



# EVERGLADES COALITION

November 9, 2022

Mayor Daniella Levine Cava  
Miami-Dade County  
111 NW 1st Street, 29<sup>th</sup> floor  
Miami, FL 33128

Sent Via Email to [Daniella.Cava@miamidade.gov](mailto:Daniella.Cava@miamidade.gov)

## **RE: Veto Request South Dade Logistics Center**

Dear Honorable Daniella Levine Cava,

We submit the following comments on behalf of the Everglades Coalition, an alliance of 56 local, state, and national conservation and environmental organizations dedicated to full restoration of the greater Everglades ecosystem—from the Kissimmee Chain of Lakes into Lake Okeechobee, through the “River of Grass,” and out to Florida Bay and Biscayne Bay. The Everglades is widely recognized as one of the world’s most unique and spectacular natural wonders, and Florida has a compelling interest in protecting and restoring the ecosystem due to its tremendous economic and ecological value. In addition, restoring the Everglades ecosystem is in Miami-Dade County’s best interest because it will improve resiliency for the residents that live in and around South Dade.<sup>1</sup>

On November 1st, the South Dade Logistics and Technology District was narrowly approved by the Miami-Dade County Commission. This speculative development is located on valuable farmland that has been under evaluation since 2005 for the Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands (BBCW) project, one of the 68 Everglades Restoration projects outlined in the yellow book. This footprint is currently being modeled in what has become phase II of BBCW, Biscayne Bay and Southeastern Everglades Ecosystem Restoration (BBSEER). Despite informing the commission of the risks to Everglades restoration, they ignored the science, expert and agency recommendations, and waived county rules to approve the application. We ask for your leadership to protect the future of the Everglades.

The project sets a dangerous precedent that supports trading Environmentally Endangered Lands (EEL) in exchange for favorable votes, which will drive up the cost of restoration or stop it all together. In addition, it threatens adjacent neighborhoods with flooding and creates risks to life and property. The project changes rules to allow risky building in Coastal High Hazard areas, vulnerable to storm surge, and it consumes scarce agricultural land under consideration for Everglades and Biscayne Bay restoration projects.

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<sup>1</sup> [Julie Dick, “Priorities for Resilience in Florida” \(Melbourne: Florida Institute of Technology, 2018\), 1.](#)

Your leadership on Everglades Restoration has been unwavering and we ask that you lead again by vetoing this application as it will preclude our options to restore the Greater Everglades including Biscayne Bay which as you know is at a critical tipping point. **This property is at the bottleneck of the watershed that needs to be redirected for restoration of Biscayne National Park, and cannot be realized elsewhere.**

The property is adjacent to the water and sewer plant and the use of at least 50MGD have been considered for restoration, and using a filter marsh in this area could not occur without this valuable piece of land that connects the C-101 to C-102 basins and clean this valuable additional water.

We ask that you **Veto this bad deal for Everglades Restoration**, and protect the Federal and State tax dollar investments that have been made for Miami Dade County's resiliency.

Sincerely,



Mark Perry  
Co-Chair



Kelly Cox  
Co-Chair