

PALM BEACH COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

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Meeting Date: December 1, 2009 [] Consent [X] Regular [] Ordinance [] Public Hearing

Department

Submitted By: Administration

Submitted For: Administration

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I. EXECUTIVE BRIEF

Motion and Title: Staff recommends motion to adopt: the Southeast Florida Regional Climate Change Compact providing for a coordinated climate change strategy with Broward, Miami-Dade, and Monroe Counties.

Summary: By approving this Compact the County commits to the following:

- To develop a joint policy position urging the United States Congress to pass legislation that recognizes the unique vulnerabilities of Southeast Florida to the impacts of climate change... To develop additional legislative policy statements relating to global climate change... To develop joint position statements on proposed State legislation and energy/climate policies... To develop joint position statements for future State legislation... To dedicate appropriate staff resources and expertise... To coordinate with other counties party to this compact... To participate in hosting the Second Southeast Florida Regional Climate Change Summit in October, 2010.

Background and Justification: cont'd on page 3

Attachments: Compact

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Recommended By: N/A Department Director Date

Approved By: [Signature] Assistant County Administrator Date 11/20/09

II. FISCAL IMPACT ANALYSIS

A. Five Year Summary of Fiscal Impact:

Fiscal Years	<u>2010</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2014</u>
Capital Expenditures	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Operating Costs	-0-	_____	_____	_____	_____
External Revenue	-0-	_____	_____	_____	_____
Program Income (County)	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
In-Kind Match (County)	-0-	_____	_____	_____	_____
NET FISCAL IMPACT	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
# ADDITIONAL FTS POSITIONS (Cumulative)	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

Is Item Included In Current Budget: Yes _____ No _____
 Budget Account No.: Fund _____ Dept. _____ Unit _____ Obj. _____
 Program Code _____ Program Period: _____

B. Recommended Sources of Funds/Summary of Fiscal Impact:

There is no direct fiscal impact associated with this item. However, County obligations will require an undetermined amount of staff time which will be absorbed by existing personnel or assigned to future grant-funded position(s). Any other expenses that may arise from this effort will be incorporated in future budget requests and/or agenda items.

Departmental Fiscal Review:

III. REVIEW COMMENTS

A. OFMB Fiscal and/or Contract Administration Comments:

John G. ... 11-20-09
 OFMB
 MD
 11/20/09 PM
 11-20-09

Jim J. ... 11/23/09
 Contract Administration

B. Legal Sufficiency:

[Signature] 11/23/09
 Assistant County Attorney

C. Other Department Review:

 Department Director

This summary is not to be used as a basis for payment.

Background and Justification: cont'd

Background and Justification: On October 23, 2009, Palm Beach County participated in the first Southeast Florida Regional Climate Leadership Summit in partnership with Broward, Miami-Dade and Monroe Counties. Numerous elected officials, staff from federal, state, and local government agencies, and business and community representatives attended. The event provided an opportunity for discussion and development of a regional strategy to address climate change and an opportunity to secure a commitment for regional collaboration. This commitment is captured in the proposed Compact. Climate change concerns linked to rising temperatures and sea levels include maintenance of drainage and flood control, delivery of a sustainable water supply, and preservation of the health of our unique natural systems including the Everglades and Atlantic Coral Reefs.



Southeast Florida Regional Climate Change Compact

WHEREAS, there is consensus among the world's leading scientists that global climate change is among the most significant problems facing the world today; and

WHEREAS, Florida is considered one of the most vulnerable areas in the country to the consequences of climate change with Southeast Florida on the front line to experience the impacts of climate change, especially sea level rise; and

WHEREAS, Palm Beach County is located in Southeast Florida and is a neighboring county with Miami-Dade, Broward and Monroe Counties; and

WHEREAS, Palm Beach, Broward, Miami-Dade, and Monroe Counties, herein the four counties that constitute the Southeast Florida Region, share in common a strong quality of life rooted in the region's rich cultural heritage, vigorous economy, and environmental resources of global significance; and

WHEREAS, the aforementioned four counties of Southeast Florida, which represent approximately 30% of the population of the State of Florida, are physically linked one to the other by the Atlantic Ocean coastline and share some of the world's most renowned natural resources such as the Everglades, our unique coral reefs, beautiful beaches, and fragile Keys ecosystem; and

WHEREAS, the four counties of Southeast Florida and their respective populations, totaling more than five million residents, are expected to share in disproportionately high risks associated with climate change due to low land elevations, rising sea level projections, and anticipated increases in tropical storm events; and

WHEREAS, rising sea levels could limit the effectiveness of critical drainage infrastructure, endanger beaches, and coastal natural resources and increase incidents of saltwater intrusion on the Biscayne Aquifer – putting at risk the drinking water supply for the entire population of Southeast Florida; and

