



**CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE
City Commission Agenda Memo
CONFERENCE MEETING**

#13-1588

TO: Honorable Mayor & Members of the
Fort Lauderdale City Commission

FROM: Lee Feldman, ICMA-CM, City Manager

DATE: December 3, 2013

TITLE: C-51 Reservoir Project Status Report

The purpose of this memorandum is to update the City Commission on the C-51 Reservoir project.

Background

In 2006, water managers and water utility directors representing entities in Broward and Palm Beach Counties began to jointly explore the feasibility of a regional reservoir as a strategy for meeting water quality objectives, as described in the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan and urban water supply needs.

A reservoir in northeast Palm Beach County has emerged as the leading initiative to meet these requirements. The C-51 Reservoir, named after the adjacent C-51 drainage canal which would be the source of the water, could meet the future raw water demands for both Palm Beach and Broward Counties for the next 50 years.

The projects primary objective is to capture stormwater which is currently lost to the Lake Worth Lagoon system and to utilize this water as a potential water supply source. In addition to expansion of the regional water supply, the projects secondary benefits includes: 1) the elimination of excess fresh water discharges to the brackish Lake Worth Lagoon, 2) improvement of regional water quality, and 3) control of stormwater discharges.

C-51 Governance and Finance Work Group

At the September 17, 2013 City Commission meeting, the Commission adopted a resolution (Resolution 13-177) supporting the creation of a regional C-51 Governance and Finance Work Group to develop governance and finance strategies for Phase I implementation of the proposed C-51 Reservoir project.

The C-51 Governance and Finance Work Group held a meeting on September 18, 2013, where the following members were appointed to the Work Group:

Broward County members:

Commissioner Martin David Kiar	Broward County Commission
Mr. Jeff Kivett	South Florida Water Management District
Commissioner Alanna Mersinger	South Broward Drainage District
Commissioner Donald Rosen	City of Sunrise
Vice Mayor Lisa Aronson	City of Coconut Creek
Mayor Joy Cooper	City of Hallandale Beach
Council Member Susan Starkey	Town of Davie
Hardeep Anand, <i>Tentative</i>	City of Fort Lauderdale

Palm Beach members:

Commissioner Milton Block	Town of Jupiter Inlet Colony
Council Member Michael Mullaugh	City of Boca Raton
Council Member David J. Levy	City of Palm Beach Gardens
Council Member David Swift	Village of Royal Palm Beach
Mr. Patrick Martin	Lake Worth Drainage District
Mr. Bevin Beaudet	Palm Beach County Water Utility Department
(None, <i>intentional</i>)	City of West Palm Beach

Impacts to the City of Fort Lauderdale

The C-51 Reservoir is an important project for the City of Fort Lauderdale's sustainable future. The reservoir could supply the City with a more environmentally sustainable and lower cost water supply as compared to current available alternatives. Additional benefits include a lower carbon footprint relative to other alternative water sources and the ability to mitigate saltwater intrusion as the sea level rises. Because of the diversity of benefits from this reservoir, government agencies and water utilities have been working collaboratively to develop this reservoir in an environmentally, economically, and technically feasible manner.

Recommendation

Currently, the Public Works Director is the tentative appointee to the C-51 Work Group. The majority of members of the work group are elected officials. The outcome of this project has regional water supply benefits. Because of this, staff recommends a City Commission member become the permanent appointee. This appointment should occur as quickly as possible as the work group will convene again on December 9, 2013.

Strategic Connections

This item is a *Press Play Fort Lauderdale Strategic Plan 2018* initiative, included within the **Infrastructure Cylinder of Excellence**, specifically advancing:

- **Goal 2:** Be a sustainable and resilient community.
- **Objective 6:** Secure our community's water supply.
- **Initiative 2:** Participate in regional Long-Term Water Supply Strategies (C-51).

This item advances *the Fast Forward Fort Lauderdale Vision Plan 2035: We Are Ready*

Related CAM(s): #13-1040

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