

Memorandum



Date: March 22, 2012

To: Honorable Joe A. Martinez, Chairman
And Members of the Board of County Commissioners

From: Carlos A. Gimenez 
Mayor

Subject: Transmittal of Agricultural Practices Advisory Board Resolution

The Chair and Members of the Agricultural Practices Advisory Board (Agricultural Board) have requested that the attached resolution be transmitted to the Board of County Commissioners. The Agricultural Board presents this resolution in fulfillment of its charge to provide recommendations to the Board of County Commissioners regarding regulatory activities and policies that impact the agricultural industry in Miami-Dade County.

Resolution No. AG-02-11 recommends that Natural Forest Community (NFC) designated lands that are located outside of the Urban Development Boundary (UDB):

- a) Not be subject to recording, processing and management plan preparation fees; and
- b) Reduce the property tax rate of NFC-designated land to the lowest agricultural classification if under the purview of the BCC or, if under the purview of the State, petition the State to reduce the property tax rate for NFC-designated land located outside of the UDB.

This resolution was precipitated by concerns that the intent of the NFC program is to preserve the remaining native habitat for the benefit of all County residents, however, the owners and/or those who enter into the ten year agreement to preserve NFC-designated land absorb the full financial burden of maintaining such lands.

Attachment

Cc: Robert A. Cuevas, Jr., County Attorney
Christopher Mazzella, Inspector General
Charles Anderson, Commission Auditor
Jack Osterholt, Deputy Mayor

RESOLUTION NO. AG-02-11

**A RESOLUTION OF THE MIAMI-DADE COUNTY
AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES ADVISORY BOARD ISSUING
RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS ON PROPOSED CHANGES TO COUNTY
REGULATIONS RELATED TO LANDS DESIGNATED
NATURAL FOREST COMMUNITIES**

WHEREAS, Sections 2-931 through 2-936 of the Code of Miami-Dade County provide for the creation, composition, terms, purpose and duties of the Miami-Dade County Agricultural Practices Advisory Board (APAB); and

WHEREAS, Section 2-931 of the Code authorizes the APAB to issue recommendations to the Board of County Commissioners on the regulation of agricultural practices in Miami-Dade County, Florida; and

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners adopted Ordinance Number 88-9 on February 21, 1989 to provide necessary restrictions to protect Natural Forest Communities (NFC); and

WHEREAS, the APAB has identified certain NFC policies and procedures applied to land owners in the agricultural industry in an inequitable manner; and

WHEREAS, large parcels of NFC-designated land located outside of the Urban Development Boundary (UDB) may become consumed by invasive plant species and the NFC designation should no longer be maintained; and

WHEREAS, NFC-designated land that could be put into agricultural production, create new jobs, and drive the County's second largest economic engine remains dominated by invasive plant species; and

WHEREAS, certain NFC-designated lands consumed by invasive plant species enables their seeds to proliferate on private property and public lands including Everglades National Park.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Miami-Dade County Agricultural Practices Advisory Board provides the following recommendations to the Board of County Commissioners based upon the above issues relating to regulations governing the maintenance of Natural Forest Communities, and to amend the Code of Miami-Dade County as proposed:

Section 1. Eliminate the recording, processing and management plan preparation fees, for landowners outside of the Urban Development Boundary that willingly enter into the ten year covenant on NFC-designated lands, and eliminate the permit requirement to remove invasive

exotic plant species on NFC-designated lands, all as identified in Section 24-49 of the Code of Miami-Dade County; and

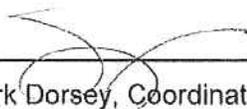
Section 2. The Board of County Commissioners, if within their authority, classify NFC-designated land that is located outside of the UDB with an agricultural classification, and such real property be assessed for property taxation purposes at the lowest agricultural rate; or if not within their authority due to State statutes, that the Board of County Commissioners petition the State of Florida to enable Miami-Dade County to classify NFC-designated land that is located outside of the UDB with an agricultural classification, and such real property be assessed for property taxation purposes at the lowest agricultural rate.

The foregoing resolution was offered by Board Member Motes, who moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by Board Member Borghi and, upon being put to a vote, the vote was as follows:

Sam Accursio – Yes	Diego Rodriguez – Absent
Jonathan Borghi – Yes	Sandy Stein – Yes
Larry Caudle, Vice Chair – Absent	Robert Thompson – Yes
John De Mott – Yes	Eric Tietig – Yes
Gary Dufek – Yes	Tommy Vick – Absent
Martin Motes – Yes	Arie de Zwart – Absent
James Humble, Chair – Yes	

The Chair thereupon declared the resolution adopted this 7th day of December, 2011.

I hereby certify the above information reflects the action of the Board.



Mark Dorsey, Coordinator