

Memorandum



Date: October 20, 2026

To: Honorable Chairman Anthony Rodriguez
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

Supplement to
Agenda Item No. 5(H)

From: Daniella Levine Cava *Daniella Levine Cava*
Mayor

Subject: Social Equity and Fiscal Impact Statements for Ordinance Amending Section 24-44 of the Code of Miami-Dade County

The proposed ordinance adopts by reference the state statutory provisions necessary for Miami-Dade County to administer the onsite sewage treatment and disposal system (OSTDS) program under delegation from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). This delegation will allow the County to manage OSTDS permitting, inspections, and compliance oversight locally, improving service responsiveness while maintaining environmental protection for all residents.

Social Equity Statement

Local administration of the OSTDS program ensures that communities historically burdened by aging or failing septic systems receive more timely oversight and stronger public health protections. Many neighborhoods without access to sewer infrastructure face disproportionate environmental and economic impacts from system malfunctions. Delegation allows Miami-Dade County to tailor program implementation to local conditions, apply consistent standards, and integrate OSTDS oversight into broader County resilience and water-quality initiatives, thereby reducing disparities and strengthening protections for vulnerable populations.

By delegating OSTDS responsibilities to Miami-Dade County, residents will benefit from improved transparency, better coordination with infrastructure planning, and more effective mitigation of risks to groundwater and surface water. Local implementation of the state OSTDS program will strengthen water-quality protection by leveraging Miami-Dade County's deep environmental expertise and its understanding of local infrastructure and development needs, enabling more effective and community-focused oversight.

Fiscal Impact Statement

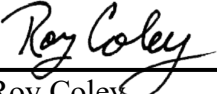
The ordinance itself does not create new costs for Miami-Dade County. Rather, it enables the County to implement the OSTDS program under state delegation by incorporating the necessary statutory provisions into Chapter 24 of the County Code.

Miami-Dade County will require additional operational resources, including staffing, training, and administrative support, to effectively manage OSTDS permit issuance, compliance, and enforcement. These program needs are expected to be funded by OSTDS fees collected locally under the delegated program, which will cover the cost of administration. By integrating the OSTDS program with existing County environmental permitting functions and eliminating duplicative state-level processes, the County will further reduce operational costs and streamline service delivery.

Delegation also positions the County to improve long-term planning and reduce environmental remediation expenses by applying local expertise to prevent septic system failures and related impacts to groundwater and surface waters.

In addition, local implementation will allow the County to eliminate the current backlog of applications, shorten review times, and provide homeowners and contractors with predictable permitting schedules. These improvements will help reduce construction delays and associated costs, creating meaningful savings for families and businesses across Miami-Dade County.

Overall, delegation of the OSTDS program will allow Miami-Dade County to deliver a more efficient, predictable, and locally responsive permitting process while strengthening long-term protections for public health and water quality. This delegation builds on DERM's strong record of successfully administering multiple state environmental programs, RER's best-in-class permitting operation, and reflects continued confidence in the County's expertise and performance. Importantly, assuming responsibility for OSTDS oversight also positions the County to pursue future delegations, that will further support smart, coordinated development and improved service delivery across Miami-Dade.



Roy Coley
Deputy Mayor