



Palm Beach County

FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

FY 2011

**Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners
FEDERAL AGENDA FY2011**

PALM BEACH COUNTY PRIORITY ISSUES

Economic Development

1. Economic Stimulus
 - A. Water and Wastewater 4 projects @\$23.2 million
 - B. Economic Development 8 projects @\$115 million
 - C. Transportation (Transit) 1 project @\$120 million
 - D. Airport Improvements 2 projects @\$12.3 million
 - E. Parks and Recreation 5 projects @\$2.35 million
 - F. Broadband Grants 1 project @\$20.0 million
 - G. Environmental and Natural Resources 12 projects @\$85.3 million
2. South Florida Inland Port
3. Convention Center Hotel \$20,000,000
4. Jobs Creation Legislation
5. Housing and Foreclosure Relief

Transportation and Infrastructure

1. PalmTran
 - Hybrid Bus Replacement \$3,000,000
 - Park and Ride Lot \$3,000,000
 - Bus Shelters \$800,000

Environmental and Natural Resources

1. Water Improvement Projects
 - Water & Wastewater Infrastructure Improvement \$7,500,000
 - Glades Water Infrastructure Improvement \$9,000,000
2. Lake Worth Lagoon Restoration \$5,000,000
3. Loxahatchee River Land Acquisition/Restoration \$5,000,000
4. Maintenance Dredging and Continuing Authority Language \$4,000,000
5. Wetlands Reserve Program Executive Order
6. Beach Restoration
 - Jupiter Carlin \$8,130,965
 - Ocean Ridge \$11,961,812
7. SE Florida Climate Adaptation Pilot \$15,000,000

Health Care

1. Medicare Funding Formula
2. Ryan White (HIV) Grant Funding
3. Federally Qualified Health Centers
4. Chinese Dry Wall Remedy
5. Federal Assistance for Haitian Immigrants

Public Safety

1. Loss of Federal Entitlement Benefits for Inmates in County Jails
2. Juvenile Assessment Center
3. Federal Assistance for Public Water Connection in the Acreage

PALM BEACH COUNTY MONITOR ISSUES

1. Peanut Island - Section 1135 Authorization
2. Lake Okeechobee Scenic Trail
3. Farm to School Programs
4. Port Security Funding
5. Telecommunications
6. Funding for Purchase of Farmland (Ag Reserve)
7. Property Rights Legislation
8. FEMA Funding for Parks & Rec/Pre-Disaster Mitigation Programs
9. Health Issues
10. Interstate Moving Laws
11. Pittman Robertson – Funding for Public Ranges
12. FY2011 Appropriations for HUD Programs
13. Medicaid Funding
14. Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan and Herbert Hoover Dike Repairs
15. Film and Television Production Industry Act
16. Funding for Homeless Programs
17. Law Enforcement Funding (Byrne Grants, Gang Violence and Reentry Programs)
18. Chemical Security Legislation

PALM BEACH COUNTY PRIORITY ISSUES

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Economic Stimulus: Palm Beach County continues to pursue opportunities available through the passage of the ARRA to stimulate the economy and create new jobs at the local level. Over the past year, Palm Beach County has identified projects in the local area that have been “ready-to-go” and quickly commenced. In subparagraphs below we have documented projects that we continue to seek funds. In most cases, we have provided a project cost, amount requested, total jobs created, and project description. Our county has applied for grant funding for projects in the areas of Water and Wastewater, Economic Development, Broadband, Transportation and Transit, Airport Improvements, Energy Efficiency Upgrades, Public Safety, and Beach Renourishment. As of January 2010, Palm Beach County interests have received and/or been approved for funds totaling over \$220 million. That includes over \$70 million for road and transit funding and \$50 million NSP2 grant funds.

