The following information is provided by

EAR Task Force Member Lucia Soria

(representative of Agricultural Practices Advisory Board)

Ag Practices Advisory Board Recommendations

Infrastructure

Future growth in Miami-Dade County is inevitable; however, infrastructure needs to be in place as a matter of public safety. Currently, the level of service of the roads in the South Miami Dade are affecting residents, business owners and visitors. The potholes have caused property damage to vehicles, pose a current threat to human life and the economic viability of moving agricultural products to their next destination. We suggest:

1. A South -Dade regional traffic study by the Department of Transportation and Public Words to obtain updated information on vehicle and truck traffic affecting our road conditions.
2. Review the current level of service these roads provide. Additionally, review the use designation of roads outside the UDB as they are vital to the agricultural industry.
3. Acknowledging and taking accountability for the roads built and/or maintained by the county.
4. Consider a bond to address the county-wide road conditions.
5. Consider Florida State Statute 336.021 as well as Section 95.361 of which states: "if a county maintains a constructed road continuously and uninterruptedly for 7 years, its is deemed legally dedicated to the public and the county retains maintenance responsibility"
6. Making sure we have the capacity/capability to provide first responders to the growing population in South Miami Dade County.
7. Planning for transportation strategies that support the viability of walking, biking and transit and provide viable solutions to first and last mile connectivity.

Airiculture/Green Space

As it currently stands, we have the only tropical growing region in the continental United States with approximately 68,000 acres designated by the USDA as soils of unique importance. The economic impact, direct and indirect jobs creation, agricultural sales and winter production ranks Miami-Dade County agriculture as an impactful and vital industry. The COMP already has language in place protecting agriculture. As it pertains to having defined boundaries for Redland, it is of concern because landowners' property rights should take priority. The Ag Board could not at this time reach a consensus in providing boundary recommendations for this task force. We recommend:

1. Farmworker Housing to be prioritized inside and outside the UDB.

2. County should support our local businesses by utilizing locally sourced materials, including trees and plant stock as it relates to Policy LU-10I
3. Have developers provide green space/parks within in each of the communities they are developing.

Maintaining a strong and sustainable agricultural industry is essential to the economic, environmental, and cultural development of our community although agriculture faces many challenges as presented by Mr. LaPradd to the task force.

The Agricultural Practices Advisory Board is specifically tasked with:

- **Advising Local Government:** Reviewing county codes and ordinances to ensure they do not place undue burdens on the local agricultural industry.

- **Evaluating Land Use:** Offering guidance on agricultural land use studies, including factors that impact farm profitability and the long-term sustainability of the sector.

- **Balancing Community Interests:** Helping the county balance the unique needs of local growers with the quality of life and land-use concerns of neighboring residential communities

We appreciate the opportunity to serve on this task force and highly recommend the continued protection of all agricultural lands as they are of vital economic impact, while respecting landowners' property rights.

Respectfully,



Lucia Soria

Chair, Ag Practices Advisory Board