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

MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(31)

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

DATE: January 21, 2015

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

SUBJECT: Resolution urging the United States Congress and the Florida Legislature to fund Everglades restoration and pass legislation to restoration in support of Everglades
Resolution No. R-63-15

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

R. A. Cuevas, Jr.
County Attorney

RAC/cp

MEMORANDUM
(Revised)

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and Members, Board of County Commissioners

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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**

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Approved _____ Mayor
Veto _____
Override _____

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(31)
1-21-15

RESOLUTION NO. R-63-15

RESOLUTION URGING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS AND THE FLORIDA LEGISLATURE TO FUND EVERGLADES RESTORATION AND PASS LEGISLATION IN SUPPORT OF EVERGLADES RESTORATION

WHEREAS, Florida is considered one of the most vulnerable areas in the country with respect to the consequences of climate change, with Southeast Florida on the frontline to experience the impacts of climate change, especially sea level rise, due to its low-lying topography, porous substrata, and extensive coastal infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, Miami-Dade County has been in the forefront of these issues for many years and gives significant consideration to adaptation strategies designed to protect public infrastructure, property, water resources, natural areas and native species, and basic quality of life; and

WHEREAS, in July of 2013 the Board of County Commissioners (hereinafter "this Board") created the Miami-Dade Sea Level Rise Task Force through the adoption of Resolution No. R-599-13 to review the relevant data and prior studies, assessments, reports, and evaluations of the potential impact of sea level rise on vital public services and facilities, real estate, water and other ecological resources, water front property, and infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, at the direction of this Board, the Miami-Dade Sea Level Rise Task Force issued a report with their findings on July 1, 2014, that included an assessment of the likely and potential impacts of sea level rise and storm surge over time and set forth six recommendations to ensure that Miami–Dade County is taking appropriate actions to reduce its contributions to

climate-induced sea level rise and to ensure its resiliency to the increase in sea level rise, storm surge and related impacts which are expected to occur; and

WHEREAS, after making their recommendations the Miami-Dade Sea Level Rise Task Force sunset and dissolved in July of 2014, pursuant to Resolution No. R-559-13; and

WHEREAS, the Miami-Dade Sea Level Rise Task Force identified Everglades restoration as an area of immediate concern as wise land use planning and incorporation of the benefits received from natural systems like the Everglades must be an essential part of a resilience strategy; and

WHEREAS, the Everglades is the largest and most important freshwater, subtropical peat wetland in North America; and

WHEREAS, historically the Everglades covered approximately 2.5 million acres of land from the south shore of Lake Okeechobee to the mangrove estuaries of Florida Bay; and

WHEREAS, today, the Everglades comprises more than 900,000 acres in Water Conservation Areas and more than 1.5 million acres in Everglades National Park; and

WHEREAS, the Everglades is the primary source of drinking water for more than 7 million Americans – more than a third of Florida's population – and a cornerstone of the regional economy, supporting the State's estimated $67 billion tourism industry, $13 billion outdoor recreation economy, and $100 billion agriculture sector; and

WHEREAS, over the past 100 years, population growth, development, excessive drainage of wetlands, and resulting changes in water flow and water quality have caused great stress to the Everglades' fragile ecosystem; and

WHEREAS, in addition, agricultural and storm-water runoff has degraded water quality in the Everglades; and

WHEREAS, an average of 1.7 billion gallons of water per day are lost from the Everglades through discharge to the ocean; and

WHEREAS, approximately 1 million acres of the Everglades ecosystem are under health advisories for mercury contamination; and

WHEREAS, over 1 million acres of the Everglades are infested with invasive exotic plants; and

WHEREAS, preserving and restoring the Everglades is crucial to restoring hydrology and surface water levels, which can help reduce the threat of salt water intrusion; and

WHEREAS, Everglades restoration would restore natural flows of water, water quality, and hydroperiods and will ensure a reliable adequate supply of freshwater; and

WHEREAS, better water quality will support agriculture, tourism, municipal water supplies, recreation, and wildlife; and

WHEREAS, recent economic studies estimate that every dollar spent on Everglades restoration has the potential to yield four dollars in economic benefits for the South Florida economy; and

WHEREAS, restoration projects will generate jobs; and

WHEREAS, state funding is needed to protect and restore the Everglades; and

WHEREAS, the Miami-Dade Sea Level Rise Task Force made the recommendation that this Board make Everglades restoration a legislative priority,

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 fund Everglades restoration and to pass legislation in support of Everglades restoration.

Section 2. Urges the Florida Legislature to fund Everglades restoration and to pass legislation in support of Everglades restoration.

Section 3. Directs the Clerk of the Board to transmit certified copies of this resolution to the Members of the Florida Congressional Delegation, the Governor, the Senate President, the House Speaker, and to the Chair and Members of the Miami-Dade State Legislative Delegation.

Section 4. Directs the County's Federal and State lobbyists to advocate for the legislation described in Section 1 and 2 above, and authorizes and directs the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs to include this item in the 2015 Federal Legislative Package when it is presented to the Board, and to amend the 2015 State Legislative Package to include this item.

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

Jean Monestime, Chairman **aye**
Esteban L. Bovo, Jr., Vice Chairman **aye**

Bruno A. Barreiro	**aye**	Daniella Levine Cava	**aye**
Jose "Pepe" Diaz	**aye**	Audrey M. Edmonson	**absent**
Sally A. Heyman	**absent**	Barbara J. Jordan	**aye**
Dennis C. Moss	**aye**	Rebeca Sosa	**aye**
Sen. Javier D. Souto	**aye**	Xavier L. Suarez	**aye**
Juan C. Zapata	**aye**		

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The Chairperson thereupon declared the resolution duly passed and adopted this 21st day of January, 2015. 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: Christopher Agrippa
Deputy Clerk

Approved by County Attorney as
to form and legal sufficiency.

Christopher A. Angell