MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(24)

TO:	Honorable Chairman Jean Monestime and Members, Board of County Commissioners	**DATE:**	October 5, 2016
FROM:	Abigail Price-Williams County Attorney	**SUBJECT:**	Resolution urging the United States Congress to authorize and appropriate federal funding to local governments such as Miami-Dade County for infrastructure projects related to sea level rise

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

Abigail Price-Williams
County Attorney

APW/smm

MEMORANDUM

(Revised)

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

DATE: October 5, 2016

FROM: Abigail Price-Williams
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Agenda Item No. 11(A)(24)

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)(24)
10-5-16

RESOLUTION NO. _____

RESOLUTION URGING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO AUTHORIZE AND APPROPRIATE FEDERAL FUNDING TO LOCAL GOVERNMENTS SUCH AS MIAMI-DADE COUNTY FOR INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS RELATED TO SEA LEVEL RISE

WHEREAS, Miami-Dade County, like the rest of South Florida, is understood to be particularly vulnerable to sea level rise due to its low elevation and proximity to the coast; and

WHEREAS, Florida has approximately 1,350 miles of coastline, which is more coastline than any other state besides Alaska; and

WHEREAS, because of this vast coastline and Florida's geographical location, state and local governments in Florida should be leaders in developing solutions to sea level rise and meeting the demands that sea level rise places on our communities, particularly as impacts of sea level rise are expected to increase in the coming decades; and

WHEREAS, in 2013, this Board adopted Resolution No. R-599-13 creating the Miami-Dade County Sea Level Rise Task Force; and

WHEREAS, subsequently in 2014, the Miami-Dade County Sea Level Rise Task Force presented its recommendations, which are available online at http://www.miamidade.gov/govaction/legistarfiles/Matters/Y2014/141493.pdf; and

WHEREAS, in response, this Board has adopted multiple resolutions to implement the recommendations of the Sea Level Rise Task Force, including but not limited to Resolution No. R-48-15, which directed the County Mayor to study and develop adaptation strategies to address flooding and salt water intrusion associated with sea level rise; and Resolution No. R-49-15,

which directed the County Mayor to initiate discussions with private insurance and reinsurance groups, along with other local governments and state agencies, in order to develop long term risk management solutions; and

WHEREAS, earlier this year, this Board also adopted Resolution No. R-168-16 urging the United States Congress to establish a fund that would be used to partner with local governments, such as Miami-Dade County, to provide financial assistance and support for initiatives and projects related to sea level rise; and

WHEREAS, going forward, local governments such as Miami-Dade County will particularly need financial assistance from federal and state counterparts to ensure that all aspects of our infrastructure, including our roadways, bridges, seawalls, drainage mechanisms, and water supply and waste water facilities, are fully equipped to meet the challenges presented by sea level rise; and

WHEREAS, in addition, certain aspects of our infrastructure that use energy, such as pumps, motors, and air conditioners, will need to be made energy-efficient in order to stabilize, and possibly reduce over time, the carbon concentrations in our atmosphere, and this may require additional funding; and

WHEREAS, funding may also be needed to grow and maintain so-called natural infrastructure, including features such as sand dunes, barrier islands, and maritime forests that help lessen storm surge and flooding while also providing habitat, water filtration, and beautiful places we can all enjoy; and

WHEREAS, although building new, and retrofitting existing, infrastructure with sea-level rise in mind may require additional funding in the short-term, doing so is expected to save taxpayers money going forward, because it could significantly reduce the emergency and recovery costs that may otherwise be needed in the years to come; and

WHEREAS, if the federal government provides financial assistance to local governments such as Miami-Dade County for purposes of building new, and retrofitting existing, infrastructure with sea-level rise in mind, the result would be a tremendous, value-added investment; and

WHEREAS, such federal assistance would accelerate the development of success models that could be copied and used by scores of similarly situated communities elsewhere, thus multiplying the utility and effect of federal dollars; and

WHEREAS, such federal assistance could spur a much needed modernization of deteriorating urban and rural infrastructure, which are already in desperate need of updated re-engineering, even putting aside the impacts of sea level rise; and

WHEREAS, such federal assistance and the resulting Miami-Dade County projects and solutions would create new jobs and potentially attract new companies and industry, all of which would substantially enhance our economy at all levels; and

WHEREAS, accordingly, this Board now wishes to request that the United States Congress provide federal funding for such purposes,

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

Section 1. Urges the United States Congress to authorize and allocate federal funding to local governments such as Miami-Dade County to be used for infrastructure projects related to sea level rise.

Section 2. Directs the Clerk of the Board to transmit certified copies of this resolution to the Florida Congressional Delegation.

Section 3. Directs the County's federal lobbyists to advocate for the funding described in Section 1 above, and authorizes and directs the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs to amend the 2016 Federal Legislative Package to include this item, as well as to include this item in the 2017 Federal Legislature Package when it is presented to the Board.

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:

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 5th day of October, 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.

James Eddie Kirtley