

**PALM BEACH COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

Meeting Date: October 16, 2012**[X] Consent [] Regular
[] Public 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 increased funding for water projects, alternative water supply, and water infrastructure.

Summary: In 2005, the Florida Legislature passed legislation, SB 444, establishing a dedicated funding source for water protection and sustainability. The total funding amounted to \$100 million per year on a recurring basis. As quoted by the bill's sponsor, Senator Paula Dockery, "This bill creates the Water Protection and Sustainability Program to provide substantial funding for new alternative water supply projects and resources for existing water improvement programs that have been on hold. The bill will ultimately build more drinking water and sewage systems, reduce water pollution and create more regional water resources."

In the first year of the program (2005-2006), \$200 million was appropriated with the promise of a minimum \$100 million appropriation in following years. However, over time, the funding for this program has been eliminated while the need for assistance with water infrastructure improvements continues to grow. Countywide (DW)

Background and Policy Issues: The 2005 legislation provided much-needed funding for the development of new water supply projects, the Total Maximum Daily Load pollution elimination program, the restoration of wetlands and other water dependent natural areas, and the treatment of wastewater in disadvantaged communities. Over the years, mostly due to the declining economy, appropriations for these water related assistance programs have slowly disappeared at a time when the funding needed to meet water quality standards far outpaces funding availability for infrastructure improvements. Now that the economy is slowly beginning to rebound in Florida, Palm Beach County is requesting that the Florida Legislature begin to appropriate funding for these types of projects once again. At the 2012/2013 Florida Association of Counties' policy meeting, counties were requested to adopt the proposed resolution.

Attachments:

1. Resolution

Recommended by:
Department Director

9/27/12

Date

Approved By:
County Administration

Date

II. FISCAL IMPACT ANALYSIS

A. Five Year Summary of Fiscal Impact: N/A

Fiscal Years	20 <u>13</u>	20 <u>14</u>	20 <u>15</u>	20 <u>16</u>	<u>2017</u>
Capital Expenditures	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Operating Costs	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
External Revenues	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Program Income (County)	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
In-Kind Match (County)	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
NET FISCAL IMPACT	<u>-0-</u>	<u>-0-</u>	<u>-0-</u>	<u>-0-</u>	<u>-0-</u>
No. ADDITIONAL FTE POSITIONS (Cumulative)	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

Is Item Included In Current Budget? Yes _____ No _____
 Budget Account No.: Fund _____ Department _____ Unit _____
 Object _____ Reporting Category _____

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

There is no fiscal impact associated with this item.

C. Departmental Fiscal Review:

III. REVIEW COMMENTS

A. OFMB Fiscal and/or Contract Dev. and Control Comments:



 OFMB




 Contract Dev. and Control

10/11/12 10/11/12

12/5/12

B. Legal Sufficiency:



 Assistant County Attorney

C. Other Department Review:

 Department Director

Resolution No 2012-_____

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF
PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA, SUPPORTING INCREASED
FUNDING FOR WATER PROJECTS, ALTERNATIVE WATER SUPPLY,
AND WATER INFRASTRUCTURE**

WHEREAS, the State's water infrastructure systems are significant assets that protect public health and the State's water resources are integral to the economic vitality and growth of the state; and

WHEREAS, in 2005, as a result of visionary leadership in the Florida Legislature and concerted efforts of allied groups, the Legislature passed, and the Governor signed, SB 444, which provided a dedicated revenue source for water protection and sustainability; and

WHEREAS, SB 444 provided \$100 million dollars a year on a recurring basis for:

- the State's Total Maximum Daily Load (or TMDL) pollution elimination program;
- the development of new water supply projects;
- the restoration of wetlands and other water dependent natural areas; and
- the treatment and disposal of wastewater in poor communities; and

WHEREAS, despite the significant funding called for in SB 444, the total funding represented less than 1% of the State's total budget - a small price to pay for the State's water security; and

WHEREAS, as a result of unprecedented revenue shortfalls, the funding for this program has been eliminated; and

WHEREAS, municipal and county utilities face anticipated expenditures to repair and replace aging infrastructure, comply with new Clean Water and Safe Drinking Water Act mandates, as well as new responsibilities and costs relating to water security, source water protection or additional needs for re-use of treated effluent; and

WHEREAS, municipal and county resources dedicated to water infrastructure are being increasingly directed to compliance with new and ever more complex mandates such as numeric nutrient criteria and additional testing requirements, and, therefore, are unavailable for critical maintenance, repair, and rehabilitation needs without substantial increases in local water, wastewater, and sewer fees; and

WHEREAS, the establishment of a new state water infrastructure funding program would not only provide much-needed assistance to local governments, but also would significantly stimulate a sector of the state economy which supports and provides jobs and services associated with the financing, design and construction of water infrastructure projects.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY

COMMISSIONERS OF PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA, that:

1. Palm Beach County urges the Florida Legislature to enhance Florida's water resources and their development by creating a new statewide program providing substantial and long-term funding to:
 - a. Enhance regional and local financial capacity to address water resource and water supply development, and
 - b. Provide adequate and reliable long-term funding for municipal water infrastructure needs, and

c. Fund alternative water supply development, water quality protection and development, treatment of impaired waters, and comprehensive water supply infrastructure needs.

2. A copy of this Resolution be forwarded to the Governor of the State of Florida, the Secretary of the Department of Environmental Protection, and members of the Palm Beach County Legislative Delegation.

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

Commissioner Shelley Vana, Chair	-	_____
Commissioner Steven L. Abrams, Vice Chair	-	_____
Commissioner Karen T. Marcus	-	_____
Commissioner Paulette Burdick	-	_____
Commissioner Burt Aaronson	-	_____
Commissioner Jess Santamaria	-	_____
Commissioner Priscilla Taylor	-	_____

The Chair thereupon declared the Resolution duly passed and adopted this _____ day of _____, 2012.

Approved as to Form
And Legal Sufficiency

Palm Beach County, Florida by its
Board of County Commissioners

Sharon R. Bock, Clerk & Comptroller

By:  _____
Assistant County Attorney

By: _____
Deputy Clerk