

MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 14(A)(2)

TO: Honorable Chairwoman Rebeca Sosa
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

DATE: May 6, 2014

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

SUBJECT: Resolution urging the South Florida Water Management District and U.S. Army Corps of engineers to fully implement and operate the Modified Water Deliveries Project and the C-111 project to end flood impacts to agricultural properties in southern Miami-Dade County caused by water management activities

The accompanying resolution was prepared and placed on the agenda at the request of Prime Sponsor Vice Chair Lynda Bell.



R. A. Cuevas, Jr.
County Attorney

RAC/cp



MEMORANDUM
(Revised)

TO: Honorable Chairwoman Rebeca Sosa
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

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County Attorney

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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 Mayor'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. 14(A)(2)
5-6-14

RESOLUTION NO. _____

RESOLUTION URGING THE SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT AND U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS TO FULLY IMPLEMENT AND OPERATE THE MODIFIED WATER DELIVERIES PROJECT AND THE C-111 PROJECT TO END FLOOD IMPACTS TO AGRICULTURAL PROPERTIES IN SOUTHERN MIAMI-DADE COUNTY CAUSED BY WATER MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

WHEREAS, southern Miami-Dade County has had a thriving agricultural economy for over a century, providing fresh fruit, vegetables and horticultural products to the residents of this County and to the nation as a whole; and

WHEREAS, a healthy agricultural sector is important to the economy of Miami-Dade County and quality of life of its residents, employing 20,000 people and generating \$2.7 billion in annual economic impact; and

WHEREAS, high water tables flood the root zone of the agricultural crops, which causes rot, fungus, bacteria and other issues to develop which kill both trees and row crops; and

WHEREAS, several revisions to the regional water management system were designed to simultaneously increase water levels in Everglades National Park, maintain water supplies for agriculture and the public, and provide additional flood protection for agricultural areas in southern Miami-Dade County, including the C-111 Project and the Modified Water Deliveries Project; and

WHEREAS, Miami-Dade County has supported South Florida ecosystem restoration projects because they are designed to both protect natural areas and provide for the other water related needs of South Florida, including agricultural flood protection; and

WHEREAS, more than 10,000 acres of viable agricultural land have been transferred to government ownership to implement these restoration projects; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has yet to fully implement either the C-111 Project or the Modified Water Deliveries Project to increase water levels in Everglades National Park and provide adequate flood protection to agricultural lands in southern Miami-Dade County, despite those projects having been approved more than 20 years ago; and

WHEREAS, fruit orchards in southern Miami-Dade County have suffered extensive damage as a result of higher water levels in recent years, including the loss of hundreds of acres of avocado groves to root fungus; and

WHEREAS, the high water table resulted in extensive agricultural flooding in the past six months which prevented the growing of crops on hundreds of acres of agricultural land across southern Miami-Dade County; and

WHEREAS, farmers in Miami-Dade County have not seen this level of flood damage, except during years where tropical storms or hurricanes have affected South Florida, and continued flood impacts such as those currently being experienced threaten the long-term viability of southern Miami-Dade County's agricultural economy; and

WHEREAS, the C-111 Project will improve conditions in Everglades National Park Taylor Slough, which in turn will improve the timing, distribution, and quantity of water in Florida Bay, while initiating crucial environmental restoration in the Southern Glades and Model Lands,

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

Section 1. Urges the South Florida Water Management District and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to take immediate short-term measures to provide flood relief for agricultural areas in southern Miami-Dade County, and to develop long-term measures to minimize agricultural flooding in the future, while maintaining water supplies for the environment, agriculture and the public.

Section 2. Urges the South Florida Water Management District and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to fully implement and operate the C-111 Project and Modified Water Deliveries Project to increase water levels in Everglades National Park while decreasing water levels in agricultural areas of southern Miami-Dade County.

Section 3. Directs the Clerk of the Board to send a certified copy of this resolution to the members of the Miami-Dade County's Congressional Delegation, Governor Rick Scott, the Chair and Members of Miami-Dade County's State Legislative Delegation, the District Commander of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Jacksonville District, and the Executive Director of the South Florida Water Management District.

The Prime Sponsor of the foregoing resolution is Vice Chair Lynda Bell. 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:

Rebeca Sosa, Chairwoman

Lynda Bell, Vice Chair

Bruno A. Barreiro

Jose "Pepe" Diaz

Sally A. Heyman

Jean Monestime

Sen. Javier D. Souto

Juan C. Zapata

Esteban L. Bovo, Jr.

Audrey M. Edmonson

Barbara J. Jordan

Dennis C. Moss

Xavier L. Suarez

The Chairperson thereupon declared the resolution duly passed and adopted this 6th day of May, 2014. 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.



Henry N. Gillman