



# Everglades Coalition

## **Resolution of the Everglades Coalition Urging the Miami-Dade Board of County Commissioners to adhere to the Comprehensive Development Master Plan and to oppose proposed expansion of the Urban Development Boundary**

1000 Friends of Florida  
Arthur R. Marshall Foundation  
Audubon  
Audubon Florida  
Audubon of the Everglades  
Audubon of Southwest Florida  
Audubon of the Western Everglades  
Caloosahatchee River Citizens  
Association / Riverwatch  
Center for Biological Diversity  
Clean Water Action  
Conservancy of Southwest Florida  
Defenders of Wildlife  
“Ding” Darling Wildlife Society  
Earthjustice  
Environment Florida  
Everglades Coordinating Council  
Everglades Foundation  
Everglades Law Center  
Everglades Trust  
Florida Conservation Alliance  
Florida Defenders of the Environment  
Florida Keys Environmental Fund  
Florida Native Plant Society  
Florida Oceanographic Society  
Florida Wildlife Federation  
Friends of the Arthur R. Marshall  
Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge  
Friends of the Everglades  
Hendry Glades Audubon Society  
Institute for Regional Conservation  
Izaak Walton League Florida Division  
Izaak Walton League Florida Keys Chapter  
Izaak Walton League Mangrove Chapter  
Izaak Walton League of America  
Last Stand  
League of Women Voters of Florida  
Loxahatchee River Coalition  
Martin County Conservation Alliance  
Miami Waterkeeper  
National Parks Conservation Association  
National Wildlife Federation  
National Wildlife Refuge Association  
Natural Resources Defense Council  
Ocean Research & Conservation Association  
Reef Relief  
Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation  
Save It Now, Glades!  
Sierra Club  
Sierra Club Broward Group  
Sierra Club Calusa Group  
Sierra Club Central Florida Group  
Sierra Club Florida Chapter  
Sierra Club Loxahatchee Group  
Sierra Club Miami Group  
Snook and Gamefish Foundation  
South Florida Audubon Society  
Southern Alliance for Clean Energy  
Tropical Audubon Society  
The Urban Environment League of  
Greater Miami

**WHEREAS**, Miami-Dade County received two applications in the May 2015 Comprehensive Development Master Plan (CDMP) Amendment Cycle (Applications Nos. 7 and 8), which propose to expand the Urban Development Boundary (UDB) and the footprint of development activity;

**WHEREAS**, the Everglades ecosystem benefits from the Urban Development Boundary (UDB) established in Miami-Dade County’s Comprehensive Development Master Plan (CDMP);

**WHEREAS**, Policy LU-8G of the CDMP requires that before considering expansion of the UDB, it must first be demonstrated that there is a need to add land to the UDB in accordance with Policy LU-8F;

**WHEREAS**, Policy LU-8F and LU-8G of the CDMP combined require that the UDB shall not be expanded unless there is not enough developable land within the UDB to meet projected residential capacity for a 15-year countywide supply and currently the UDB contains enough available space to meet projected residential capacity for the next 17 years;

**WHEREAS**, Policy CON-7J of the CDMP states that “In evaluating applications that result in alterations or adverse impacts to wetlands Miami-Dade County shall consider the applications’ consistency with Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Program (CERP) objectives. Applications that are found to be inconsistent with CERP objectives, projects or features shall be denied.”;

**WHEREAS**, development of the proposed projects outside of the UDB is inconsistent with CERP, will increase noise pollution and impacts to wildlife within the Everglades National Park (ENP), will interfere with restoration and thus increase the cost and time needed for restoration by changing flooding patterns and flood control needed, while decreasing the footprint of the Everglades ecosystem;

**WHEREAS**, the area between the UDB and ENP serves as an important buffer zone for ENP and a recharge area for the aquifer Miami-Dade County depends on for water supply;

**WHEREAS**, the extension of the UDB at this time is premature and will have significant negative impacts in Miami-Dade County, including increased traffic and the costly extension of county services including potable water, wastewater, storm water, schools, parks, police, fire, and social services;

*Committed to full protection and restoration of America’s Everglades*

**WHEREAS**, Application No. 7 seeks to change the zoning of 859 gross-acres of land currently zoned for agriculture and outside the UDB to enlarge the UDB to include this acreage and to change the Land Use Map designation from Agriculture to a new urbanized land use category;

**WHEREAS**, Application No. 8 seeks to change the zoning of 61.1 gross-acres from “Agricultural” to “Business and Office” and “Business and Industrial”;

**WHEREAS**, combined these projects would result in the removal of approximately 920 acres of active farmland, which provide an effective and practical barrier between the urban core of Miami and Everglades National Park and provides a highly desirable capacity for local food production; and

**WHEREAS**, Application No. 7 includes provisions for the construction of 11,000 units of housing in a location that would require residents to commute to and from the area, thus exacerbating traffic congestion in the area.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the Everglades Coalition resolves and opposes any change to the Urban Development Boundary and urges Miami-Dade County to do the same, for the reasons outlined above.

Adopted August 21<sup>st</sup>, 2015

*Cara Capp*

Cara Capp  
National Co-Chair



Jason Totoiu  
State Co-Chair

*Committed to full protection and restoration of America's Everglades*