

# MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(33)

**TO:** Honorable Chairman Jean Monestime  
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

**DATE:** February 3, 2015

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

**SUBJECT:** Resolution urging the  
Governing Board of the South  
Florida Water Management  
District to restore funding for  
the Biscayne Bay Surface  
Water Quality Monitoring  
Program administered by  
Miami-Dade County's  
Department of Regulatory &  
Economic Resources, Division  
of Environmental Resources  
Management

The accompanying resolution was prepared and placed on the agenda at the request of Prime Sponsor Commissioner Daniella Levine Cava.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
R. A. Cuevas, Jr.  
County Attorney

RAC/jls



**MEMORANDUM**  
(Revised)

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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

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(33)

Veto \_\_\_\_\_

2-3-15

Override \_\_\_\_\_

RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_

RESOLUTION URGING THE GOVERNING BOARD OF THE SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT TO RESTORE FUNDING FOR THE BISCAYNE BAY SURFACE WATER QUALITY MONITORING PROGRAM ADMINISTERED BY MIAMI-DADE COUNTY'S DEPARTMENT OF REGULATORY AND ECONOMIC RESOURCES, DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

**WHEREAS**, the quality of life in Miami-Dade County is dependent on clean water that will support and sustain our community's needs, as well as the needs of our environment and economy; and

**WHEREAS**, compared to other Florida waters, Biscayne Bay is characterized by low concentrations of nutrients and pollutants, and has excellent water clarity that supports robust seagrass meadows, economically-vital fisheries, ecologically-critical habitats such as coral and mangrove communities, and provides recreational opportunities for residents and visitors; and

**WHEREAS**, Biscayne Bay recreational activities are an important part of Miami-Dade County's economy, contributing approximately \$3.8 billion in economic output, \$2.1 billion in income, and 57,000 jobs in 2004, as reported in the 2005 "Biscayne Bay Economic Study," prepared by Hazen and Sawyer Environmental Engineers and Scientists ("Hazen and Sawyer"); and

**WHEREAS**, according to Hazen and Sawyer, the overall economic activities associated with Biscayne Bay-related uses contributed approximately 10.2 percent of the total Miami-Dade County income in 2004, a significant increase from 7.0 percent in 1980, which represented

approximately \$12.7 billion in economic output, \$6.3 billion in income, 138,000 jobs, and \$627 million in tax revenue; and

**WHEREAS**, Biscayne Bay-related activities have also had a positive impact on the southeast Florida economy as a whole, contributing approximately 4 percent of the total income earned in southeast Florida in 2004, up from 3.5 percent in 1980; and

**WHEREAS**, Miami-Dade County's Regulatory and Economic Resources Department (RER), Division of Environmental Resources Management (DERM) regularly monitors surface water quality throughout the County; and

**WHEREAS**, water quality samples are normally collected at 87 locations along Biscayne Bay, as well as at major drainage canals and tributaries leading to Biscayne Bay; and

**WHEREAS**, the importance of surface water quality and its present overall condition was recognized by the state, when it designated the surface waters of Biscayne Bay an Outstanding Florida Water, a designation that provides for the highest levels of protection to assist in maintaining the quality of Biscayne Bay's waters; and

**WHEREAS**, data collected by the County indicates that open water sites in Biscayne Bay and other tidal waters meet or exceed federal, state and local standards for recreational use and support of healthy fish and wildlife populations; and

**WHEREAS**, there are portions of Biscayne Bay, canals, and rivers, however, where the water quality and supported habitats are exhibiting signs of human impact; and

**WHEREAS**, portions of a number of canals in Miami-Dade County's urbanized areas do not meet one or more water quality criteria and are designated by the state as "impaired"; and

**WHEREAS**, the most common problem is an excess of certain types of bacteria that are indicators of sewage contamination, and some portions of Biscayne Bay are affected by excess

nutrients, which may lead to algal blooms that reduce water clarity, damage seagrass and reduce the ecological health of Biscayne Bay; and

**WHEREAS**, according to DERM, events that have occurred during the past 10 years indicate that Biscayne Bay is reaching a tipping point in being able to withstand human-based and natural disturbances; and

**WHEREAS**, DERM's surface water quality monitoring, working in conjunction with seagrass monitoring, has contributed to understanding the changes in these communities and better enables Miami-Dade County to continue implementing many programs that work together to protect and improve the quality of our surface waters; and

**WHEREAS**, while there are multiple efforts underway to improve the quality of waters discharging to Biscayne Bay, it is extremely important that we continue to assess the water quality and habitats of Biscayne Bay; and

**WHEREAS**, for more than two decades, the South Florida Water Management District has contracted with the County to provide funding for Biscayne Bay water quality monitoring; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2014, the South Florida Water Management District provided approximately \$243,435.00 in funding for the Biscayne Bay Surface Water Quality Monitoring Program administered by DERM; and

**WHEREAS**, as of October 2014, the South Florida Water Management District terminated the funding for the Biscayne Bay Surface Water Quality Monitoring Program, resulting in the discontinuance of 20 sampling stations in Biscayne Bay, representing a 47 percent loss of Biscayne Bay's open-water monitoring network; and

**WHEREAS**, DERM's inability to collect data from those 20 sampling points represents a significant loss in its capability to detect changes in water quality and in the overall health of Biscayne Bay; and

**WHEREAS**, the ecological health of Biscayne Bay has a great impact on the environment and economy of Miami-Dade County, which benefits this region and state; and

**WHEREAS**, with respect to the ecology and environment of South Florida, the Biscayne Bay Surface Water Quality Monitoring Program should be one of the top funding priorities for the South Florida Water Management District,

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

**Section 1.** Urges the Governing Board of the South Florida Water Management District to restore funding for the Biscayne Bay Surface Water Quality Monitoring Program administered by Miami-Dade County's Department of Regulatory and Economic Resources, Division of Environmental Resources Management.

**Section 2.** Directs the Clerk of the Board to transmit a certified copy of this resolution to the Governor, the Chair and Members of the Miami-Dade State Legislative Delegation, and the Executive Director of the South Florida Water Management District.

The Prime Sponsor of the foregoing resolution is Commissioner Daniella Levine Cava. 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:

Jean Monestime, Chairman	
Esteban L. Bovo, Jr., Vice Chairman	
Bruno A. Barreiro	Daniella Levine Cava
Jose "Pepe" Diaz	Audrey M. Edmonson
Sally A. Heyman	Barbara J. Jordan
Dennis C. Moss	Rebeca Sosa
Sen. Javier D. Souto	Xavier L. Suarez
Juan C. Zapata	

The Chairperson thereupon declared the resolution duly passed and adopted this 3<sup>rd</sup> day of February, 2015. This resolution shall become effective upon the earlier of (1) 10 days after the date of its adoption unless vetoed by the County Mayor, and if vetoed, shall become effective only upon an override by this Board, or (2) approval by the County Mayor of this Resolution and the filing of this approval with the Clerk of the 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.

APA

Annery Pulgar Alfonso