

RESOLUTION NO. _____

A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA, URGING THE U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION, AND THE SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT TO TAKE ALL STEPS NECESSARY TO EXPEDITE AND COMPLETE THE CONSTRUCTION OF PHASE I OF THE BISCAYNE BAY COASTAL WETLANDS (BBCW) PROJECT; URGING THE U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION, AND THE SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT TO TAKE ALL STEPS NECESSARY TO EXPEDITE THE PLANNING OF PHASE II OF THE BBCW PROJECT SO THAT SUCH PLANNING OCCURS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AND PRIOR TO THE CURRENT SCHEDULED START DATE OF 2021; DIRECTING THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH'S STATE AND FEDERAL LOBBYISTS TO ADVOCATE FOR ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION THAT WOULD ACCOMPLISH THE GOALS SET FORTH IN THIS RESOLUTION; DIRECTING THE CITY ADMINISTRATION TO INCLUDE THIS ITEM IN ITS LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES FOR THE 2017 STATE AND FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE SESSIONS AND FUTURE LEGISLATIVE SESSIONS; AND, FURTHER, DIRECTING THE CITY CLERK TO FORWARD A CERTIFIED COPY OF THIS RESOLUTION TO THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE ARMY FOR CIVIL WORKS, THE SECRETARY OF THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION, AND THE GOVERNING BOARD AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT.

WHEREAS, the western coastline of the City of Miami Beach is bordered by Biscayne Bay; and

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

WHEREAS, specifically, Biscayne Bay is intrinsically linked to the economic well-being of the City through nature-based tourism, an enhanced quality-of-life for residents and visitors, and commercial and recreational boating, watersports, and fishing; and

WHEREAS, the Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands (BBCW) project is a component of the federal Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP); 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 purpose of the BBCW project, as authorized by Congress in the Water Resources Development Act of 2000, is to improve the ecological health of Biscayne Bay by adjusting the quantity, quality, timing, and distribution of freshwater entering Biscayne Bay and Biscayne National Park through the redistribution of freshwater flow and the expansion and restoration of wetlands, which will help to restore or enhance freshwater wetlands, tidal wetlands, and near-shore bay habitats; and

WHEREAS, the USACE and the SFWMD determined that the BBCW project would be planned and completed in two (2) phases; and

WHEREAS, the USACE and the SFWMD completed the planning for Phase I of the BBCW project in 2011; however, the planning for Phase II of the project is not scheduled to begin until 2021; and

WHEREAS, Phase II of the BBCW project is intended to provide water storage and rehydrate more than twenty thousand (20,000) acres of important wetlands that connect the Everglades to Biscayne Bay and Card Sound; and

WHEREAS, the City of Miami Beach is deeply invested and committed to seeing the BBCW project completed and, in order for the project to be completed in a timely manner, Phase II of the BBCW project must move forward in advance of the current schedule; and

WHEREAS, the SFWMD expedited the construction of Phase I of the BBCW project in advance of congressional authorization, completed construction of the Deering Estate Flow-way and portions of the L-31E Flow-way in Fall 2012, and is currently operating these components of the project; and

WHEREAS, the full potential benefits of the BBCW project will only be realized once Phase I and II of the project are planned and constructed.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT DULY RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA, that the Mayor and City Commission hereby urge the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, and the South Florida Water Management District to take all steps necessary to expedite and complete the construction of Phase I of the Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands Project; urge the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, and the South Florida Water Management District to take all steps necessary to expedite the planning of Phase II of the BBCW project so that such planning occurs as soon as possible and prior to the current scheduled start date of 2021; direct the City of Miami Beach's state and federal lobbyists to advocate for administrative action that would accomplish the goals set forth

in this Resolution; direct the City Administration to include this item in its legislative priorities for the 2017 state and federal legislative sessions and future legislative sessions; and, further, direct the City Clerk to forward a certified copy of this Resolution to the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works, the Secretary of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, and the Governing Board and Executive Director of the South Florida Water Management District.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this ____ day of January, 2017.

ATTEST:

Philip Levine, Mayor

Rafael E. Granado, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO
FORM & LANGUAGE
& FOR EXECUTION

City Attorney
BT

12/23/16

Date