

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

RESOLUTION

A RESOLUTION OF THE MIAMI CITY COMMISSION
URGING ACTION BY CONGRESS AND FLORIDA STATE
LEGISLATURE TO PROTECT OUR DRINKING WATER AND
SUPPORT FOR EVERGLADES RESTORATION INITIATIVES

WHEREAS, America's Everglades is in Miami's subtropical backyard and,

WHEREAS, the Everglades recharges the Biscayne aquifer which provides Miami and Miami-Dade County with fresh, clean drinking water for residents, businesses, schools and visitors; and

WHEREAS, Miami and South Florida's economy is directly intertwined with a healthy Everglades ecosystem; and

WHEREAS, a healthy Everglades is key to increasing South Florida's resiliency to adapt to climate change and provides critical carbon sequestration benefits, and

WHEREAS, the Central and Southern Florida project greatly reduced flows to the Everglades by diverting water through canals to the coasts or for other uses, resulting in significant environmental consequences for the Everglades and, hence, Miami; and

WHEREAS, over the past several decades, the lack of sufficient freshwater flow has resulted in harm to the Everglades, Florida Bay, Biscayne Bay, and the Atlantic Ocean waters off our coasts; and

WHEREAS, the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan provides the framework for Everglades restoration and is a 50/50 partnership between the state and federal governments and will significantly increase flows to the Everglades; and

WHEREAS, key projects provide the infrastructure and water management tools necessary to increase flows through the Everglades, including Tamiami Trail bridging, the Everglades Agricultural Area Reservoir, the Central Everglades Plan and revisions to the Lake Okeechobee System Operating Manual; and

WHEREAS, Governor Ron DeSantis is urging a \$2.5 billion environmental and Everglades investment over four years for the construction of Everglades and water quality projects.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY OF MIAMI COMMISSION:

SECTION 1. The foregoing “Whereas” clauses are hereby ratified and confirmed as being true and correct and are hereby made a specific part of this Resolution upon adoption hereof.

SECTION 2. The City of Miami Commission reaffirms its strong support for full funding and construction of Everglades related projects to protect the drinking water supply of its residents and businesses.

SECTION 3. The City of Miami Commission urges the United States Congress to fully fund America’s Everglades at the level of \$725 million for the federal Fiscal Year 2022 and that the Florida Legislature fully fund Governor Ron DeSantis’ request of \$625 million for environmental and Everglades funding within the state budgeting process.

SECTION 4. The City of Miami Commission urges the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to consider the public water supply needs of Miami-Dade County and its dependence on a healthy Everglades for water supply in the process of updating the Lake Okeechobee System Operating Manual.