

**PALM BEACH COUNTY  
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

**AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY**

**Meeting Date:** October 3, 2023       Consent       Regular  
     Workshop       Public Hearing

**Department:**      Environmental Resources Management

**I. EXECUTIVE BRIEF**

**Motion and Title:** Staff recommends motion to: authorize the Mayor to sign Certificates of Appreciation for landowners who sell their environmentally sensitive lands to the County for environmental preservation purposes.

**Summary:** On November 2, 2021, the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) approved a fiscal strategy for the spending of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds, which included an allocation of \$4,000,000 for the acquisition of environmentally sensitive lands. The resulting willing seller program focuses on the acquisition of environmentally sensitive lands within Palm Beach Heights (part of the Pal-Mar Ecosite). Willing seller offers will continue to be made to the owners of environmentally sensitive lands within Palm Beach Heights, as well as other portions of the County. To date, the owners of twenty-five properties have accepted the County's offer to purchase their environmentally sensitive property through this program. Authorizing the Mayor to sign Certificates of Appreciation would allow the BCC to recognize and further convey its gratitude to landowners who chose to make environmental preservation part of their legacy by selling their property to the County. **There is no cost to the County.** District 1 (SS)

**Background and Justification:** Lands in the Pal-Mar Ecosite were on the County's proposed acquisition list for both the Palm Beach County Environmentally Sensitive Lands Bond Referendum of March 12, 1991, and the Palm Beach County Lands for Conservation Purposes Bond Issue Referendum of March 9, 1999. Some of the proceeds from those two referendums were used to acquire tracts of land within the Pal-Mar Ecosite. However, the funds ran out before the County could initiate a willing seller program within the Palm Beach Heights portion of the Pal-Mar Ecosite.

In November 2021, the BCC approved the use of ARPA Response Project Funds to initiate a willing seller program to acquire environmentally sensitive lands within the County. One of the areas identified for potential acquisition was Palm Beach Heights. County staff established the current willing seller program for the acquisition of environmentally sensitive lands, including those located in Palm Beach Heights.

**Attachment:**

1. Certificate of Appreciation

**Recommended by:**       9-1-2023      SAS 8/25/23  
    Department Director      Date

**Approved by:**       9/28/23  
    Assistant County Administrator      Date

**II. FISCAL IMPACT ANALYSIS**

**A. Five Year Summary of Fiscal Impact:**

Fiscal Years	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028
Capital Expenditures	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Operating Costs	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
External Revenues	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Program Income (County)	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
In-Kind Match (County)	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
<b>NET FISCAL IMPACT</b>	<u>  0  </u>	_____	_____	_____	_____
# ADDITIONAL FTE POSITIONS (Cumulative)	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

Is Item Included in Current Budget?      Yes \_\_\_\_\_      No   X  

Does this Item include the use of federal funds?    Yes \_\_\_\_\_    No   X  

Budget Account No.:

Fund \_\_\_\_\_ Department \_\_\_\_\_ Unit \_\_\_\_\_ Object \_\_\_\_\_ Program \_\_\_\_\_

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

There is no fiscal impact.

C. Department Fiscal Review: *[Signature]*

**III. REVIEW COMMENTS**

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

<p><u><i>[Signature]</i></u> 9/18/23 OFMB 9/17/23</p>	<p><u><i>[Signature]</i></u> 9/18/23 Contract Development and Control 9/18/23</p>
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**B. Legal Sufficiency:**

*[Signature]* 9/19/23  
Assistant County Attorney

**C. Other Department Review: Facilities Development & Operations**

Isami Ayala-Collazo  Department Director

# *Certificate of Appreciation*

*Palm Beach County's Board of County Commissioners  
hereby presents this Certificate of Appreciation to*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*On this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 202\_\_\_\_*

*for their legacy contribution  
to the preservation and protection of Environmentally Sensitive Lands  
in Palm Beach County, Florida.*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Printed name and title  
of authorized county representative*



**PALM BEACH COUNTY  
NATURAL  
AREAS**

