Memorandum

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY

Date: April 8, 2008

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

From: George M. Burgess
County Manager

Agenda Item No. 8(D)(1)(B)

Subject: Resolution Adding MetroZoo Pinelands to the Environmentally Endangered Lands (EEL) Program Acquisition List

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Recommendation
It is recommended that the Board adopt the attached resolution adding the MetroZoo Pineland to the EEL Priority A List. This resolution is based on the unanimous recommendation from the Land Acquisition Selection Committee (LASC) following their December 10, 2007 public hearing.

Scope
The EEL Program is countywide in nature.

Fiscal Impact/Funding Source
There is no acquisition cost for the MetroZoo pinelands. The EEL Management Trust Fund with a current balance of more than $20 million will be used to provide the management funding. The total remaining in the EEL Trust Funds for acquisition and management exceeds $68 million. The EEL program has brought in over $80 million in grants and GOB funds since 1990 to supplement the original $90 million in the Trust Funds. The EEL Management Trust Fund was created specifically to address the long-term management needs of natural areas, by providing a source of funding for maintaining and preserving natural resource values by employing management techniques that are most appropriate for each native community.

Track Record/Monitor
Not Applicable

Background
Funding provided by the Park and Recreation Department (MDPR) to support the management of natural areas has decreased in recent years. In FY 2003-2004, no County funds were budgeted for the care of the natural areas in County Parks. Since September 2003, MDPR has proposed transferring the management of 17 natural areas in existing County parks to the EEL Program. In 2004 and 2005, the Commission approved placing 16 of these within the EEL program (R-406-04, R-522-04, and R-50-05). The only natural area that was not included was the MetroZoo pinelands because the LASC wanted to wait for the referendum regarding further development on County-owned property adjacent to Miami MetroZoo to occur in November 2006. In response to concerns of stakeholders, there was an earmarked allocation within the existing parks budget for $100,000 for natural areas management, but there is no mechanism to ensure that allocation will occur beyond the current fiscal year.

Placing the MetroZoo Pinelands on the EEL Priority A List allows the EEL program to accept the property for management. 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 and helps to assure their status as environmental lands in perpetuity. Parks will continue to maintain any buildings and other developed, landscaped, or cleared areas.

The MetroZoo Pinelands are comprised of the ecological community known as a pine rocklands. Pine rocklands are a designated as globally-imperiled habitat that occurs only in southern Miami-Dade County, the Florida Keys and a few Bahamian Islands. More than 20% of the plant species in pine rocklands are found nowhere else in the world. Five of these plant species are federally listed as threatened or endangered. These pinelands, interspersed with hardwood hammocks, once covered 180,000 acres of Miami-Dade County. By 1996, only 2% of the pine forest remained, most of it within the protective border of Everglades National Park. The pine rocklands around MetroZoo are the largest strand of this type of habitat found outside of the National Park.

Assistant County Manager

MEMORANDUM

(Revised)

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

DATE: April 8, 2008

FROM: R. A. Cuevas, Jr. County Attorney

SUBJECT: Agenda Item No. 8(D)(1)(B)

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. 8(D)(1)(B)
4-8-08

RESOLUTION NO. _____

RESOLUTION ADDING THE METROZOO PINELANDS NATURAL AREAS TO THE ENVIRONMENTALLY ENDANGERED LANDS (EEL) PRIORITY A ACQUISITION LIST FOR MANAGEMENT BY THE EEL PROGRAM

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 Pinelands as shown in Attachment A to the EEL Priority A Acquisition List for the purpose of management in perpetuity by the EEL Program as environmental lands in accordance with the purposes and requirements of the EEL Program.

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 8th day of April, 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

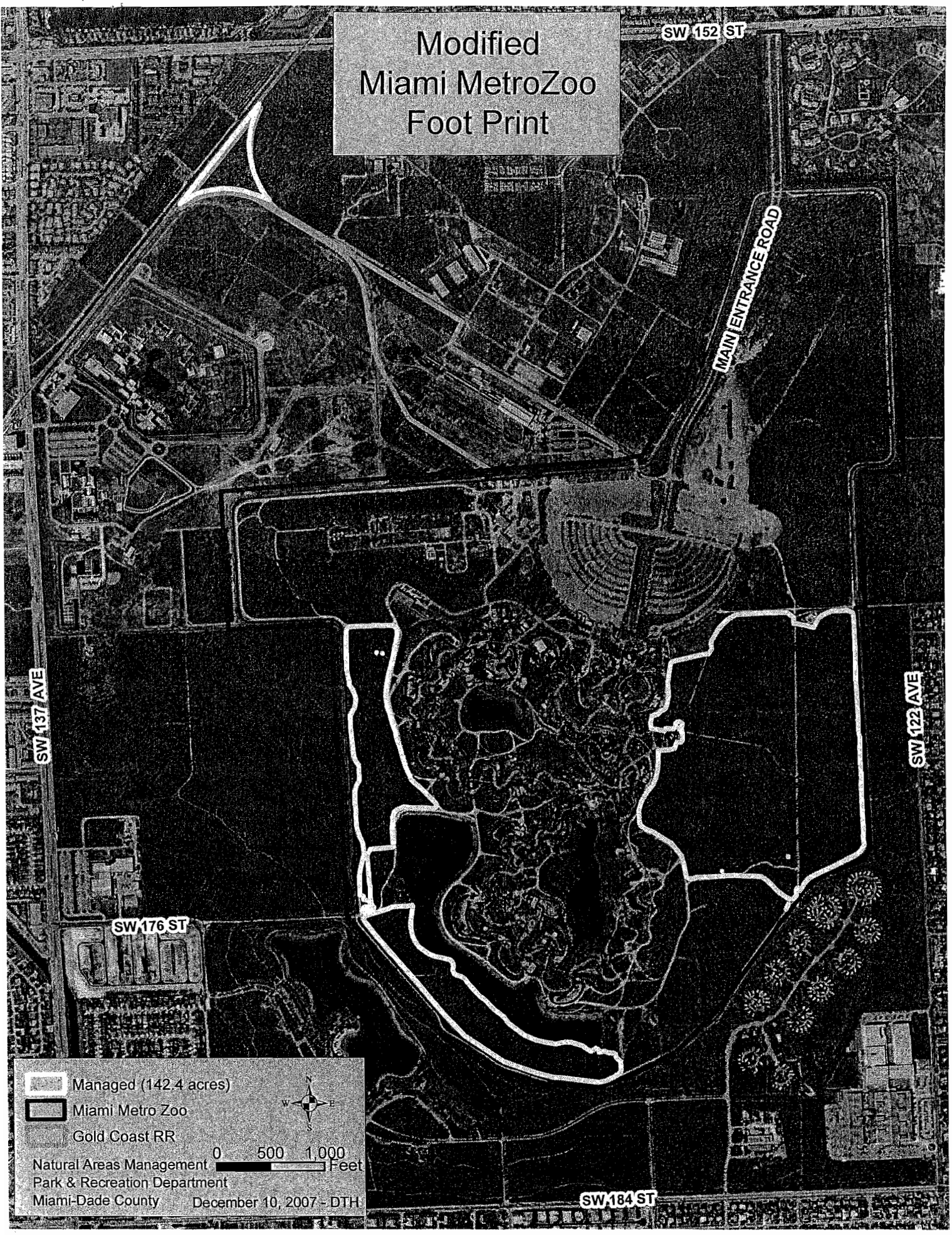
HARVEY RUVIN, CLERK

By:_____
Deputy Clerk

Approved by County Attorney as
to form and legal sufficiency.

Robert A. Duvall

ATTACHMENT A



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