PALM BEACH COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

Meeting Date: July 24, 2012	[]	Consent	[X] Regular
•		[] Publ	ic Hearing

Department: Legislative Affairs

Submitted By: Legislative Affairs

Submitted For: Legislative Affairs

I. EXECUTIVE BRIEF

Motion and Title: Staff recommends motion to Adopt: a Resolution of the Board of County Commissioners of Palm Beach County, Florida, supporting the Central Everglades Planning Project for the restoration of the Central Everglades.

Summary: The Everglades Ecosystem is a critical habitat for South Florida. Although several restoration plans have been in place, the restoration efforts have been slow. The Central Everglades Planning Project seeks to expedite certain restoration projects within the Central Region. The South Florida Water Management District and Army Corp of Engineers plan to complete a Project Implementation Report (PIR) over the next 18 months. Through this effort, the goal is to significantly reduce planning times and deliver a finalized plan containing a list of restoration projects. Ultimately, it is anticipated these projects will result in an improvement to water resources, improved water storage capabilities and a healthier Everglades ecosystem. **Countywide** (DW)

Background and Policy Issues: In October 2011, the intergovernmental South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task Force endorsed a state-federal initiative to speed up planning for key restoration projects in the heart of America's Everglades. Now under way, the Central Everglades Planning Project has set a goal to deliver within two years a finalized plan, known as a Project Implementation Report, for a suite of restoration projects in the central Everglades.

The Central Everglades Planning Project will identify and plan for projects on land already in public ownership to allow more water to be directed south to the central Everglades, Everglades National Park and Florida Bay while protecting coastal estuaries with the following three project goals:

- 1. Increasing storage, treatment and conveyance of water south of Lake Okeechobee
- 2. Removing canals and levees within the Central Everglades
- 3. Retaining water within Everglades National Park and protect urban and agricultural areas to the east from flooding

Attachments:

1. Resolution

Recommended	by: 2ll A Dem	7/19/12
	Department Director	Date '
Approved By:	Byllen	7/19/12
	County Administration	Date `

II. FISCAL IMPACT ANALYSIS

A. F	ive Year Summary	of Fiscal Im	pact: N/A			
	Fiscal Years	20 <u>12</u>	20 <u>13</u>	20_14	20 <u>15</u>	20 <u>16</u>
Capi Expe	tal enditures					
	rating Costs					/
	rnal Revenues					
	ram Income (Cou nd Match (County			***************************************		***************************************
NET	FISCAL IMPACT	-0-	0-	0-	0	<u>-0-</u>
	ADDITIONAL FTE ITIONS (Cumulati	ve)	MANAGEMENT SHAPESTONIA	***************************************		
Budç	m Included In Cur get Account No.: ct Re	Fund	Departr	nent	 _ Unit	
В.	Recommended	Sources of Fu	ınds/Summa	ry of Fiscal	Impact: N/A	
	There is no fiscal	impact associ	ated with this	item.		
C.	Departmental Fi	scal Review:				
		III. <u>RE</u>	VIEW COMM	<u>ENTS</u>		
Α.	OFMB Fiscal and	Siaz No	1200- 1	ntrol Comm	holog -	7/13/12
В.	Legal Sufficienc	y:	学文			
	Assistant Coun	7 -18 12- ty Attorney				
C.	Other Departme	nt Review:				
	Departme	nt Director				

REVISED 9/03 ADM FORM 01 (THIS SUMMARY IS NOT TO BE USED AS A BASIS FOR PAYMENT.)

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA, SUPPORTING THE CENTRAL EVERGLADES PLANNING PROJECT FOR THE RESTORATION OF THE CENTRAL EVERGLADES.

WHEREAS, the Greater Everglades Ecosystem is a vital habitat and a critical source of water supply for Floridians, agriculture, and the natural environmental; and

WHEREAS, the Everglades ecological system is endangered as a result of adverse changes in water quality, and in the quantity, distribution, and timing of flows, and, therefore, must be restored and protected; and

WHEREAS, due to the global significance of Everglades National Park it has been designated a Biosphere Reserve, an Endangered World Heritage Site, and a Wetland of International Importance; and

WHEREAS, Everglades National Park is a significant tourist destination with nearly a million visitors each year; 30 percent of whom are from outside the United States; and

WHEREAS, the health of the Everglades ecosystem has continued to decline in the face of restoration delays and an expedited solution is needed to increase the quality, quantity, timing and distribution of freshwater flows into the central Everglades, Everglades National Park, and Florida and Biscayne Bays; and

WHEREAS, the goal of the Central Everglades Planning Project (CEPP) is to significantly reduce planning times and deliver a finalized plan for a suite of restoration projects in the central Everglades within 18 months; and

WHEREAS, several projects encompassed in CEPP are located in Palm Beach County and will have direct beneficial impacts to water quality and water storage; and

WHEREAS, full support and funding by the State of Florida and the U.S. Congress is needed to facilitate solutions to help restore the Everglades and protect water resources, create much needed jobs for South Florida, and strengthen the local economy.

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

- Palm Beach County supports the completion of a Project Implementation Report (PIR) by the South Florida Water Management District and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers through the CEPP by May 2013 that addresses key obstacles for restoring freshwater flows and implements meaningful ecological and economic benefits towards restoring America's Everglades.
- 2. A copy of this Resolution be forwarded to members of Florida's Congressional Delegation, the Governor of Florida, the Secretary of the Department of Environmental Protection, the Executive Director of the South Florida Water Management District, and members of the Palm Beach County Legislative Delegation.

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duly passed and adopted this day of			
Palm Beach County, Florida by its Board of County Commissioners			
Sharon R. Bock, Clerk & Comptroller By: Deputy Clerk			