



MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(9)

TO: Honorable Chairman Joe A. Martinez
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

DATE: February 15, 2011

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

SUBJECT: Resolution urging the President and the U.S. Congress to budget and appropriate \$75 million in federal construction funding for the deep dredge project at the Port of Miami; urging the Governor and Florida Legislature to identify State funding sources to assist in the timely completion of the deep dredge project

The accompanying resolution was prepared and placed on the agenda at the request of Prime Sponsor Commissioner Rebeca Sosa.

R. A. Cuevas, Jr.
County Attorney

RAC/cp



MEMORANDUM

(Revised)

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and Members, Board of County Commissioners

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Please note any items checked.

- "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**
- Ordinance creating a new board requires detailed County Manager's report for public hearing**
- No committee review**
- Applicable legislation requires more than a majority vote (i.e., 2/3's ____, 3/5's ____, unanimous____) to approve**
- Current information regarding funding source, index code and available balance, and available capacity (if debt is contemplated) required**

Approved _____ Mayor
Veto _____
Override _____

Agenda Item No.
2-15-11

RESOLUTION NO. _____

RESOLUTION URGING THE PRESIDENT AND THE U.S. CONGRESS TO BUDGET AND APPROPRIATE \$75 MILLION IN FEDERAL CONSTRUCTION FUNDING FOR THE DEEP DREDGE PROJECT AT THE PORT OF MIAMI; URGING THE GOVERNOR AND FLORIDA LEGISLATURE TO IDENTIFY STATE FUNDING SOURCES TO ASSIST IN THE TIMELY COMPLETION OF THE DEEP DREDGE PROJECT

WHEREAS, the deep dredge project at the Port of Miami is one of the most important infrastructure projects in Florida and has nationwide significance in support of international trade, commerce, and job creation; and

WHEREAS, the deep dredge project, now in the planning, engineering, and design stage, entails dredging the Port of Miami channel to minus 50 feet from its current depth of minus 42 feet; and

WHEREAS, the Army Corp of Engineers is scheduled to complete the design work in 2011 and with federal construction dollars appropriated bids would be let in 2012 with a projected completion date in 2014; and

WHEREAS, this timetable would coincide with the scheduled opening of the expanded Panama Canal in 2014; and

WHEREAS, beginning in 2014, large numbers of Super Post-Panamax megaships that previously offloaded cargo on the West Coast of the U.S. will instead be able to traverse the expanded Panama Canal, presenting an unprecedented, one-time opportunity for the Port of Miami to significantly expand its cargo business; and

WHEREAS, three East Coast ports, New York, Baltimore and Norfolk, already have deepened their waters to meet the necessary 50-foot depth; and

WHEREAS, the Port of Miami has received authorization to dredge to the minus 50-foot level and has the ability to complete the project by 2014; and

WHEREAS, without additional East Coast deep draft capacity in place by 2014, the U.S. is at risk of losing jobs to other seaports overseas, as the larger Super Post-Panamax ships have the option of calling at nearby foreign ports such as Freeport, Bahamas; and

WHEREAS, the Port of Miami has approximately 6,200 lineal feet of berth space, supported by Super Post-Panamax cranes capable of servicing the largest ships in the world; and

WHEREAS, the first and third largest cargo lines in the world currently make the Port of Miami their southernmost point of operation in the U.S., and have joined with the Port of Miami in an aggressive landside infrastructure program to improve and expand facilities to accommodate additional cargo business; and

WHEREAS, the deep dredge project provides a high return on the investment, with the scope of the dredge at the Port of Miami being only 2.5 nautical miles, a relatively short distance compared to other potential ports, and the Port of Miami's harbor only requiring maintenance dredging every 10 years rather than river ports that require annual maintenance; and

WHEREAS, it is estimated that the deep dredge project would enable the Port of Miami to double its cargo business over the next 10 years and create more than 30,000 new, high paying, permanent jobs; and

WHEREAS, the deep dredge project will pay dividends not only for Miami-Dade County, but throughout the state and nation for decades to come; and

WHEREAS, the deep dredge project has received Congressional approval, but the Port of Miami must secure a federal construction funds to keep the project on track,

4

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

Section 1. Urges the President and Congress to budget and appropriate \$75 million in construction funds for the Port of Miami deep dredge project.

Section 2. Urges Florida's Governor and the Florida Legislature to identify state funding sources to assist in the timely completion of the deep dredge project to promote job growth in the State of Florida.

Section 3. Directs the Clerk of the Board to transmit a certified copy of this resolution to the President, the members of the Florida Congressional Delegation, the Governor of Florida, Florida Senate President, Florida House Speaker and the Chair and Members of the Miami-Dade State Legislative Delegation.

Section 4. Directs the County's federal and state lobbyists to advocate for the passage of the legislation as set forth in Sections 1 and 2 above, and authorizes and directs the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs to include this item in the 2011 Federal and State Legislative Packages.

The Prime Sponsor of the foregoing resolution is Commissioner Rebeca Sosa. It 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:

Joe A. Martinez, Chairman	
Audrey M. Edmonson, Vice Chairwoman	
Bruno A. Barreiro	Lynda Bell
Jose "Pepe" Diaz	Carlos A. Gimenez
Sally A. Heyman	Barbara J. Jordan
Jean Monestime	Dennis C. Moss
Natacha Seijas	Rebeca Sosa
Sen. Javier D. Souto	

5

The Chairperson thereupon declared the resolution duly passed and adopted this 15th day of February, 2011. 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.



Jess M. McCarty