

MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(16)

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

DATE: December 6, 2016

FROM: Abigail Price-Williams
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Resolution urging the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, and the South Florida Water Management District to expedite the planning of the Everglades Agricultural Area Reservoir Project, a component of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan; and urging the Florida Legislature to prioritize funding to acquire land south of Lake Okeechobee for the purpose of storing and treating water from the lake and sending it south to the greater Everglades ecosystem

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



Abigail Price-Williams
County Attorney

APW/cp



MEMORANDUM
(Revised)

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

DATE: December 6, 2016

FROM: Abigail Price-Williams
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Agenda Item No. 11(A)(16)

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
- Statement of social equity 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. 11(A)(16)
12-6-16

RESOLUTION NO. _____

RESOLUTION URGING THE U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION, AND THE SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT TO EXPEDITE THE PLANNING OF THE EVERGLADES AGRICULTURAL AREA RESERVOIR PROJECT, A COMPONENT OF THE COMPREHENSIVE EVERGLADES RESTORATION PLAN; AND URGING THE FLORIDA LEGISLATURE TO PRIORITIZE FUNDING TO ACQUIRE LAND SOUTH OF LAKE OKEECHOBEE FOR THE PURPOSE OF STORING AND TREATING WATER FROM THE LAKE AND SENDING IT SOUTH TO THE GREATER EVERGLADES ECOSYSTEM

WHEREAS, America's Everglades is a world renowned and globally unique ecosystem, and the Everglades is critical to Miami-Dade's economy, greatly benefitting local businesses and supporting the state's estimated \$67 billion tourism industry, \$13 billion outdoor recreation economy, and \$100 billion agriculture sector; and

WHEREAS, one-third of all Floridians, nearly seven million people, depend on the Everglades for their water supply; and

WHEREAS, protecting and restoring the Everglades is vital to maintaining the environmental and public health, economic prosperity, and clean water supply of Miami-Dade County; and

WHEREAS, Everglades restoration would restore natural flows of water and water quality, and would ensure a reliable adequate supply of freshwater; and

WHEREAS, Miami-Dade County recognizes the immediate need for the additional storage, treatment, and conveyance of water, south of Lake Okeechobee in the Everglades Agricultural Area (EAA), as a key piece of the Everglades restoration puzzle; and

WHEREAS, the 360,000 acre-feet EAA Storage Reservoir project is included in Component G of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP), as a means of providing storage of water south of Lake Okeechobee to help clean excess lake water and bring more such water south into the parched Everglades and Florida Bay where it is desperately needed, instead of being discharged, untreated, into the St. Lucie and Caloosahatchee Rivers; and

WHEREAS, the current Integrated Delivery Schedule, which provides a timeline for the implementation of CERP projects, anticipates that planning for the EAA Reservoir will not commence until 2020, while planning for storage north of Lake Okeechobee, through the Lake Okeechobee Watershed project, is set to begin this year; and

WHEREAS, this Board wishes to support expediting of such efforts for Everglades restoration, which will protect our water supply in Miami-Dade County; and

WHEREAS, the importance of responsibly dealing with water discharges from Lake Okeechobee has been highlighted in recent weeks by the large algae blooms that have plagued certain Florida communities in and around the Caloosahatchee and St. Lucie estuaries into which polluted water from the Lake was discharged; and

WHEREAS, in 2015, this Board adopted Resolution No. R-520-15, which urged the Florida Legislature to set aside funds to acquire land south of Lake Okeechobee for the purpose of storing and treating water from the Lake and sending it south to the greater Everglades ecosystem, but such lands have not been yet been acquired; and

WHEREAS, this Board wishes to again urge the Florida Legislature to allocate funding for the purposes of land acquisition south of Lake Okeechobee in order to store and treat water from the Lake and send it south to the greater Everglades ecosystem,

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

Section 1. Urges the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and South Florida Water Management District to take all steps to expedite planning for the Everglades Agricultural Area reservoir, as outlined in Component G of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan, for the purpose of storing, treating, and conveying freshwater to Everglades National Park and Florida Bay. This Board further urges that planning for the above-mentioned Everglades Agricultural Area reservoir should be combined with the planning for the Lake Okeechobee Watershed project, which is slated to begin later this year, to more holistically and efficiently evaluate water storage needs north and south of Lake Okeechobee.

Section 2. Urges the Florida Legislature to prioritize funding for the acquisition of land south of Lake Okeechobee in the Everglades Agricultural Area to achieve the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Project purposes of storing, treating, and conveying freshwater south to the greater Everglades ecosystem, including Everglades National Park and Florida Bay.

Section 3. Directs the Clerk of the Board to transmit certified copies of this resolution to the members of the Florida Congressional Delegation, the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works, the Governor, the Florida Commissioner of Agriculture, the Chair and members of the Miami-Dade State Legislative Delegation, the Secretary of the Department of Environmental Protection, and the Governing Board and Executive Director of the South Florida Water Management District.

Section 4. Directs the County's state and federal lobbyists to advocate for administrative action and legislation that would accomplish the goals set forth herein and as described in Sections 1 and 2 above, and authorizes and directs the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs to amend the 2016 Federal Legislative Package to include this item and include this item in the 2017 State and Federal Legislative Packages when they are presented to the Board.

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 |
| Joe A. Martinez | Dennis C. Moss |
| Rebeca Sosa | Sen. Javier D. Souto |
| Xavier L. Suarez | |

The Chairperson thereupon declared the resolution duly passed and adopted this 6th day of December, 2016. 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.



Abbie Schwaderer-Raurell