

MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(4)

TO: Honorable Chairman Anthony Rodriguez
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

DATE: December 16, 2025

FROM: Geri Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Resolution urging the United States Congress and the Florida Legislature to appropriate funds for Miami-Dade County's purchase of Environmentally Endangered Lands in the County's EEL Acquisition List, or otherwise related to Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan projects

The accompanying resolution was prepared and placed on the agenda at the request of Prime Sponsor Commissioner Natalie Milian Orbis.



Geri Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

GBK/uw

MDC001



MEMORANDUM
(Revised)

TO: Honorable Chairman Anthony Rodriguez
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

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Gen Bonzon-Keenan
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**
- 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 present ____, 2/3 membership ____, 3/5’s ____, unanimous ____, majority plus one ____, CDMP 7 vote requirement per 2-116.1(3)(h) or (4)(c) ____, CDMP 2/3 vote requirement per 2-116.1(3) (h) or (4)(c) ____, CDMP 9 vote requirement per 2-116.1(4)(c) (2) ____) 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)(4)
12-16-25

RESOLUTION NO. _____

RESOLUTION URGING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS
AND THE FLORIDA LEGISLATURE TO APPROPRIATE
FUNDS FOR MIAMI-DADE COUNTY'S PURCHASE OF
ENVIRONMENTALLY ENDANGERED LANDS IN THE
COUNTY'S EEL ACQUISITION LIST, OR OTHERWISE
RELATED TO COMPREHENSIVE EVERGLADES
RESTORATION PLAN PROJECTS

WHEREAS, the County's Environmentally Endangered Lands ("EEL") Program was established in 1990 to acquire, preserve, enhance, restore, conserve, and maintain environmentally endangered lands for the benefit of present and future generations; and

WHEREAS, the County maintains a list of properties that may be pursued for EEL acquisition; and

WHEREAS, the purchase of properties on the EEL Acquisition List may play a critical role in such important goals as enhancing investments in Everglades restoration projects, drinking water supply, and aquifer recharge; and

WHEREAS, the Everglades is a vital natural resource that significantly impacts the environment, economy, and water quality of Miami-Dade County and the State of Florida; and

WHEREAS, the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan ("CERP"), approved by the United States Congress in the year 2000, includes projects designed to restore and preserve the Everglades; and

WHEREAS, Miami-Dade County has supported CERP restoration for decades through efforts including the acquisition of EEL properties for use in CERP projects; and

WHEREAS, the Biscayne Bay and Southern Everglades Ecosystem Restoration Project (“BBSEER”) and Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands Project (“BBCW”) are two major CERP projects that are critical to the County’s water quality and supply; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of the BBSEER is to restore the freshwater wetlands of the Southern Glades and Model Lands, and the coastal wetlands and subtidal areas of Biscayne Bay, Biscayne National Park, Manatee Bay, Card Sound, and Barnes Sound; and

WHEREAS, the BBCW is intended to restore natural coastal wetlands habitat by redistributing freshwater flow through more natural “sheet flows” and by reconnecting coastal wetlands and marine habitats in Biscayne Bay and Biscayne National Park; and

WHEREAS, this Board wishes to urge the United States Congress and the Florida Legislature to appropriate funds for the County’s purchase of EEL properties to be utilized for CERP projects, such as the BBSEER and BBCW,

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 and the Florida Legislature to appropriate funds for Miami-Dade County’s purchase of environmentally endangered lands in the County’s EEL Acquisition List, or otherwise related to Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan projects.

Section 2. Directs the Clerk of the Board to transmit a certified copy of this resolution to the United States President, the Members of the Florida Congressional Delegation, the Florida Governor, the Florida Senate President, the Florida House Speaker, and the Chair and Members of the Miami-Dade State Legislative Delegation.

Section 3. Directs the County’s federal lobbyists and state lobbyists to advocate for the action described in section 1 above, and authorizes and directs the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs to include this item in the 2026 Federal Legislative Package when it is presented to the Board, and to amend the 2026 State Legislative Package to include this item.

The Prime Sponsor of the foregoing resolution is Commissioner Natalie Milian Orbis. 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:

Anthony Rodriguez, Chairman	
Kionne L. McGhee, Vice Chairman	
Marleine Bastien	Juan Carlos Bermudez
Sen. René García	Oliver G. Gilbert, III
Roberto J. Gonzalez	Keon Hardemon
Danielle Cohen Higgins	Vicki L. Lopez
Natalie Milian Orbis	Raquel A. Regalado
Micky Steinberg	

The Chairperson thereupon declared this resolution duly passed and adopted this 16th day of December, 2025. 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

JUAN FERNANDEZ-BARQUIN, CLERK

By: _____
Deputy Clerk

Approved by County Attorney as
to form and legal sufficiency.



Cristina M. Rabionet