A. Water and Wastewater

Ready-to-Go Water & Wastewater Infrastructure Projects

| Project | Cost | Estimate of Full Time Equivalent Jobs Added |
|--|----------------------|---|
| Belle Glade, Pahokee, and South Bay Lift Station Replacement Project | \$ 6,710,000 | 4.5 |
| Belle Glade and Pahokee Water Main Replacement | \$ 2,360,000 | 1.0 |
| Palm Beach County Water System-Wide Improvements Project | \$ 7,500,000 | 25.0 |
| Palm Beach County Wastewater System-Wide Improvements Project | \$ 6,700,000 | 84.0 |
| Total | \$ 23,270,000 | 114.5 |

B. Economic Development

Ready-to-Go Economic Development Projects

| Project | Project Description | Cost | Estimate of Full Time Equivalent Jobs Added |
|--|---|---------------------|---|
| EECBG Retrofit Ramp-Up Program | This project includes commercial, residential, and public buildings for green retrofits. This also includes major utility (FPL) partnering with the County. \$20 million is included for retrofits at the airport. | \$50,000,000 | 1300 unduplicated jobs over 6 years |
| Working Waterfront Employment District | This project will provide major employment in the Marine Industry through the development of the City of Riviera Beach Marina to create a Florida Certified Clean Mega Yacht Marina and Boatyard to compete on a global market. Funds will assist in the development of a seawall /synchro-lift necessary for lifting vessels out of the water. An estimated 300 technical / skilled certified positions will be created through small businesses providing trade and craftsmen, technicians and welders, mechanical positions and painters. | \$20,000,000 | 300 direct, 1000 indirect |
| Palm Beach County Public Market Network | This market system will be a multi-county economic engine with the core in Palm Beach County, that will create 100- 225 small entrepreneurial farming firms, crafters and business owners and 1000 moderate wage jobs to encourage rural preservation, a sustainable local food supply, exports and long-term economic profitability. This includes a coastal Marina Market in Riviera Beach (68,000 sq. ft. building with 300 parking spaces). | \$7,000,000 | 225 – direct 1000 – indirect |
| Glades Commercial Waterway connecting the cities' waterfronts in Belle Glade, Pahokee, South Bay and Clewiston | Lake Okeechobee Route 2 has not been dredged in over 50 years. This project will allow safe transit for 36,000 boaters to travel to the existing marinas in Belle Glade and Pahokee passing through South Bay to Clewiston in Hendry. (1) Dredging of the Lake Okeechobee rim canal Water "Route B" to remove an estimated 115,000 yards of material within 2,000 ft. immediately off Port Mayaca. Cost \$3 million . (2) Creation of Eco-Islands in Lake Okeechobee thru Dredging of Route 2 Canal & Disposal of the Dredge Material Placement on Pahokee State Park Land will protect erosion of state park lands along the Pahokee shoreline while preventing siltation of the navigational channel and provide the wave breaks necessary for the newly developed marina to minimize wave action caused by hurricanes. This will in effect, create wetlands along the shoreline establishing wildlife. \$7.4 million | \$11,400,000 | 75 -direct 330 –indirect |

| | | | |
|---|---|--|-------------------------------------|
| Torry Island Boat Lock for Waterway Access | Developing waterway access through the construction of a boat lock from the rim canal in Lake Okeechobee connecting to the Hillsboro Canal and New River Canals in the City of Belle Glade. This project offers one of the biggest economic impacts in the rural areas providing access for developing commercial / residential waterfronts, attracting tourists, increasing property values and providing recreational opportunities. The boat lock will be 80' long and 30' wide. | \$22,000,000 | 65 –direct 300 - indirect |
| High Technology Business/Arts Incubator and The Lake Okeechobee Regional Alliance of the Palm Beaches, Inc. | These non-profit organizations provide opportunities for the Glades region through the development of start-up & existing businesses, creating job opportunities and providing improvements to enhance small businesses in the communities. | \$ 300,000 | 3 – direct 97 – indirect |
| Ecotourism Enhancement Management Plan and Implementation | Identification of private/public opportunities through a management plan connecting the Lake Okeechobee Scenic Trail to the surrounding cities as Gateways connecting south to the Big Cypress National Park and the National Everglades Park. | \$ 3,500,000 | 75 – direct 225 – indirect |
| Regional Historic Preservation A) Pahokee High School B) Belle Glade City Hall and Fire Station Complex | A) - The building is A Mission/Spanish Revival style built by Architect William Manley King. The building will be used for a museum, chamber of commerce, café and 30 city employees displaced due to destruction of the former City Hall building caused by Tropical Storm Faye. B) - The historic Belle Glade Town Hall building will provide space for the Belle Glade Museum and a High Technology Business and Cultural Arts Incubator creating an estimated 20 jobs . | A) - \$3.5 million B) - Received \$18K County and \$362K State Grant for phase I. \$1.65 million needed Total project cost: \$2,032,010. | 65 – direct |
| Total | | \$115,580,000 | 743 – direct 4252 - indirect |

C. Transportation (Transit)

Amtrak: Reinstatement of Amtrak service from Jacksonville to Miami. Support the pending application for federal stimulus dollars in the amount of \$120 million to reinstate Amtrak commuter service between Jacksonville and Miami on the FEC Corridor.