WHEREAS, local governments, and the region as a whole, must give significant consideration to adaptation strategies designed to protect public infrastructure, property, water resources, natural areas and native species, and basic quality of life; and

WHEREAS, the aforementioned four counties of Southeast Florida account for a combined Gross Domestic Product of more than \$2.5 billion annually and more than 37% of statewide economic output; and

WHEREAS, while the four counties of Southeast Florida have independently taken steps to address global climate change, all parties recognize that coordinated and collective action on this, the defining issue for Southeast Florida in the 21st Century, will best serve the citizens of the region; **NOW THEREFORE**,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA:

SECTION 1: That Palm Beach County shall work in close collaboration with the aforementioned counties of Southeast Florida party to this compact to develop a joint policy position urging the United States Congress to pass legislation that recognizes the unique vulnerabilities of Southeast Florida to the impacts of climate change and to further a joint policy position that includes specific recommendations regarding the allocation of federal climate change funding based on vulnerability to climate change impacts. Such recommendations might include designation of areas of Southeast Florida as uniquely vulnerable and of federal interest for the purpose of securing enhanced levels of federal participation in regional adaptation projects.

SECTION 2: That Palm Beach County shall work in close collaboration with the other counties party to this compact to develop additional legislative policy statements relating to global climate change and future legislation to be considered by the Congress of the United States for transmittal to the Congressional Delegation representing, in part or in whole, districts within the area covered by this compact.

SECTION 3: That Palm Beach County shall work in close collaboration with other counties party to this compact in developing joint position statements on proposed State legislation and energy/climate policies including but not limited to issues such as the region's energy and climate security and a renewable energy portfolio standard that defines renewable energy sources as wind, solar, geothermal, biomass, landfill gas, qualified hydropower, and marine and hydrokinetic energy and to collaborate on other emerging energy/climate issues that may be considered by the 2010 Florida Legislature for transmittal to the Legislative Delegation representing, in part or in whole, districts within the area covered by this compact.

SECTION 4: That Palm Beach County shall work with other counties party to this compact in developing joint position statements for future State legislation that may be considered by the Florida Legislature for transmittal to the Legislative Delegation representing, in part or in whole, districts within the area covered by this compact.

SECTION 5: That Palm Beach County shall commit appropriate staff resources and expertise, within budget constraints, to participate in a Regional Climate Team with other counties party to this compact toward the development of a Southeast Florida Regional Climate Change Action Plan.

SECTION 6: That Palm Beach County shall work with other counties party to this compact in developing a Southeast Florida Regional Climate Change Action Plan. The Action Plan could, at a minimum, include the following components:

- (a) A baseline of greenhouse gas emissions for Southeast Florida;
- (b) Strategies for coordinated emission reductions throughout the built environment to include the use of energy efficiency, energy conservation, and the use of demand-side renewable energy resources;
- (c) Strategies for coordinated emission reductions from the transportation sector to include increased reliance on public transit, emerging vehicle technologies, and advanced biofuels;
- (d) Strategies for coordinated emission reductions resulting from changes in local and regional land use;
- (e) Strategies for the coordinated regional preparation for and adaptation to a rapidly changing global environment based upon regional mapping of projected sea-level rise and any resulting amplification of localized impacts of tropical cyclone events. Such strategies shall incorporate climate preparation concerns for the regional economy, regional infrastructure and the built environment, social and cultural needs, and natural systems within the four counties party to this compact.

SECTION 7: That Palm Beach County shall commit to participating with other counties party to this compact in hosting the Second Southeast Florida Regional Climate Change Summit in October, 2010.

SECTION 8: EFFECTIVE DATE.

This Compact shall become effective upon adoption by the majority vote of the Board of County Commissioners, Palm Beach County, Florida.

The foregoing Compact was offered by Commissioner _____, who moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by Commissioner _____, and upon being put to vote, the vote was as follows:

Commissioner Karen Marcus, District 1	_____
Commissioner John F. Koons, District 2	_____
Commissioner Shelley Vana, District 3	_____
Commissioner Steven Abrams, District 4	_____
Commissioner Burt Aaronson, District 5	_____
Commissioner Jess Santamaria, District 6	_____
Commissioner Priscilla Taylor, District 7	_____

The Chairperson thereupon declared, the Resolution duly passed and adopted this _____ day of _____, 2009.

APPROVED AS TO FORM
AND LEGAL SUFFICIENCY

ATTEST:
SHARON R. BOCK,
CLERK & COMPTROLLER

BY: _____
Gentry Benjamin
Assistant County Attorney

BY: _____
Deputy Clerk