



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

FROM: Lee Feldman, ICMA-CM, City Manager

DATE: September 17, 2013

TITLE: Resolution supporting the creation of a regional C-51 Governance and
Finance Work Group

Recommendation

It is recommended that the City Commission adopt a Resolution 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.

Background

In 2006, water managers and water utility directors representing entities in Palm Beach and Broward County 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. This project later became known as the C-51 Reservoir due to the proposed location of the project (adjacent to the C-51 Canal in Palm Beach County).

The Broward Water Resources Task Force (WRTF) was convened in 2008 to consider opportunities for regional collaboration in alternative water supply development and identified the C-51 project as a priority as part of the Broward WRTF Report (August 2010).

The C-51 initiative involves the creation of a reservoir in Palm Beach County with a capacity of approximately 75,000 acre-feet of surface water storage, which would be able to provide approximately 185 million gallons of water per day. The intent of the C-51 initiative is to transport the water from the new reservoir south and eventually into the Everglades. The replenishment of the Everglades will in turn lead to a replenishment of the Biscayne Aquifer, from which the City withdraws water.

In addition to the above, the initiative will allow municipalities that purchase allocations of water from the C-51 reservoir to receive increased allocations of water from the Biscayne Aquifer. The Biscayne Aquifer is the source of the highest quality water in

South Florida and requires the least amount of treatment (and cost) prior to delivery to water customers.

This Resolution provides support for the creation of a regional work group to develop governance and finance strategies supporting Phase I development of the proposed C-51 reservoir project, with membership to include officials representing county government, municipal government, drainage/water control districts, water providers and the South Florida Water Management District. Work Group members will be asked to participate in the procurement of consultant services to support this process, and to consider options and make a recommendation to their respective local or regional governing bodies regarding a governance and finance strategy for implementation of Phase I of the C-51 Reservoir Project. It is anticipated that technical support and staffing will be provided by staff members affiliated with each of the represented agencies on the Work Group.

While the City has historically participated in the WRTF group, City Commission adoption of this Resolution is required for the City to be considered for a seat on the official committee. While not guaranteed, only communities that adopt this Resolution will be considered for one (1) of the four (4) municipal seats available.

Resource Impact

There is no fiscal impact.

Attachment: Exhibit 1 – Resolution

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