D. Airport Improvements

| Project Name | Project Cost | Brief Description |
|--|---------------------|---|
| Runway 14-32 Safety Area Improvements/Engineered Materials Arresting System (EMAS) | \$4,300,000 | The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has deemed it practicable to enhance the runway safety area (RSA) on the departure end of Runway 14 at Palm Beach International Airport (PBI) through the implementation of an Engineered Materials Arresting System (EMAS) to meet RSA standards. This project will provide for the construction of this system. |
| Runway 10L-28R Rehabilitation | \$8,000,000 | This project will provide for the mill and overlay of the primary runway, Runway 10L-28R, at Palm Beach International Airport, including the intersection with the crosswind runway, Runway 14-32. |
| Total | \$12,300,000 | |

E. Parks and Recreation

| Park | Project | Project Cost | Additional Funding Needed | Comments | Projected Construction Time |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------|
| South Bay RV Campgrounds | 75 Additional RV campsites | \$750,000 | \$750,000 | Plans available | 9-12 months |
| South Bay Depot | Depot/Community Center Bldg. | \$850,000 | \$650,000 | Possible design build | 9-12 months |
| Belle Glade & Pahokee | LOST Kiosks Pahokee & Belle Glade | \$400,000 | \$200,000 | Plans 95% complete | 6- 9 months |
| West Jupiter Community Center | New restrooms | \$250,000 | \$250,000 | Possible design build | 9-12 months |
| Santaluces Aquatic Complex | Splash Play Pool | \$500,000 | \$500,000 | Possible design build | 9-12 months |
| | | Total | \$2,350,000 | | |

F. Broadband Grants

The proposed \$20 million ***“Fiber to the Glades Region”*** project application envisions extending the County’s existing fiber network from its nearest point of presence along Southern Boulevard in Wellington to County government facilities in Belle Glade. The most important benefit from extending the fiber network to this region will be the establishment of a fiber backbone infrastructure which will enable WiFi capability for wireless Internet access to be targeted for economically disadvantaged families. These communities are located in six different municipalities throughout the County and have been identified through educational data linking assistance with the neediest populations.

This fiber will also serve as the primary backbone for all West County government facilities (e.g., County, Clerk, Tax Collector, Courts, Fire-Rescue) and have the ability to serve other public sector agencies, including the School District, Palm Beach State College, Florida Atlantic University, and the Health Care District.

It will also open up the possibility for connecting with networked facilities in Hendry County to create a larger Glades area network. The pending application has received one of the highest recommendations from the State of Florida and is supported by private telecom industry businesses. **Jobs Created: cable laying and radio installation – 20.**

G. Environmental and Natural Resources

| Project Name | Total Cost | Category | Permit | Contract Awarded | Description |
|--|---------------------|--------------|-----------------|------------------|---|
| Lake Worth Lagoon Artificial Reefs | \$4,000,000 | Lagoon, Reef | Yes | Yes | 3 limestone boulder reefs, 10-20' depth, |
| Lake Worth Lagoon Initiative Restoration | \$12,200,150 | Lagoon, Reef | Partial | Partial | Lagoon-wide restoration which includes 10 sub-projects including stormwater retrofit, septic+G22/sewer conversion, artificial reefs, oyster reef, 1 mangrove/seagrass restoration project |
| South Cove Natural Area (HIGH Priority) | \$4,861,400 | Lagoon, Reef | Intent to Issue | No | 2 Ac mangrove/spartina, 1.7 Ac oyster reef, 3.5 Ac potential seagrass restoration |
| Peanut Island Phase 3 | \$650,000 | Lagoon, Reef | Yes | Yes | Improve flushing of reef lagoon, add 0.5 Ac spartina, add artificial reefs |
| LWL LAGOON SUBTOTAL = | \$21,711,550 | | | | |

| | | | | | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------|------|-----|-----|--|
| Stepping Stone Artificial Reefs | \$17,500,000 | Reef | Yes | Yes | 5 Ac. limestone reefs @ 4 inlets, 35-50' depth |
| Military Ship Artificial Reef | \$10,000,000 | Reef | Yes | No | 600' Navy ship sunk at >150' depth in Boca |
| REEF LAGOON SUBTOTAL = | \$27,500,000 | | | | |

