

MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(13)

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

DATE: January 19, 2022

FROM: Geri Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Resolution urging the Florida
Legislature to adopt Governor
Ron DeSantis's state fiscal
year 2022-2023 budget
recommendations to fund
Everglades restoration

Resolution No. R-68-22

The accompanying resolution was prepared and placed on the agenda at the request of Prime Sponsor Commissioner Danielle Cohen Higgins.



Geri Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

GBK/uw



MEMORANDUM

(Revised)

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

DATE: January 19, 2022

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County Attorney

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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)(13)
1-19-22

RESOLUTION NO. R-68-22

RESOLUTION URGING THE FLORIDA LEGISLATURE TO
ADOPT GOVERNOR RON DESANTIS'S STATE FISCAL
YEAR 2022-2023 BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS TO FUND
EVERGLADES RESTORATION

WHEREAS, the Everglades is a crucial natural resource that significantly impacts the environment, economy, and water quality of Miami-Dade County and the State of Florida; and

WHEREAS, according to the National Wildlife Fund, the Everglades system provides drinking water for more than 8 million Floridians, protects communities from hurricanes and floods, supports Florida's \$1,200,000,000.00 fishing industry, and generates \$150,000,000.00 of direct spending annually in Everglades National Park; and

WHEREAS, for decades, development in South Florida had unintended negative impacts on the ecological health of the Everglades; and

WHEREAS, consequently, in 2000, the United States Congress approved the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP), which includes 68 projects designed to collectively restore and preserve the Everglades for future generations; and

WHEREAS, CERP is a 50/50 partnership between the federal government and State of Florida; and

WHEREAS, although substantial progress has been made, significant work still needs to be done to bring CERP to fruition; and

WHEREAS, in his budget proposal for Fiscal Year 2022-2023, Governor Ron DeSantis has recommended the dedication of more than \$660,000,000.00 for Everglades restoration projects, including:

- \$86,500,000.00 for Restoration Strategies;

- \$372,000,000.00 for CERP, which includes \$175,000,000.00 for expedited CERP projects;
- \$69,000,000.00 for the Everglades Agricultural Area Reservoir;
- \$50,000,000.00 for specific project components designed to achieve the greatest reductions in harmful discharges to the Caloosahatchee and St. Lucie Estuaries, as identified in the CERP Lake Okeechobee Watershed Restoration Project Draft Integrated Project Implementation Report and Environmental Impact Statement; and
- \$83,300,000.00 for the Northern Everglades and Estuaries Protection Program; and

WHEREAS, this Board has previously supported initiatives to protect the Everglades; and

WHEREAS, substantial resources are needed to restore the health of the Everglades, which is critical to Miami-Dade County's economy and general welfare; and

WHEREAS, this Board therefore wishes to urge the Florida Legislature to adopt Governor Ron DeSantis's state fiscal year 2022-2023 budget recommendations to fund Everglades restoration,

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 adopt Governor Ron DeSantis's state fiscal year 2022-2023 budget recommendations to fund Everglades restoration.

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, and the Secretary of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection.

Section 3. Directs the County’s state lobbyists to advocate for the action set forth in section 1 above, and authorizes and directs the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs to amend the 2022 State Legislative Package to include this item.

The Prime Sponsor of the foregoing resolution is Commissioner Danielle Cohen Higgins. It was offered by Commissioner **Rebeca Sosa**, who moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by Commissioner **José "Pepe" Diaz** 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 19th day of January, 2022. 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

Melissa Adames

By: _____
Deputy Clerk

Approved by County Attorney as
to form and legal sufficiency.

Cristina M. Rabionet