

MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(16)

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

DATE: April 20, 2021

FROM: Geri Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Resolution reaffirming this Board's strong support for full funding and construction of Everglades restoration projects; urging the United States Congress to fund Everglades restoration in the amount of \$725 million for the United States Fiscal Year 2022 budget; urging the Florida Legislature to fully fund Governor Ron DeSantis's request of \$625 million in funding for Everglades and water quality projects for the State of Florida Fiscal Year 2021–2022 budget; urging the United States Army Corps of Engineers to consider the County's public water supply needs and dependence on a healthy Everglades for water supply when updating the Lake Okeechobee System Operating Manual

Resolution No. R-366-21

The accompanying resolution was prepared and placed on the agenda at the request of Prime Sponsor Senator René García.


Geri Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

GBK/jp



MEMORANDUM

(Revised)

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

DATE: April 20, 2021

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Gen Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Agenda Item No. 11(A)(16)

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)(16)
4-20-21

RESOLUTION NO. _____ R-366-21

RESOLUTION REAFFIRMING THIS BOARD’S STRONG SUPPORT FOR FULL FUNDING AND CONSTRUCTION OF EVERGLADES RESTORATION PROJECTS; URGING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO FUND EVERGLADES RESTORATION IN THE AMOUNT OF \$725 MILLION FOR THE UNITED STATES FISCAL YEAR 2022 BUDGET; URGING THE FLORIDA LEGISLATURE TO FULLY FUND GOVERNOR RON DESANTIS’S REQUEST OF \$625 MILLION IN FUNDING FOR EVERGLADES AND WATER QUALITY PROJECTS FOR THE STATE OF FLORIDA FISCAL YEAR 2021–2022 BUDGET; URGING THE UNITED STATES ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS TO CONSIDER THE COUNTY’S PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY NEEDS AND DEPENDENCE ON A HEALTHY EVERGLADES FOR WATER SUPPLY WHEN UPDATING THE LAKE OKEECHOBEE SYSTEM OPERATING MANUAL

WHEREAS, America’s Everglades is in Miami-Dade County’s subtropical backyard; and

WHEREAS, the Everglades helps recharge the Biscayne Aquifer, which helps provide Miami-Dade County with fresh, clean drinking water for residents, businesses, schools, and visitors; and

WHEREAS, the health of the Miami-Dade County and South Florida economies is directly intertwined with the health of the Everglades; and

WHEREAS, a healthy Everglades is also key to increasing South Florida’s resiliency and ability to adapt to climate change, and it provides critical carbon sequestration benefits; and

WHEREAS, in 1948, the United States Congress authorized the Central and Southern Florida (“C&SF”) Project, which greatly reduced flows to the Everglades by diverting water through canals to the coasts or for other uses, resulting in significant environmental consequences for the Everglades and, hence, Miami-Dade County; and

WHEREAS, over the past several decades, the lack of sufficient freshwater flow has harmed the Everglades, Florida Bay, Biscayne Bay, and the Atlantic Ocean waters off our coast; and

WHEREAS, the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (“CERP”), which the United States Congress approved in the year 2000, provides the framework for Everglades restoration, is a 50/50 partnership between the federal government and State of Florida, and will significantly increase flows to the Everglades; and

WHEREAS, key CERP projects provide the infrastructure and water management tools necessary to increase flows through the Everglades, including the Tamiami Trail bridge project, the Everglades Agricultural Area Reservoir, the Central Everglades Planning Project, and revisions to the United States Army Corps of Engineers (“Army Corps”) Lake Okeechobee System Operating Manual, which has implications for Miami-Dade County’s public water supply; and

WHEREAS, Everglades restoration is a complex, costly endeavor, and this Board has a history of strongly supporting Everglades restoration projects and urging the federal government and State of Florida to provide funding for Everglades restoration, including most recently Resolution Nos. R-113-21, R-1362-19, and R-213-19; and

WHEREAS, on March 4, 2021, United States Senator Marco Rubio (R – Florida) and the United States House of Representatives Members of the Florida Congressional Delegation urged the United States President to include \$725 million for Everglades restoration in his Fiscal Year 2022 budget to the United States Congress; and

WHEREAS, Governor Ron DeSantis has urged a \$2.5 billion investment over four years for the construction of Everglades and water quality projects; Florida has already invested over \$1.25 billion for these projects over the past two years, and the Governor has proposed including \$625 million for these projects in the state budget for Fiscal Year 2021–2022; and

WHEREAS, to protect the environment, economy, and general welfare of Miami-Dade County, this Board wishes to reaffirm its strong support for full funding and construction of Everglades restoration projects, urge the United States Congress and the Florida Legislature to fund Everglades restoration in the upcoming fiscal year, and urge the Army Corps to consider the County’s public water supply needs and dependence on a healthy Everglades for water supply when updating the Lake Okeechobee System Operating Manual,

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

Section 1. Reaffirms its strong support for full funding and construction of Everglades restoration projects.

Section 2. Urges the United States Congress to fund Everglades restoration in the amount of \$725 million for the United States Fiscal Year 2022 budget.

Section 3. Urges the Florida Legislature to fully fund Governor Ron DeSantis’s request of \$625 million in funding for Everglades and water quality projects for the State of Florida Fiscal Year 2021–2022 budget.

Section 4. Urges the United States Army Corps of Engineers to consider Miami-Dade County’s public water supply needs and dependence on a healthy Everglades for water supply when updating the Lake Okeechobee System Operating Manual.

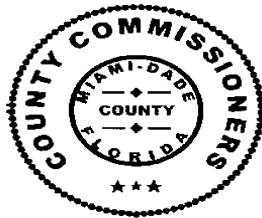
Section 5. Directs the Clerk of the Board to transmit a certified copy of this resolution to the United States President, the Members of the Florida Congressional Delegation, the Governor, the Florida Senate President, the Florida House Speaker, the Chair and Members of the Miami-Dade State Legislative Delegation, and the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works.

Section 6. Directs the County’s federal lobbyists to advocate for the actions described in sections 2 and 4 above, directs the County’s state lobbyists to advocate for the action described in section 3 above, and authorizes and directs the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs to amend the 2021 Federal Legislative Package and 2021 State Legislative Package to include this item.

The Prime Sponsor of the foregoing resolution is Senator René García. It was offered by Commissioner **Sen. Rene Garcia** , 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	absent	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 20th day of April, 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 read "CJW", is written over a horizontal line.

Christopher J. Wahl