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

MEMORANDUM

Amended
Agenda Item No. 11(A)(25)

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

DATE: June 2, 2015

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

SUBJECT: Resolution urging the Florida Legislature to set aside $500 million in funding from Amendment 1, or other available source, to acquire land south of Lake Okeechobee for the purpose of storing and treating water from the Lake and sending it south to the greater Everglades ecosystem; and urging the Legislature to allocate 25.7 percent of Amendment 1 funds for Everglades Restoration, as proposed by the Governor

Resolution No. R-520-15

The accompanying resolution was prepared and placed on the agenda at the request of Prime Sponsor Commissioner Daniella Levine Cava, and Co-Sponsors Commissioner Sally A. Heyman and Commissioner Rebeca Sosa.

R. A. Cuevas, Jr.
County Attorney

RAC/smm

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MEMORANDUM

(Revised)

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

DATE: June 2, 2015

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

SUBJECT: Amended Agenda Item No. 11(A)(25)

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. 11(A)(25)
6-2-15

RESOLUTION NO. R-520-15

RESOLUTION URGING THE FLORIDA LEGISLATURE TO SET ASIDE $500 MILLION IN FUNDING FROM AMENDMENT 1, OR OTHER AVAILABLE SOURCE, TO ACQUIRE LAND SOUTH OF LAKE OKEECHOBEE FOR THE PURPOSE OF STORING AND TREATING WATER FROM THE LAKE AND SENDING IT SOUTH TO THE GREATER EVERGLADES ECOSYSTEM; AND URGING THE LEGISLATURE TO ALLOCATE 25.7 PERCENT OF AMENDMENT 1 FUNDS FOR EVERGLADES RESTORATION, AS PROPOSED BY THE GOVERNOR

WHEREAS, on May 14, 2015, the South Florida Water Management District's board voted unanimously to terminate its option to buy 46,800 acres of land held by the U.S. Sugar Corporation (hereinafter, the "U.S. Sugar land"), including a 21,600-acre parcel for a proposed reservoir to hold excess lake water and send it south for use in Everglades restoration; and

WHEREAS, the Everglades is the largest and most important freshwater, subtropical peat wetland in North America; 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, an average of 1.7 billion gallons of water per day are lost from the Everglades through discharge to the ocean; 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 will ensure a reliable adequate supply of freshwater; and

WHEREAS, the reservoir south of Lake Okeechobee was included in the original Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan of 2000 and is intended to help clean excess lake water and bring more of it south into the parched Everglades where it is desperately needed, instead of being discharged, untreated, into the St. Lucie and Caloosahatchee Rivers; and

WHEREAS, in 2014, Florida voters overwhelmingly approved Amendment 1, which dedicates a portion of state real estate documentary stamp taxes for the acquisition, restoration, improvement, and management of conservation lands and the water quality of rivers, lakes, and streams throughout Florida; and

WHEREAS, Governor Scott has requested that 25.7 percent of the funds from Amendment 1 go toward Everglades Restoration projects; and

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners has adopted Resolution No. R-63-15 urging the Florida Legislature to prioritize the funding for restoration of the Everglades, and Resolution No. R-173-15 urging the Legislature to allocate Amendment 1 funds to Miami-Dade County's Environmentally Endangered Lands Program, which has been instrumental in assembling land needed for several Everglades projects intended to fight saltwater intrusion; and

WHEREAS, the Florida Legislature should, in its June 2015 special session, allocate funding from Amendment 1, or other available source, to acquire land south of Lake Okeechobee, for Everglades restoration; and

WHEREAS, to that end, State Senator Joe Negron (R - Stuart) has announced that he will attempt to obtain $500 million in Amendment 1 funds to purchase land south of Lake Okeechobee for the purpose of storing and treating water from the Lake and sending it south to the greater Everglades ecosystem; and

WHEREAS, this Board wishes to support such efforts to assist with the vital cause of Everglades restoration, which will protect our water supply in Miami-Dade County, and help combat saltwater intrusion into our drinking water aquifer, and to urge the Florida Legislature to allocate funding for that purpose,

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

Section 1. Urges the Florida Legislature to set aside $500 million in funding from Amendment 1, or other available source, to acquire land south of Lake Okeechobee for the purpose of storing and treating water from the Lake and sending it south to the greater Everglades ecosystem.

Section 2. Urges the Florida Legislature to allocate 25.7 percent of Amendment 1 funds for Everglades Restoration, as proposed by Governor Scott.

Section 3. Directs the Clerk of the Board to transmit certified copies of this resolution to the Governor, the Senate President, the House Speaker, the Chair and Members of the Miami-Dade State Legislative Delegation, and Senator Joe Negron (R - Stuart).

Section 4. Directs the County's state lobbyists to advocate for the legislation described in Sections 1 and 2 above, and authorizes and directs the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs to amend the 2015 state legislative package to include this item.

The Prime Sponsor of the foregoing resolution is Commissioner Daniella Levine Cava, and the Co-Sponsors are Commissioner Sally A. Heyman and Commissioner Rebeca Sosa. It was offered by Commissioner **Daniella Levine Cava**, who moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by Commissioner **Audrey M. Edmonson** and upon being put to a vote, the vote was as follows:

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

The Chairperson thereupon declared the resolution duly passed and adopted this 2nd day of June, 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.

James Eddie Kirtley