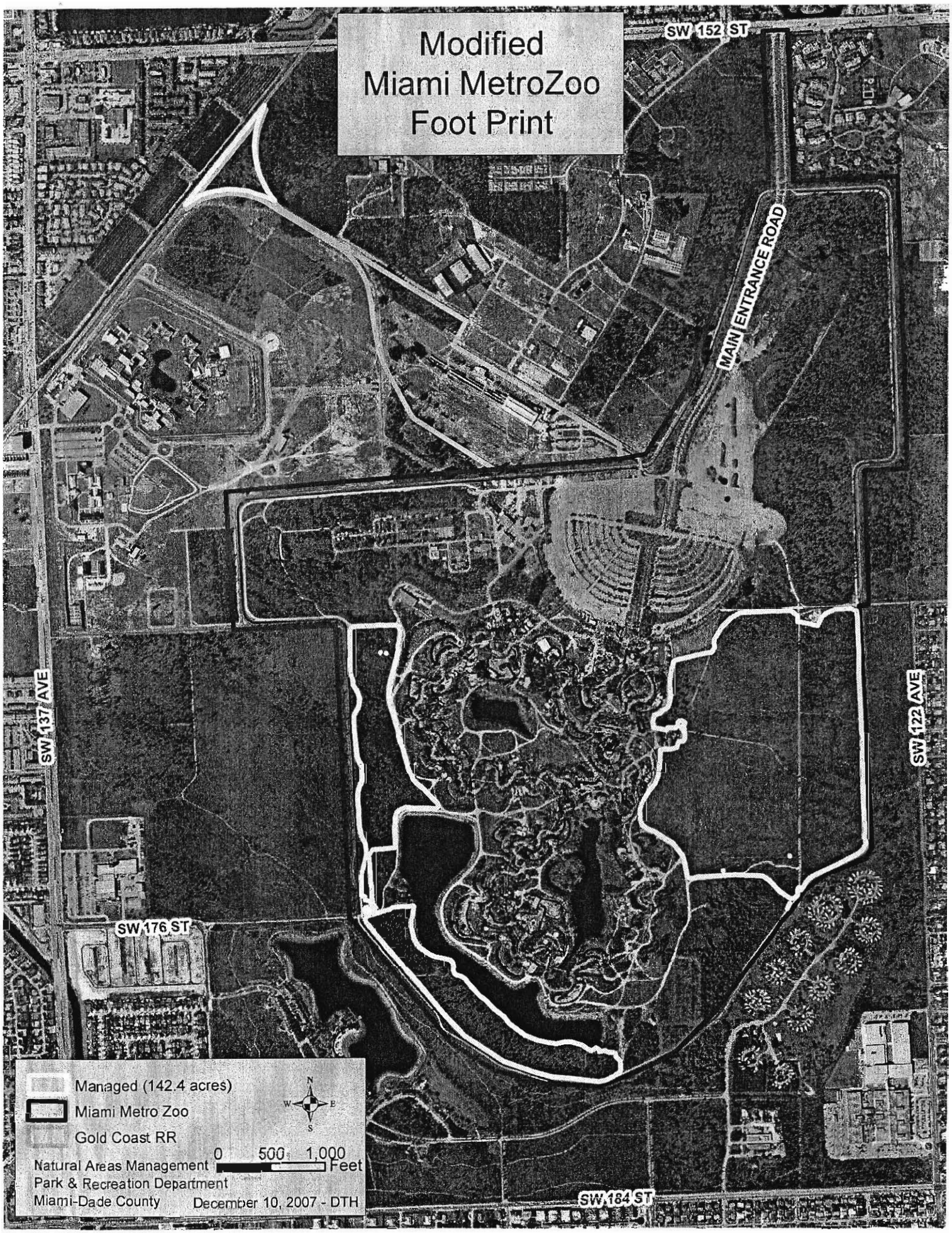
ATTACHMENT A



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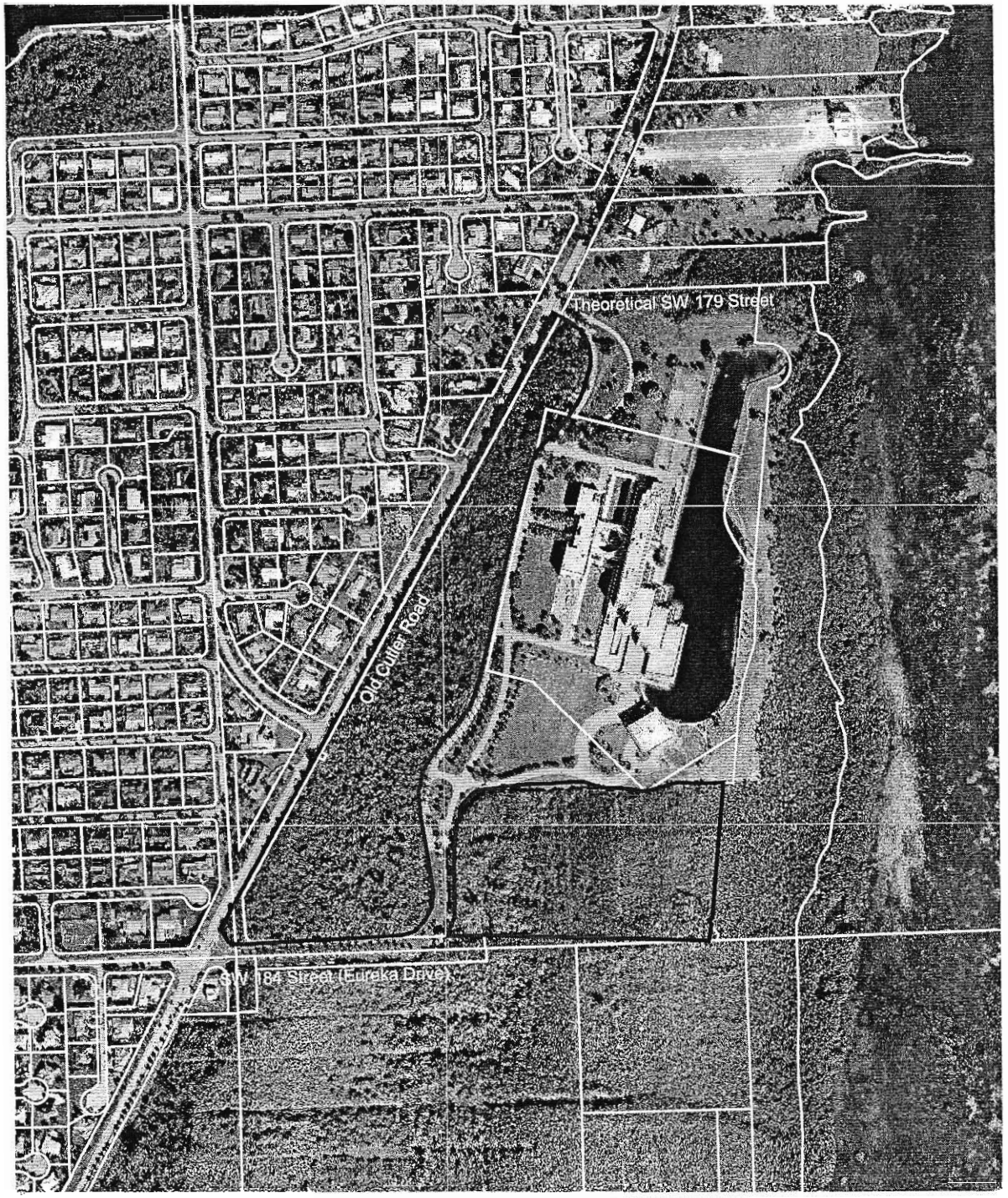
ATTACHMENT B



Cutler Wetlands North Addition
Palmetto Bay Village Center
Proposed EEL Project
2007 Update
Figure 1

Boundary for Cutler Wetlands North Addition
Parcel Boundaries

N
W E
S

400 0 400 800 1200 Feet

cwna_2007.apr - October 22, 2007 - GMB