

MEMORANDUM

Supplement to:
Agenda Item No. 11(A)(4)

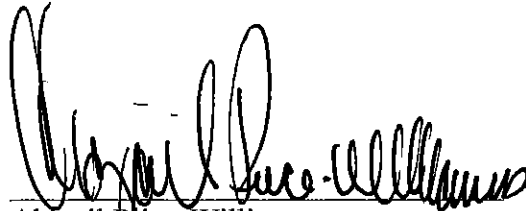
TO: Honorable Chairman Esteban L. Bovo, Jr.
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

DATE: June 6, 2017

FROM: Abigail Price-Williams
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Supplemental information
endorsing the Southeast Florida
Coastal Ocean Task Force Final
Report and Recommendations

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


Abigail Price-Williams
County Attorney

APW/cp



MARTIN COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
 2401 S.E. MONTEREY ROAD • STUART, FL 34996

Telephone: 772.221.2359
 Fax: 772.221.5432
 Email: dsmith@martin.fl.us

DOUG SMITH
 Commissioner, District 1

ED FIELDING
 Commissioner, District 2

HAROLD E. JENKINS II
 Commissioner, District 3

SARAH HEARD
 Commissioner, District 4

EDWARD V. CIAMPI
 Commissioner, District 5

TARYN KRYZDA, CPM
 County Administrator

SARAH W. WOODS
 County Attorney

May 9, 2017

The Honorable Commissioner Daniella Levine Cava
 Miami Dade County Board of County Commissioners
 Stephen P. Clark Government Center
 111 NW 1st Street, Suite 220
 Miami, Florida 33128

Dear Commissioner Cava:

On behalf of the Martin County Board of County Commissioners, I would like to offer our support of your proposed resolution to adopt the recommendations formulated by the Southeast Florida Coastal Ocean Task Force. The Task Force was comprised of elected officials, agency representatives and stakeholders within the 4-County region. As such, it represents a blue print to move the health of our coastal ecosystem forward. It is also the basis for actions taken by the Coastal Ocean Forum, the implementation group that formed as the COTF sunset. Similar resolutions have been passed by both Broward and Martin Counties.

Atlantic and Caribbean reefs are among the most threatened ecosystems in the world, and they are declining at alarming rates, including the coral reefs that stretch from the Dry Tortugas in Monroe County to the St. Lucie Inlet in Martin County. In the northern section of the Florida Reef Tract an undocumented coral disease with high mortality rates is spreading rapidly throughout the entire system.

The mainland southeast Florida region, including Miami-Dade, Broward, Palm Beach, and Martin counties, borders the only portion of the Florida Reef Tract that is not part of any management plan and are essential to the protection of the coastline and a biodiverse habitat that supports over 70,000 jobs and contributes over \$6 billion annually to the economy of Florida.

Since 2003, the Southeast Florida Coral Reef Initiative (SEFCRI) has focused on the northern Florida Reef Tract, providing the first-ever scientific baseline information on these reefs that are extensive and close to shore, exist by intensely urbanized areas, are economically and ecologically valuable, and currently lack coordinated management and enforcement.

Martin County is proud to be your partner as we work with the State of Florida and our neighboring counties to address the issue of coral reef management off our coastline.

Sincerely,

Doug Smith
 Martin County Board of County Commissioners, Chairman

CC: Honorable Members of the Martin County Board of County Commissioners;
 Taryn Kryzda, County Administrator
 Honorable Members of the Miami-Dade County Board of County Commissioners;
 Honorable Mayor, Carlos A. Gimenez, Miami-Dade County
 Devon West, Legislator Coordinator
 Honorable Members of the Martin County State Delegation

TELEPHONE
 772-288-5400
 WEB ADDRESS
<http://www.martin.fl.us>