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

MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(45)

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

DATE: October 6, 2015

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

SUBJECT: Resolution urging the South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task Force to prioritize both the completion of phase 1 and the initiation of planning for phase 2 of both the Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands and C-111 Spreader Canal projects

Resolution No. R-913-15

The accompanying resolution was prepared and placed on the agenda at the request of Prime Sponsor Commissioner Daniella Levine Cava.

R. A. Cuevas, Jr.
County Attorney

RAC/smm

MEMORANDUM

(Revised)

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

DATE: October 6, 2015

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

SUBJECT: Agenda Item No. 11(A)(45)

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)(45)
10-6-15

RESOLUTION NO. R-913-15

RESOLUTION URGING THE SOUTH FLORIDA ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION TASK FORCE TO PRIORITIZE BOTH THE COMPLETION OF PHASE 1 AND THE INITIATION OF PLANNING FOR PHASE 2 OF BOTH THE BISCAYNE BAY COASTAL WETLANDS AND C-111 SPREADER CANAL PROJECTS

WHEREAS, America's Everglades is a globally unique ecosystem, an International Biosphere Reserve, and a World Heritage Site; and

WHEREAS, the health of the Everglades and Biscayne Bay are intrinsically linked to the economic well-being of Miami-Dade County through nature-based tourism and commercial and recreational fishing; and

WHEREAS, one-third of all Floridians, nearly seven million people, get their water from sources connected to the Everglades; and

WHEREAS, the Everglades and Biscayne Bay are ecological treasures supporting rich biodiversity and an array of critical habitats that provide important front-line defense against the impacts of sea level rise; and

WHEREAS, the draining and reengineering of the greater Everglades ecosystem resulted in a precipitous decline in the ecological health of both the Everglades and Biscayne Bay as natural freshwater flows were diverted or discharged in unnatural patterns, causing significant changes to the salinity of Biscayne Bay and Biscayne National Park and degrading marine habitat; and

WHEREAS, restoration of the Everglades' ecosystem is critical to ensuring continued clean water supply, environmental and public health, and the economic viability of Miami-Dade County; and

WHEREAS, the Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands (BBCW) project, a critical component of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP), as authorized by Congress in 2000, is intended to restore natural coastal wetlands habitat by redistributing freshwater flow through more natural "sheet flows," and reconnecting coastal and marine habitat in Biscayne Bay and Biscayne National Park; and

WHEREAS, the BBCW project will provide increased water storage and stage in wetlands to protect against saltwater intrusion, and thereby increase resiliency against sea level rise, particularly in southern Miami-Dade County; and

WHEREAS, phase 1 of the BBCW project is intended to divert available flows from the regional canal system to adjacent wetland areas via spreader canals to improve salinity in portions of Biscayne Bay; and

WHEREAS, phase 2 of the BBCW project is intended to divert the remaining flows from the C-103 Canal for additional improvements to salinity in Biscayne Bay and to rehydrate wetlands in the Model Lands using available flows from the Florida City Canal; and

WHEREAS, the Model Lands wetland area contains more than 20,000 acres of important wetlands that connect the Everglades to Biscayne Bay and Card Sound; and

WHEREAS, the Model Lands wetlands must be restored not only to save the greater Everglades ecosystem but to also protect the potable water resources of the Biscayne Aquifer in south Miami-Dade County; and

WHEREAS, completion of BBCW phase 1 and initiating planning for BBCW phase 2 are both critical for Biscayne Bay and Biscayne National Park; and

WHEREAS, the C-111 Spreader Canal (C-111) project is designed to improve the quality, timing, and distribution of fresh water to Florida Bay through Taylor Slough in Everglades National Park and to bring more fresh water to the wetlands feeding into Biscayne Bay and Biscayne National Park; and

WHEREAS, phase 1 of the C-111 project is intended to reduce seepage from Everglades National Park to the C-111 basin in order to improve conditions in Taylor Slough; and

WHEREAS, phase 2 is intended to rehydrate the Model Lands; and

WHEREAS, completion of phase 1 of the C-111 project and initiating planning for phase 2 are necessary to achieve the significant ecological benefits of the project; and

WHEREAS, salt water intrusion of the Biscayne Aquifer is rapidly advancing landward in portions of south Miami-Dade County that would be restored under the second phases of BBCW and C-111 projects; and

WHEREAS, these projects have the potential to retard the advancement of the salt front in Miami-Dade County; and

WHEREAS, the South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task Force, consisting of federal, tribal, and state and local government representatives, was established in 1996 to coordinate policies, strategies, plans, programs, projects, activities, priorities, and scientific research addressing the restoration, preservation, and protection of the South Florida ecosystem; and

WHEREAS, the South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task Force coordinates and prioritizes Everglades restoration projects; and

WHEREAS, this Board would like to strongly urge the South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task Force to prioritize both the completion of phase 1 and the initiation of planning for phase 2 of both the Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands and C-111 Spreader Canal 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 Ecosystem Restoration Task Force to prioritize both the completion of phase 1 and the initiation of planning for phase 2 of both the Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands and C-111 Spreader Canal projects.

Section 2. Directs the Clerk of the Board to transmit a certified copy of this resolution to the Chair of the South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task Force.

The Prime Sponsor of the foregoing resolution is Commissioner Daniella Levine Cava. It was offered by Commissioner **Dennis C. Moss**, who moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by Commissioner **Rebeca Sosa** 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	**aye**
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	**absent**		

The Chairperson thereupon declared the resolution duly passed and adopted this 6th day of October, 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. MP

Matthew Papkin