

Memorandum



Date: June 19, 2013

To: Honorable Chairwoman Rebeca Sosa and Members
Board of County Commissioners

From: Carlos A. Gimenez
Mayor

Subject: Response to Directive 130868 Regarding Miami-Dade Water and Sewer Department
5-Year Multi-Year Capital Plan and Legislative Changes Related to Ocean Outfall

At the May 14, 2013 Infrastructure and Land Use Committee meeting, the Miami-Dade Water and Sewer Department (WASD) was directed by Commissioner Heyman to prepare a one page summary on specific changes that occurred within the past year that affected WASD's 5-Year Multi-Year Capital Plan, including information on legislative changes related to the percentage of ocean outfall now permitted, and federal laws and/or rules changes that affected the County. In response to the directive issued, WASD prepared the following reply.

During the past year, the only changes in federal and state laws that affected WASD's 5-Year Capital Plan are the amendments to the State's Ocean Outfall Statute. The amendments require wastewater utilities in southeast Florida to: 1) cease using ocean outfalls for the disposal of treated wastewater by 2025, 2) reuse 60% of the flows that were being discharged through the outfalls, and 3) reduce nutrient loadings associated with the outfall discharges prior to the year 2025.

The amendments were put together by all affected utilities in concert with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and were adopted with no dissenting votes in any committees or on the floor of either house. The amendments provide greater flexibility in managing peak flows at the wastewater plants that typically occur in conjunction with rainstorms, with up to 5% of the flows now being permitted for discharge through the ocean outfalls. This avoids significant costs for additional treatment systems that would rarely be used. The amendments also allow greater flexibility to meet the reuse goals by allowing projects anywhere within the utility system to be counted to fulfill the reuse requirement. In WASD's case, this means that the current agreement with Florida, Power & Light, Inc. to provide up to 90 million gallons of reclaimed water per day at Turkey Point can now be counted to meet the County's reuse requirement. Altogether, these amendments will enable WASD to avoid over \$1 billion in capital costs that otherwise would have been required, and that cost avoidance is reflected in WASD's Multi-Year Capital Plan.

Should you have any questions or require further information, please contact WASD Director John W. Renfrow, P.E. at 786-552-8086 or me directly at 305-375-1880.

c: Alina T. Hudak, Deputy Mayor
John W. Renfrow, P.E., Director, Water and Sewer Department