Memorandum

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY

Date: November 20, 2015

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

From: Carlos A. Gimenez
Mayor

Subject: Update on Federal Agency Actions Related to the Endangered Species Act
Directive No. 150052

This report is provided to the Board of County Commissioners (Board) pursuant to Resolution No. R-332-15 on the monitoring of federal agency actions related to the Endangered Species Act by the Department of Regulatory and Economic Resources' Division of Environmental Resources Management that could substantially impact Miami-Dade County or properties within the County.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service recently announced critical habitat designations for two (2) plants found only in South Florida, the Florida Brickell-bush and Carter's Small-flowered Flax. Both plants were listed as endangered under the Endangered Species Act on October 4, 2014. These two (2) pine rockland plants had been candidates for federal listing since 1999.

The listing of these plants with critical habitat and the associated economic analysis are part of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's efforts to implement a court-approved work plan aimed at addressing a series of lawsuits concerning the agency's Endangered Species Act listing program. More information about the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's work plan for 2015 may be found at: http://www.fws.gov/southeast/candidateconservation/.

The critical habitat designations for these two (2) plants largely overlap for a combined total area of approximately 2,706 acres. The critical habitat designations for these plants in Miami-Dade County include land in the pine rockland habitat specifically on the Miami Rock Ridge, on the edges of Everglades National Park. The designations include areas that are currently occupied by these species and areas providing suitable habitat within the plants' historical ranges. For more specific information on the designation of these two (2) species and maps depicting their locations in Miami-Dade County, please access the following link: http://www.regulations.gov/#!documentDetail;D=FWS-R4-ES-2013-0108-0025.

In the event of a critical habitat designation, any project on a federal property or non-federal property with activities authorized, funded or carried out by a federal agency require an evaluation for potential adverse impacts on the plants' critical habitat by the federal government as part of the Section 7 consultation. Additionally, if any federal funds are involved, the government agency will need to consult with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to avoid, reduce or mitigate, potential impacts to protected species or to ensure actions do not negatively affect protected species or modify their critical habitat. Property owners with questions on this or any other critical habitat designation or endangered species issue are encouraged to contact the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service directly.

In accordance with Ordinance 14-65, this report will be placed on the next available Board meeting agenda.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Lee Hefty, Assistant Director of the Division of Environmental Resources Management (DERM), Department of Regulatory and Economic Resources, or me directly.

c: Abigail Price-Williams, County Attorney
Office of the Mayor Senior Staff
Lourdes M. Gomez, Deputy Director, Department of Regulatory and Economic Resources
Lee Hefty, Assistant Director, Environmental Resources Management, Department of Regulatory and Economic Resources
Charles Anderson, Commission Auditor
Eugene Love, Agenda Coordinator