

## MEMORANDUM

Amended  
Agenda Item No. 14(A)(2)

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

**DATE:** May 6, 2014

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

**SUBJECT:** Resolution urging the South  
Florida Water Management  
District and U.S. Army Corps  
of engineers to fully implement  
and operate the Modified Water  
Deliveries Project and the C-111  
project to end flood impacts to  
agricultural properties in  
southern Miami-Dade County  
caused by water management  
activities

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Resolution No. R-459-14

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

  
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R. A. Cuevas, Jr.  
County Attorney

RAC/cp



**MEMORANDUM**  
(Revised)

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

**DATE:** May 6, 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 \_\_\_\_\_

Amended  
Agenda Item No. 14(A)(2)  
5-6-14

RESOLUTION NO. R-459-14

RESOLUTION URGING THE SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT AND U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS TO FULLY IMPLEMENT AND OPERATE THE MODIFIED WATER DELIVERIES PROJECT AND THE C-111 PROJECT AND TO END FLOOD IMPACTS TO AGRICULTURAL PROPERTIES IN SOUTHERN MIAMI-DADE COUNTY

**WHEREAS**, southern Miami-Dade County has had a thriving agricultural economy for over a century, providing fresh fruit, vegetables and horticultural products to the residents of this County and to the nation as a whole; and

**WHEREAS**, a healthy agricultural sector is important to the economy of Miami-Dade County and quality of life of its residents, employing 20,000 people and generating \$2.7 billion in annual economic impact; and

**WHEREAS**, high water tables flood the root zone of the agricultural crops, which causes rot, fungus, bacteria and other issues to develop which kill both trees and row crops; and

**WHEREAS**, several revisions to the regional water management system, including the C-111 Project and the Modified Water Deliveries Project were designed to simultaneously increase water levels in Everglades National Park while maintaining existing levels of service for flood protection as authorized by Congress; and

**WHEREAS**, Miami-Dade County has supported South Florida ecosystem restoration projects because they are designed to both protect natural areas and provide for the other water related needs of South Florida,; and

**WHEREAS**, more than 10,000 acres of viable agricultural land have been transferred to government ownership to implement these restoration projects; and

**WHEREAS**, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has yet to fully implement either the C-111 Project or the Modified Water Deliveries Project, despite those projects having been approved more than 20 years ago; and

**WHEREAS**, fruit orchards in southern Miami-Dade County have suffered extensive damage as a result of higher water levels in recent years, including the loss of hundreds of acres of avocado groves to root fungus; and

**WHEREAS**, the high water table resulted in extensive agricultural flooding in the past six months which prevented the growing of crops on hundreds of acres of agricultural land across southern Miami-Dade County; and

**WHEREAS**, farmers in Miami-Dade County have not seen this level of flood damage, except during years where tropical storms or hurricanes have affected South Florida, and continued flood impacts such as those currently being experienced threaten the long-term viability of southern Miami-Dade County's agricultural economy; and

**WHEREAS**, the C-111 Project will improve conditions in Everglades National Park Taylor Slough, which in turn will improve the timing, distribution, and quantity of water in Florida Bay, while initiating crucial environmental restoration in the Southern Glades and Model Lands; and

**WHEREAS**, the C-111 Project and the Modified Water Deliveries Project were approved by Congress specifically as restoration projects and not as flood control projects,

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

**Section 1.** Urges the South Florida Water Management District and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to take immediate short-term measures to provide flood relief for agricultural areas in southern Miami-Dade County, and to develop long-term measures to minimize agricultural flooding in the future, while maintaining water supplies for the environment, agriculture and the public.

**Section 2.** Urges the South Florida Water Management District and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to fully implement and operate the C-111 Project and Modified Water Deliveries Project, while protecting agricultural areas of southern Miami-Dade County as authorized by Congress.

**Section 3.** Directs the Clerk of the Board to send a certified copy of this resolution to the members of the Miami-Dade County's Congressional Delegation, Governor Rick Scott, the Chair and Members of Miami-Dade County's State Legislative Delegation, the District Commander of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Jacksonville District, and the Executive Director of the South Florida Water Management District.

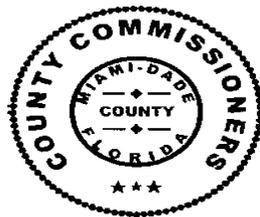
The Prime Sponsor of the foregoing resolution is Vice Chair Lynda Bell. It was offered by Commissioner **Lynda Bell**, who moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by Commissioner **Sally A. Heyman** and upon being put to a vote, the vote was as follows:

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

The Chairperson thereupon declared the resolution duly passed and adopted this 6<sup>th</sup> 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.

Henry N. Gillman

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