

CITY OF CORAL GABLES, FLORIDA

RESOLUTION NO. 2016-277

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF CORAL GABLES, FLORIDA, URGING THE U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND THE SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT TO EXPEDITE PHASE II OF THE BISCAYNE BAY COASTAL WETLANDS PROJECT AND TO TAKE ALL NECESSARY ACTIONS TO EXPEDITE COMPELETION OF THE BISCAYNE BAY COASTAL WETLANDS PROJECT.

WHEREAS, the City of Coral Gables contains over forty (40) miles of coastline, waterways, and canals which provide habitat for fish and wildlife, opportunities for recreation, and an enhanced quality of life; and

WHEREAS, Miami-Dade County is the only county in the nation that is home to two national parks, Biscayne National Park and Everglades National Park; and

WHEREAS, the health of Biscayne Bay and the restoration of the greater Everglades' ecosystem is of great importance to the City's continued clean water supply, environmental and public health, and economic well-being; and

WHEREAS, the Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands (BBCW) project is a component of the federal Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP), and the goal of the project is to improve the health of Biscayne Bay, including the freshwater wetlands, tidal creeks and nearby habitats, by redistributing freshwater flow and expanding and restoring wetlands; and

WHEREAS, the BBCW project is sponsored and managed by the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD); and

WHEREAS, the BBCW project is to be completed in two (2) phases, and SFWMD has begun work on Phase I of the BBCW; and

WHEREAS, the planning for Phase II of the BBCW project is not scheduled to begin until 2021; and

WHEREAS, both Phase I and Phase II of the BBCW project must be completed in order to achieve the full project benefits as envisioned in the BBCW project and the CERP; and

WHEREAS, the Miami-Dade County Board of County Commissioners adopted a similar resolution urging completion of the BBCW project by a vote of 10-0 in April of 2016;

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

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 Coral Gables City Commission urges the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, the United States Army Corps of Engineers, and the South Florida Water Management District to move forward with planning for Phase II of the Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands project on an expedited schedule, and to take all necessary steps in order to complete the Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands project in an expedited manner.

SECTION 3. That the City Clerk is directed to send a certified copy of this resolution to the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works, the Governor, the Secretary of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, and the Governing Board and Executive Director of the South Florida Water Management District, neighboring municipalities, the Secretary of the Department of the Interior, Representative Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, Senator Marco Rubio, Senator Bill Nelson, President Barack Obama, and the President-Elect of the United States.

SECTION 4. That this Resolution shall become effective upon the date of its passage and adoption herein.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS SIXTH DAY OF DECEMBER, A.D., 2016.

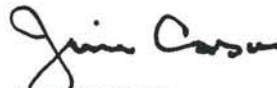
(Moved: Slesnick / Seconded: Quesada)

(Yeas: Slesnick, Keon, Lago, Quesada, Cason)

(Unanimous: 5-0 Vote)

(Agenda Item: F-1)

APPROVED:



JIM CASON
MAYOR

ATTEST:



WALTER J. FOEMAN
CITY CLERK

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND
LEGAL SUFFICIENCY:



CRAIG E. LEEN
CITY ATTORNEY