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CLERK OF THE BOARD
OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(1)

TO: Honorable Chairwoman Rebeca Sosa
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

DATE: May 20, 2014

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

SUBJECT: Resolution urging Congress to authorize and provide funding for the Central Everglades Planning Project
Resolution No. R-470-14

The accompanying resolution was prepared and placed on the agenda at the request of Prime Sponsor Vice Chair Lynda Bell.

R. A. Cuevas, Jr.
County Attorney

RAC/smm

MEMORANDUM
(Revised)

TO: Honorable Chairwoman Rebeca Sosa
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

DATE: May 20, 2014

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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
Veto _____
Override _____

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(1)
5-20-14

RESOLUTION NO. R-470-14

RESOLUTION URGING CONGRESS TO AUTHORIZE AND PROVIDE FUNDING FOR THE CENTRAL EVERGLADES PLANNING PROJECT

WHEREAS, the Greater Everglades Ecosystem is a globally imperiled habitat that is essential to the proper functioning of the Biscayne Aquifer, the primary source of drinking water for the residents of Miami-Dade County; and

WHEREAS, Everglades National Park is critical to South Florida's tourism, with nearly a million visitors each year, 30 percent of whom are from outside the United States; and

WHEREAS, the Everglades ecosystem has continued to decline in the face of restoration delays and an expedited solution is needed to increase the quality, quantity, timing and distribution of freshwater flows into the central Everglades, Everglades National Park, and Florida and Biscayne Bays; and

WHEREAS, increased deliveries of water south of Lake Okeechobee will reduce damaging discharges to the Caloosahatchee and St. Lucie estuaries; and

WHEREAS, the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan provides a framework and guide to restore, protect and preserve the water resources of central and southern Florida, including the Everglades; and

WHEREAS, one key project under the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan is the Central Everglades Planning Project; and

WHEREAS, the Central Everglades Planning Project identifies and plans for projects on land already in public ownership to allow more water to be directed south of Lake Okeechobee to the central Everglades, Everglades National Park and Florida Bay while protecting coastal estuaries; and

WHEREAS, the goal of the Central Everglades Planning Project is to deliver a finalized plan for a suite of restoration projects in the central Everglades to prepare for congressional authorization, as part of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan; and

WHEREAS, on October 2, 2012, this Board enacted Resolution No. R-817-12, which supported the Central Everglades Planning Project for the restoration of the central Everglades; and

WHEREAS, the Central Everglades Planning Project still awaits Congressional authorization, and as a result, risks not being finalized in time to be included in the current Water Resources Development Act bill in Congress, which would provide funding for the project; and

WHEREAS, it is the hope and desire of this Board that the United States Congress will authorize and appropriate the necessary federal funds to implement the Central Everglades Planning Project,

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

Section 1. Urges Congress to authorize and provide funding for the Central Everglades Planning Project.

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

Section 3. Directs the County's federal lobbyists to advocate for the passage of the legislation and action set forth in Section 1 above, and authorizes and directs the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs to amend the 2014 Federal Legislative Package to include this item and to include this item in the 2015 Federal Legislative Package when it is presented to the Board.

The Prime Sponsor of the foregoing resolution is Vice Chair Lynda Bell. It was offered by Commissioner **Lynda Bell**, who moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by Commissioner **Rebeca Sosa** and upon being put to a vote, the vote was as follows:

Rebeca Sosa, Chairwoman			**aye**
Lynda Bell, Vice Chair			**aye**
Bruno A. Barreiro	**aye**	Esteban L. Bovo, Jr.	**aye**
Jose "Pepe" Diaz	**absent**	Audrey M. Edmonson	**aye**
Sally A. Heyman	**aye**	Barbara J. Jordan	**absent**
Jean Monestime	**absent**	Dennis C. Moss	**aye**
Sen. Javier D. Souto	**aye**	Xavier L. Suarez	**absent**
Juan C. Zapata	**aye**		

The Chairperson thereupon declared the resolution duly passed and adopted this 20th day of May, 2014. This resolution shall become effective ten (10) days after the date of its adoption unless vetoed by the Mayor, and if vetoed, shall become effective only upon an override by this Board.

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA
BY ITS BOARD OF
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

HARVEY RUVIN, CLERK

By: **Christopher Agrippa**
Deputy Clerk

Approved by County Attorney as
to form and legal sufficiency. MP Sor

Michael J. Mastrucci