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

MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(4)

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

DATE: July 19, 2016

FROM: Abigail Price-Williams County Attorney

SUBJECT: Resolution supporting full funding authorization for the Central Everglades Planning Project in the Water Resources Development Act of 2016, S. 2848 or H.R. 5303, or similar legislation

Resolution No. R-719-16

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

Abigail Price-Williams
County Attorney

APW/smm

MEMORANDUM

(Revised)

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

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FROM: Abigail Price-Williams
County Attorney

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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**

_____ **Statement of social equity 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)(4)
7-19-16

RESOLUTION NO. R-719-16

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING FULL FUNDING AUTHORIZATION FOR THE CENTRAL EVERGLADES PLANNING PROJECT IN THE WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 2016, S. 2848 OR H.R. 5303, OR SIMILAR LEGISLATION

WHEREAS, the Florida 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 a third of Florida's population, home to many species of wildlife, and a cornerstone of the regional economy; 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 ecosystem in the Everglades; and

WHEREAS, Everglades restoration is of critical importance to the State of Florida and to Miami-Dade County and its residents; and

WHEREAS, indeed, preserving and restoring the greater Everglades ecosystem is crucial to restoring hydrology and surface water levels in South Florida, which can help reduce the threat of salt water intrusion; and

WHEREAS, Everglades restoration is also a critical tool to protect South Florida from sea level rise; and

WHEREAS, an essential piece of Everglades restoration and protection is the Central Everglades Planning Project (CEPP), which would take water discharged from Lake Okeechobee and treat it before sending the water southward to the Everglades, where it can nourish the natural ecosystem and sustain the delicate balance of saltwater and freshwater there; and

WHEREAS, the importance of responsibly dealing with water discharges from Lake Okeechobee has been highlighted in recent weeks by the large algae blooms that have plagued certain Florida communities in and around the Caloosahatchee and St. Lucie rivers and estuaries into which polluted water from the Lake is discharged; and

WHEREAS, recognizing the importance of Everglades restoration, this Board has in recent years repeatedly requested federal and state funding for Everglades restoration and protection; and

WHEREAS, in October 2012, this Board adopted Resolution No. R-817-12, supporting CEPP through the completion of a Project Implementation Report by the South Florida Water Management District and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to address key obstacles to flows and implement meaningful ecological and economic benefits for Everglades restoration; and

WHEREAS, in addition, in June 2015, this Board adopted Resolution No. R-520-15, urging the Florida Legislature to set aside $500 million in Amendment 1 funds 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 had been proposed by Governor Scott; and

WHEREAS, most recently, in December 2015, this Board adopted Resolution No. R-1173-15, supporting the "Legacy Florida" proposal to fund Everglades restoration and urging the Florida Legislature to devote additional funds for the purpose of storing and treating water from Lake Okeechobee and sending it south to the greater Everglades ecosystem; and

WHEREAS, S. 2848 and H.R. 5303 have been introduced for consideration in the 114th United States Congress by United States Senator James Inhofe (R – Oklahoma) and United States Representative Bill Shuster (R – Pennsylvania), respectively; and

WHEREAS, S. 2848 and H.R. 5303, entitled the Water Resources Development Act of 2016, include funding authorization for projects for environmental restoration and water resources development, conservation, and related purposes; and

WHEREAS, S. 2848 and H.R. 5303 would authorize $1,951,000,000.00 in environmental and ecosystem restoration funding for CEPP; and

WHEREAS, among other benefits, CEPP is anticipated to:

- Deliver an average of 200,000 acre-feet of freshwater to the Everglades per year;
- Increase capacity to re-direct water to the Everglades that would otherwise cause damage to the Caloosahatchee and St. Lucie estuaries;
- Restore natural overland sheetflow to 10,000 acres of degraded Everglades;
- Provide flood control for developed areas, while also meeting water supply needs;
- Reconnect habitat and hydrology between certain water conservation areas and Everglades National Park;
- Facilitate recreational opportunities for Florida residents and visitors; and
- Create thousands of new jobs; and

WHEREAS, consistent with its commitment to ensuring the protection and preservation of the Everglades for posterity, this Board now wishes to support full funding authorization for CEPP in S. 2848, H.R. 5303, or similar legislation,

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

Section 1. Supports full funding authorization for the Central Everglades Planning Project in the Water Resources Development Act of 2016, S. 2848 or H.R. 5303, or similar legislation.

Section 2. Directs the Clerk of the Board to transmit certified copies of this resolution to United States Senator James Inhofe (R – Oklahoma), United States Representative Bill Shuster (R – Pennsylvania), and the members of the Florida Congressional Delegation.

Section 3. Directs the County's federal lobbyists to advocate for the legislation and funding described in Section 1 above, and directs the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs to amend the 2016 Federal Legislative Package to include this item, and to include this item in the 2017 Federal Legislative Package when it is presented to the Board.

The Prime Sponsor of the foregoing resolution is Commissioner Daniella Levine Cava. It was offered by Commissioner **Daniella Levine Cava**, who moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by Commissioner **Barbara J. Jordan** and upon being put to a vote, the vote was as follows:

Jean Monestime, Chairman **aye**
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	**absent**	Barbara J. Jordan	**aye**
Dennis C. Moss	**aye**	Rebeca Sosa	**aye**
Sen. Javier D. Souto	**aye**	Xavier L. Suarez	**absent**
Juan C. Zapata	**nay**		

The Chairperson thereupon declared the resolution duly passed and adopted this 19th day of July, 2016. 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