

RESOLUTION NO. 17 - 2413

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF SURFSIDE, 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; FURTHER 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 PRIOR TO THE CURRENT SCHEDULED DATE OF 2021; DIRECTING THE TOWN CLERK TO TRANSMIT A COPY OF THIS RESOLUTION TO THE OFFICIALS STATED HEREIN; PROVIDING FOR AUTHORIZATION AND IMPLEMENTATION; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the Town of Surfside (“Town”) adopted Resolution No. 13-2174 on July 16, 2013 expressing the Town’s support for the restoration of Biscayne Bay as part of the Greater Everglades with the completion of the Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands (“BBCW”) Project under the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan and also supporting the efforts of the Environmentally Endangered Lands program and the Florida Forever program to purchase adjacent coastal wetlands needed for the BBCW Project and recharge of Miami-Dade aquifer; and

WHEREAS, the Town’s west coastline is bordered by Biscayne Bay; and

WHEREAS, the health of Biscayne Bay is intrinsically linked to the economic well-being of the Town through nature-based tourism and commercial and recreational boating, watersports, and fishing; and

WHEREAS, a study cited by the National Sea Grant College Program of the U.S. Department of Commerce National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration found that economic activities related to Biscayne Bay-related uses contributed to approximately 10.2% of Miami-Dade County’s total economy; and

WHEREAS, the Environmental Protection Agency Science Advisory Board has indicated that ecosystems provide basic life support for human and animal populations and are a source of spiritual, aesthetic, and other human experiences that are valued in many ways by many people; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of the BBCW Project, a critical component of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (“CERP”), 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

WHEREAS, the expansion and restoration of wetlands will help to restore or enhance freshwater wetlands, tidal wetlands, and near shore bay habitat; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the South Florida Water Management District determined that the BBCW Project would be planned and completed in two (2) phases; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and South Florida Water Management District 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 Town is deeply invested and committed to seeing the BBCW Project completed, and in order to do so in a timely manner, Phase II of the BBCW Project must move forward in advance of the current schedule; and

WHEREAS, on June 10, 2014, the BBCW Project received congressional authorization in the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014 making the project eligible for funding during the appropriations process; and

WHEREAS, the South Florida Water Management District 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 Town urges for the completion of Phase I of the BBCW project and is fully supportive of land acquisition by the South Florida Water Management District to finalize this portion of the BBCW project; and

WHEREAS, the Town supports the South Florida Water Management District proposal to acquire 622.33 acres more or less, located within Phase 1 of the BBCW Project pursuant to the Project Partnership Agreement approved by the District on August 11, 2016; 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; and

WHEREAS, the Town urges 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 date of 2021, including but not limited to the following steps:

- a. Urging the South Florida Water Management District, as local sponsor of the BBCW Project, to ask the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to include, in its budget for fiscal year 2017-2018, the fifty percent (50%) federal share of funding for the planning of Phase II of the BBCW Project; and
- b. Urging the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to include such funding for the planning of Phase II of the BBCW Project in its budget for fiscal year 2017-2018; and
- c. Urging the South Florida Water Management District to allocate up to three million dollars (\$3,000,000.00), or equivalent in-kind services, as approved and required by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for the planning of Phase II of the BBCW Project.

WHEREAS, the Town urges 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 BBCW Project.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWN OF SURFSIDE, FLORIDA, AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Recitals Adopted. That each of the above stated recitals are hereby adopted, confirmed, and incorporated herein.

Section 2. Urging by the Town of Surfside Commission to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, and the South Florida Water Management District to support the BBCW Project. The Town Commission urges 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 BBCW Project, including land acquisition, and 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 date of 2021.

Section 3. Direction to the Town Clerk. The Town Clerk is hereby directed to send a copy of this Resolution to the Members of the Florida Congressional Delegation, the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works, the Governor, the Chair and Members of the Miami-Dade State Legislative Delegation, the Secretary of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and the Governing Board and Executive Director of the South Florida Water Management District.

Section 4. Authorization and Implementation. The Town Manager is hereby authorized to take any and all action necessary to implement this Resolution.

Section 5. Effective Date. This Resolution shall become effective immediately upon its adoption.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 10th day of January 2017.

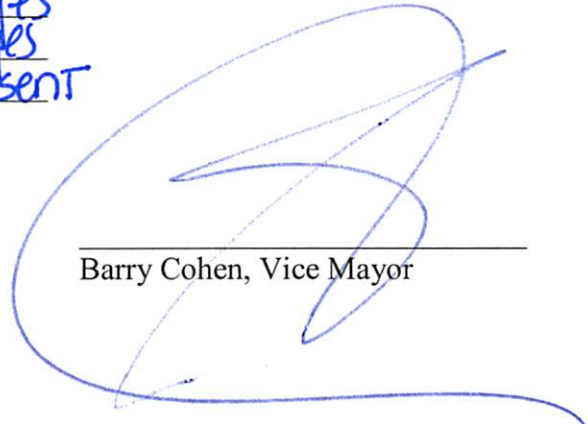
Motion by Commissioner Paul,

Second by Commissioner Gielchinsky.

FINAL VOTE ON ADOPTION

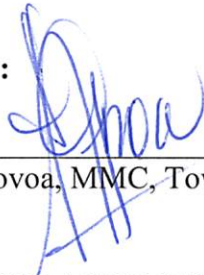
Commissioner Daniel Gielchinsky
Commissioner Michael Karukin
Commissioner Tina Paul
Vice Mayor Barry Cohen
Mayor Daniel Dietch

yes
yes
yes
yes
absent



Barry Cohen, Vice Mayor

ATTEST:



Sandra Novoa, MMC, Town Clerk

**APPROVED AS TO FORM AND
LEGAL SUFFICIENCY FOR THE TOWN OF SURFSIDE ONLY:**



Linda Miller, Town Attorney