

MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(9)

TO:	Honorable Chairman Jose "Pepe" Diaz and Members, Board of County Commissioners	DATE:	February 17, 2021
FROM:	Geri Bonzon-Keenan Successor County Attorney	SUBJECT:	Resolution urging the Florida Legislature to appropriate funding to the South Florida Water Management District for construction of the Cutler Wetlands C-1 Flow Way Project

Resolution No. R-113-21

The accompanying resolution was prepared and placed on the agenda at the request of Prime Sponsor Commissioner Rebeca Sosa.



Geri Bonzon-Keenan
Successor County Attorney

GBK/uw



MEMORANDUM

(Revised)

TO: Honorable Chairman Jose "Pepe" Diaz
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

DATE: February 17, 2021

FROM: 
Gen Bonzon-Keenan
Successor County Attorney

SUBJECT: Agenda Item No. 11(A)(9)

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 present ____, 2/3 membership ____, 3/5's ____, unanimous ____, CDMP 7 vote requirement per 2-116.1(3)(h) or (4)(c) ____, CDMP 2/3 vote requirement per 2-116.1(3)(h) or (4)(c) ____, or CDMP 9 vote requirement per 2-116.1(4)(c)(2) ____ 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)(9)
2-17-21

RESOLUTION NO. _____ R-113-21

RESOLUTION URGING THE FLORIDA LEGISLATURE TO
APPROPRIATE FUNDING TO THE SOUTH FLORIDA WATER
MANAGEMENT DISTRICT FOR CONSTRUCTION OF THE
CUTLER WETLANDS C-1 FLOW WAY PROJECT

WHEREAS, Biscayne Bay and the Florida Everglades are critical components of the ecology, economy, and culture of Miami-Dade County; and

WHEREAS, now more than ever, Biscayne Bay and the Everglades must be protected and preserved for the benefit of the community and future generations; and

WHEREAS, the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (“CERP”), approved by the United States Congress in 2000, consists of environmental and engineering projects that aim to help restore the geography, the hydrology, and other ecological aspects of the Everglades; and

WHEREAS, as the local sponsor of CERP, the South Florida Water Management District (the “District”) plans, constructs, and maintains CERP projects; and

WHEREAS, the County has collaborated with the District to help implement CERP projects; and

WHEREAS, one such project is the Cutler Wetlands C-1 Flow Way, which is an element of the Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands (“BBCW”) Project; and

WHEREAS, this element of the BBCW Project seeks to redistribute and improve freshwater flows to Biscayne Bay and Biscayne National Park by redirecting water from the C-1 Canal to the coastal wetlands along Biscayne Bay, thereby improving wetland, estuarine, and marine habitats; and

WHEREAS, the Cutler Wetlands C-1 Flow Way Project includes a pump station on the C-1 Canal west of SW 97 Avenue, a lined conveyance channel, a spreader canal, box culverts, and the plugging of ditches within wetlands to discourage the unnatural channelization of the water delivered to the area by the spreader canal; and

WHEREAS, in October 2019, this Board adopted Resolution No. R-1060-19, which approved a local government agreement with the District whereby the County provides funding assistance for the District's design of specific elements of the Cutler Wetlands C-1 Flow Way Project; and

WHEREAS, although substantial progress was made on the design of the project, the District needed more time, and accordingly, on December 15, 2020, this Board adopted Resolution No. R-1267-20, which approved an amendment to the local government agreement extending the time for performance under the agreement until June 30, 2021; and

WHEREAS, once the District completes the design of the Cutler Wetlands C-1 Flow Way Project, the District will need funding to construct the project; and

WHEREAS, to keep the momentum generated by the design of the project, the project will need funding as soon as possible; and

WHEREAS, the District receives funding from the State of Florida; and

WHEREAS, for the health and welfare of the environment and residents of Miami-Dade County, this Board wishes to urge the Florida Legislature to appropriate funding to the District for construction of the Cutler Wetlands C-1 Flow Way Project,

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

Section 1. Urges the Florida Legislature to appropriate funding to the South Florida Water Management District for construction of the Cutler Wetlands C-1 Flow Way Project.

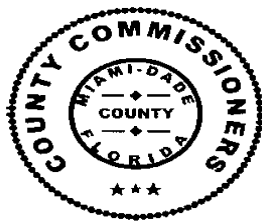
Section 2. Directs the Clerk of the Board to transmit a certified copy of this resolution to the Governor, the Senate President, the House Speaker, the Chair and Members of the Miami-Dade State Legislative Delegation, the Members of the Governing Board of the South Florida Water Management District, and the Executive Director of the South Florida Water Management District.

Section 3. Directs the County’s state lobbyists to advocate for the legislative action set forth in section 1 above, and authorizes and directs the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs to amend the 2021 State Legislative Package to include this item.

The Prime Sponsor of the foregoing resolution is Commissioner Rebeca Sosa. It was offered by Commissioner **Eileen Higgins**, who moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by Commissioner **Rebeca Sosa** and upon being put to a vote, the vote was as follows:

	Jose “Pepe” Diaz, Chairman	aye
	Oliver G. Gilbert, III, Vice-Chairman	aye
Sen. René García	aye	Keon Hardemon aye
Sally A. Heyman	aye	Danielle Cohen Higgins aye
Eileen Higgins	aye	Joe A. Martinez aye
Kionne L. McGhee	aye	Jean Monestime aye
Raquel A. Regalado	aye	Rebeca Sosa aye
Sen. Javier D. Souto	aye	

The Chairperson thereupon declared this resolution duly passed and adopted this 17th day of February, 2021. 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: Melissa Adames
Deputy Clerk

Approved by County Attorney as
to form and legal sufficiency.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "CJW", written over a horizontal line.

Christopher J. Wahl