

RESOLUTION NO. 21-10-105

A RESOLUTION OF THE VILLAGE COUNCIL OF ISLAMORADA, VILLAGE OF ISLANDS, FLORIDA, URGING THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY FLORIDA TO PROTECT REGIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL, ECONOMIC, AND WATER RESOURCES AND UPHOLD RECOMMENDATIONS OF PLANNING STAFF TO DENY CDMP AMENDMENT APPLICATION CDMP20210003; PROVIDING FOR TRANSMITTAL; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, Islamorada, Village of Islands (the "Village"), and Monroe County are part of the vast Everglades ecosystem that covers much of South Florida, and Monroe County's coastline encompasses Everglades National Park, Florida Bay, and the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary (FKNMS); and

WHEREAS, the waters of the Florida Keys are dependent on the health of the Everglades ecosystem as the primary source of fresh water and foundation for the nearshore estuarine environment, and Florida Bay provides a unique and critical habitat for numerous plant and animal species, including over a dozen federally protected, endangered, and threatened species and species of special concern as designated by the state such as the bottlenose dolphin, Florida manatee, smalltooth sawfish, green sea turtle, hawksbill turtle, American crocodile, roseate spoonbills, egrets, and pelicans; and

WHEREAS, chronic lack of freshwater flow that has resulted from decades of over-development, coupled with increasingly high temperatures and salinity in Florida Bay, has contributed to mass seagrass die-offs, algal blooms, sponge die-offs, and degraded fishery species habitat in Florida Bay and FKNMS; and

WHEREAS, the Village Council of Islamorada, Village of Islands (the "Village Council") has

been outspoken in its support for advancing the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP) with the goal of restoring the flow of clean, fresh water from Lake Okeechobee to Everglades National Park and the waters of Florida Bay; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and South Florida Water Management District are the federal and local sponsors, respectively, for the implementation of CERP and are actively advancing planning of the Biscayne Bay and Southeastern Everglades Ecosystem Restoration (BBSEER) Project, an integral component of CERP with the goal of restoring freshwater flow to Biscayne Bay, Florida Bay, Card Sound, Barnes Sound, and Manatee Bay; and

WHEREAS, the water supply for over 74,000 residents of Monroe County is also directly impacted by the health of wellfields in Miami-Dade County, and associated land and water quality impacts around these wellfields; and

WHEREAS, the density and development of Miami-Dade County has direct impacts on critically important hurricane evacuation routes designated for Monroe County residents; and

WHEREAS, the Miami-Dade County Commission is currently considering an amendment application to its Comprehensive Development Master Plan (CDMP) which would expand the Miami-Dade County Urban Development Boundary (UDB) to include 793-acres of farmland adjacent to the Homestead Air Reserve Base, and redesignate this parcel from agriculture to 'special district' on the Future Land Use Map; and

WHEREAS, the parcel under consideration is in direct proximity to wellfields that are critical for the protection of Monroe County's water supply and is also within the project scope of BBSEER which is currently under evaluation by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and South Florida Water Management District for consideration of project features that will deliver more freshwater to

Florida Bay and Biscayne Bay, and

WHEREAS, Miami-Dade County staff noted major inconsistencies between this proposed project, the County's goals, and the requirements outlined in the CDMP, and have recommended that the County deny the application, noting several detrimental environmental and resource impacts including to downstream water resources; and

WHEREAS, development of this area could foreclose future opportunities for wetland rehydration or ecosystem restoration projects under BBSEER, reducing project viability and impeding water flow south into Everglades National Park, Florida Bay, and FKNMS, all of which are critical resources for the Village of Islamorada and Monroe County; and

WHEREAS, the Village Council finds that denial of CDMP Amendment Application CDMP20210003 is in the best interest of the Village and its residents

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE VILLAGE COUNCIL OF ISLAMORADA, VILLAGE OF ISLANDS, FLORIDA, AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. **Recitals.** The above recitals are true and correct and incorporated into this Resolution by this Reference.

Section 2. **Urging Denial of CDMP Amendment Application CDMP20210003.**
The Village Council urges the Board of Commissioners of Miami-Dade County to uphold the determination of its planning staff to deny application CDMP20210003 based on anticipated detrimental impacts to regional environmental and economic resources, water supply, and interference with CERP implementation. Furthermore, the Village Council of Islamorada urges the state and federal agencies reviewing the current transmittal of application CDMP20210003 to exercise their authority to deny this incompatible and detrimental proposal.

Section 3. Transmittal. It is hereby requested that the Village Clerk transmit a copy of this Resolution to the Board of Commissioners of Miami-Dade County and to the state and federal agencies reviewing the current transmittal of application CDMP20210003.

Section 4. Effective Date. This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

Motion to adopt by Councilman Mark Gregg, seconded by Vice Mayor Pete Bacheler.

FINAL VOTE AT ADOPTION

VILLAGE COUNCIL OF ISLAMORADA, VILLAGE OF ISLANDS

Mayor Joseph B. Pinder III	YES
Vice Mayor Pete Bacheler	YES
Councilman Mark Gregg	YES
Councilman Henry Rosenthal	YES
Councilman David Webb	YES

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 14th DAY OF OCTOBER, 2021.



JOSEPH B. PINDER III, MAYOR

ATTEST:



KELLY TOTH, VILLAGE CLERK

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGALITY
FOR THE USE AND BENEFIT OF
ISLAMORADA, VILLAGE OF ISLANDS:



ROGET V. BRYAN, VILLAGE ATTORNEY