

**RESOLUTION NO. 17-\_\_\_**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF CUTLER BAY, FLORIDA, URGING THE UNITED STATES 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; PROVIDING FOR TRANSMITTAL; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

**WHEREAS**, the Town Council of the Town of Cutler Bay (the “Town”) strives to provide the highest quality of life for residents and tourists alike; and

**WHEREAS**, the preservation of shorelines is of public interest in that it protects the adjacent upland coastal developments from storm damage; provides recreational benefits; supports additional tourism and increase in revenues; and maintains the nesting habits of natural species; and

**WHEREAS**, the Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands Project (the “Project”) is a critical component of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Project (CERP), as authorized by Congress in 2000, which is intended to restore natural coastal wetlands and marine habitats in Biscayne Bay and Biscayne National Park; and

**WHEREAS**, the CERP will improve South Florida’s ecosystem by restoring water flows that have changed tremendously over the past century and store as much as possible of the 1.7 billion gallons of fresh water a day which is currently being released into the Atlantic Ocean and Gulf of Mexico; and

**WHEREAS**, the restoration of freshwater sheet flow feeding into southern Biscayne Bay will help hold back saltwater intrusion and further the Town’s Climate Change Element initiative to promote environmental responsibility at the local level; and

**WHEREAS**, the Project is also critical to the Town’s efforts to adapt to the projected climate impacts of sea level rise that will cause additional saltwater intrusion in areas that are already experiencing significant saltwater migration several miles inland; and

**WHEREAS**, the Project will enhance ecological health by helping to reestablish productive nearshore habitat, including nursery habitat for shrimp, shellfish and fish while improving recreational and educational opportunities in Biscayne Bay and adjacent wetlands; and

**WHEREAS**, the Project is also “shovel-ready” and “green,” making them consistent with early goals for federal economic stimulus funding; and

**WHEREAS**, on April 19, 2016, the Miami-Dade County Board of County Commissioners adopted Resolution No. R-325-16 (“County”), expediting the planning of Phase II of the Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands Project; and

**WHEREAS**, on January 10, 2017, the Village of Key Biscayne adopted Resolution No. 2017-1, supporting the County’s Resolution; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town finds that this Resolution will promote the health, safety and welfare of the Town and South Florida wetlands.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF CUTLER BAY, FLORIDA, AS FOLLOWS:**

**Section 1. Recitals.** The above findings are true and correct and incorporated herein by this reference.

**Section 2. Urging.** The Town Council hereby urges the United States Army Corps of Engineers, Florida Department of Environmental Protection, and the South Florida Water Management District to expedite the planning of Phase II of the Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands Project.

**Section 3. Transmittal.** The Town Council directs the Town Clerk to transmit a certified copy of this Resolution to the United States Army Corps of Engineers, the Secretary of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, the South Florida Water Management District Board Members, and municipalities in Miami-Dade County.

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

PASSED and ADOPTED this \_\_\_\_ day of February, 2017.

\_\_\_\_\_  
PEGGY R. BELL  
Mayor

Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_  
DEBRA E. EASTMAN, MMC  
Interim Town Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND  
LEGAL SUFFICIENCY FOR THE  
SOLE USE OF THE TOWN OF CUTLER BAY:

\_\_\_\_\_  
WEISS SEROTA HELFMAN  
COLE & BIERMAN, P.L.  
Town Attorney

Moved By: \_\_\_\_\_

Seconded By: \_\_\_\_\_

FINAL VOTE AT ADOPTION:

Mayor Peggy R. Bell \_\_\_\_\_

Vice Mayor Sue Ellen Loyzelle \_\_\_\_\_

Council Member Mary Ann Mixon \_\_\_\_\_

Council Member Michael P. Callahan \_\_\_\_\_

Council Member Roger Coriat \_\_\_\_\_