

ADD ON

Meeting Date
November 15, 2016



AGENDA	
Section	New Business
Item No.	VI B 1

**AGENDA REPORT**  
**BREVARD COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

<b>SUBJECT:</b>	Resolution RE: Allocation of funding for the Environmentally Endangered Lands Program – All Districts  Fiscal Impact: There are no fiscal impacts to General Revenue Funds or EEL Program funds.
<b>DEPT/OFFICE:</b>	Community Services Group / Parks and Recreation Department

**Requested Action:**

It is requested the Board approve the attached resolution urging the Florida Legislature to allocate funding for Brevard County's Environmentally Endangered Lands Program for conservation land acquisition and management pursuant to the Florida Water and Land Conservation Initiative, Florida Constitutional Amendment 1; urging the Florida Association of Counties to identify this issue as one of its priorities for the 2017 State Legislative session.

**Summary Explanation & Background:**

On September 26th, Brevard County received a letter from the Miami-Dade County Board of County Commissioners, requesting other County Land Conservation Programs to join them in urging the Florida Legislature to allocate funding from Amendment 1 for county conservation land acquisition and management programs.

Contact: Mike Knight, EEL Program Manager  
 Phone: 321-255-4466  
[mike.knight@brevardfl.gov](mailto:mike.knight@brevardfl.gov)

Clerk to the Board Instructions:

Exhibits Attached: Resolution

Contract /Agreement (If attached): Reviewed by County Attorney    Yes     No     PR

County Manager	Assistant County Manager,	Jack Masson, Parks & Recreation Department Director jack.masson@brevardparks.com; 633-2046
Stockton Whitten	Assistant County Manager, Venetta Valdengo	<i>Jack Masson</i>



Tammy Rowe, Clerk to the Board, 400 South Street • P.O. Box 999, Titusville, Florida 32781-0999

Telephone: (321) 637-2001  
Fax: (321) 264-6972  
Tammy.Rowe@brevardclerk.us

November 16, 2016

MEMORANDUM

TO: Jack Masson, Parks and Recreation Director

RE: Item VI.B.1., Resolution Urging the Florida Legislature to Allocate Funding for the Environmentally Endangered Lands Program

The Board of County Commissioners, in regular session on November 15, 2016, adopted Resolution No. 16-209, urging the Florida Legislature to allocate funding for Brevard County's Environmentally Endangered Lands Program for conservation land acquisition and management, pursuant to the Florida Water and Land Conservation Initiative, Florida Constitutional Amendment 1, urging the Florida Association of Counties to identify this issue as one of its priorities for the 2017 State Legislative Session. Enclosed is a certified copy of the Resolution.

Your continued cooperation is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
SCOTT ELLIS, CLERK

Tammy Rowe, Deputy Clerk

Encl. (1)

cc: EEL Program Manager

RESOLUTION URGING THE FLORIDA LEGISLATURE TO ALLOCATE FUNDING FOR COUNTY CONSERVATION LAND ACQUISITION AND MANAGEMENT PROGRAMS, SUCH AS BREVARD COUNTY'S ENVIRONMENTALLY ENDANGERED LANDS PROGRAM, FROM THE FLORIDA WATER AND LAND CONSERVATION INITIATIVE, FLORIDA CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT 1; URGING THE FLORIDA ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES TO IDENTIFY THIS ISSUE AS ONE OF ITS PRIORITIES FOR THE 2017 STATE LEGISLATIVE SESSION;

**WHEREAS**, on November 4, 2014, 75.64 percent of Florida voters approved Florida Constitutional Amendment 1, the Florida Water and Land Conservation Initiative, which authorizes no less than 33 percent of net revenues collected from the existing excise tax on real estate documents (the "documentary stamp tax") to be used to acquire, restore, and improve land and water areas throughout Florida; and

**WHEREAS**, the revenues collected pursuant to Amendment 1 may be used to help finance the acquisition and management of conservation land in Brevard County; and

**WHEREAS**, as Brevard is ranked the 10th most populous county in Florida and generates over \$43 million annually in documentary stamp tax revenue and contributes a significant share of Florida's total documentary stamp tax revenue; and

**WHEREAS**, documentary stamp tax revenues have historically been used to provide state funding for the purchase of environmentally significant Florida lands, including parks, waterfronts, and trails; and

**WHEREAS**, Florida is known for its beautiful rivers, lakes, streams, wetlands, forests, wildlife habitat, and beaches and shores, and these natural assets are central to our quality of life and economic vitality; and

**WHEREAS**, outdoor recreation and tourism is one of Florida's most significant industries, employing one out of every nine residents, drawing 90 million people annually to our state, and contributing \$71 billion to our economy in 2012; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1990 and 2004 the citizens of Brevard County voted to create and fund the Environmentally Endangered Lands Program ("EEL Program"), through two separate twenty-year property tax referenda for the acquisition, protection, and maintenance of environmentally endangered lands; and

**WHEREAS**, the EEL Program and its purchasing partners have brought more than 24,000 acres of environmentally endangered lands into public ownership within the County and; and

**WHEREAS**, these environmentally endangered lands contain many treasured natural resources that contribute greatly to the recreational opportunities and quality of life enjoyed by Florida residents and visitors alike; and

**WHEREAS**, Brevard County's environmentally endangered lands provide many critical public services to our residents and visitors, such as the protection of biological diversity, reducing stormwater runoff from polluting surface waters to the Indian River Lagoon, providing aquifer recharge and wellfield

protection, providing carbon sequestration, protecting numerous threatened and endangered species, and habitat conservation; and

**WHEREAS**, the County has focused its efforts on environmentally endangered land acquisition in areas such as the Atlantic Coastal Ridge (consisting primarily of endangered scrub habitats), and Indian River Lagoon Coastal Wetlands; and

**WHEREAS**, with support from Florida's governors and legislatures from 1990 through 2008, two state programs, Preservation 2000 and Florida Forever, received approximately \$300 million in state funding each year; and

**WHEREAS**, Preservation 2000, Florida Forever, and the Florida Communities Trust program have contributed over \$61 million to support conservation land acquisitions in Brevard County; and

**WHEREAS**, Brevard County, through the EEL Program, has worked in partnership with state agencies to acquire over 4,000 acres of conservation land titled to the state; and

**WHEREAS**, the EEL Program has both directly acquired and partnered in the acquisition of an additional 20,000 acres of conservation lands; and

**WHEREAS**, the EEL Program spends over \$2 million annually on the management of these state and county-owned conservation lands; and

**WHEREAS**, while the Amendment 1 portion of the documentary stamp tax revenue totaled over \$800 million, the state's fiscal year 2016-2017 budget has allocated just \$15 million for Florida Forever funding and \$21 million for beach projects, but over \$187 million for salaries and operating expenses; and

**WHEREAS**, a number of counties in Florida have environmentally endangered land programs similar to Brevard County's program; and

**WHEREAS**, Brevard County would like to partner with other counties in Florida that have environmentally endangered land acquisition programs to pursue state funding; and

**WHEREAS**, acquisition, management, and restoration of conservation lands requires a sustainable, dedicated source of funding,

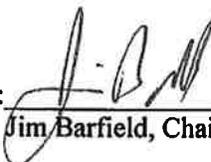
**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF BREVARD COUNTY, FLORIDA, that:**

This Resolution is PASSED AND ADOPTED this 15<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2016.

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Scott Ellis, Clerk

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
OF BREVARD COUNTY, FLORIDA

By:   
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jim Barfield, Chairman

As approved by the Board on November 15, 2016

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