| | | | | | |
|---|----------------------|-------|---------|-----|---|
| Singer Island Breakwaters | \$25,000,000 | Beach | Pending | No | 11 breakwaters on severely eroded shoreline |
| South Palm Beach/Lantana Dune Restoration | \$600,000 | Beach | Yes | Yes | Dune restoration |
| BEACH SUBTOTAL = | \$ 25,600,000 | | | | |

| | | | | | |
|------------------------------|------------------|------------|-----|-----|---|
| Lake Ida Wetland Restoration | \$950,000 | Freshwater | Yes | Yes | Wetland restoration and public use facility on Chain of Lakes in Delray |
| FRESHWATER SUBTOTAL= | \$950,000 | | | | |

| | | | | | |
|------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------|---------|---------|---|
| Hungryland Slough Flowway | \$5,000,000 | Natural Area | Yes | No | 625 Ac flowway w/ reservoir for water supply, river restoration, and environment enhancement |
| Natural Areas Restoration Projects | \$2,900,000 | Natural Area | Partial | Partial | 5 sub-projects to restore wetlands in Jupiter, Juno, Royal Palm Beach |
| Natural Areas Public Use Projects | \$1,650,000 | Natural Area | Partial | Partial | 4 subprojects to construct bridges and public use facilities in natural areas in Jupiter, Royal Palm Beach, PB Gardens and Boca Raton |
| NATURAL AREA SUBTOTAL = | \$9,550,000 | | | | |

| | | | | | |
|---------------------|---------------------|--|--|--|--|
| GRAND TOTAL= | \$85,311,550 | | | | |
|---------------------|---------------------|--|--|--|--|

2. **South Florida Inland Port:** The development of an inland intermodal logistics complex in Western Palm Beach County, including completion of rail connections serving ports of South Florida and Tampa Bay, would create a significant economic boost to an area that is fiscally depressed. At the same time, it will provide a critical link in Florida’s ability to efficiently handle rapidly growing levels of international commerce. The Port of Palm Beach formally selected a site in Western Palm Beach County as the location for the Inland Port.

Bringing this project to fruition will require 1) funding necessary to complete freight rail connectivity between the ports of Palm Beach, Miami-Dade County, Everglades (Broward County), Tampa and Manatee County with approximately 40 miles of new trackage estimated to cost approximately \$45 million, and 2) Workforce training dollars for the Lake Okeechobee/Everglades region that has been designated as severely depressed, to bring sustained, good-paying jobs (reflecting the Florida average of \$49,000 a year for cargo transportation and logistics employment) and training for hundreds of skilled and semi-skilled positions estimated between 9,892 – 23,858 jobs.

This inland facility, which has gained significant regional support, would be a hub for goods assembly, warehousing and manufacturing, as well as furnishing logistics providers with a central intermodal location between ports that lack sufficient waterfront acreages to accommodate trade volumes projected to double by 2020.

Dept: County Administration (Shannon LaRocque)

3. **Convention Center Hotel:** The building of a \$100 million hotel in downtown West Palm Beach, with an associated parking structure, will result in an increase of over 460 jobs, \$92 million in personal income, and \$167 million in output in Palm Beach County over a 5 year period. This will be the primary Convention Center hotel located adjacent to the existing convention center. The County is requesting \$20 million for assistance in financing the hotel.

Economic Impact of Hotel in downtown area

| Increase in Economic Indicator | Year 1 | Year 2 | Year 3 | Year 4 | Year 5 |
|--------------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Jobs | 234 | 233 | 288 | 345 | 466 |
| Personal Income (\$ Million) | 12 | 14 | 17 | 21 | 28 |
| Output (\$ Million) | 24 | 25 | 31 | 37 | 50 |

Dept: County Administration (Shannon LaRocque)

4. **Jobs Creation Legislation:** The creation of jobs and economic opportunity remains one of the highest priorities for the County in the next year. Unemployment rates remain in double digits and key industries lag in economic output. Support legislation that provides tax credits for businesses that create new jobs. Many small businesses have had difficulty accessing credit from institutional lenders. Support legislation that enables local banking institutions to access funds from the US Treasury so they can reinvest in small businesses and provide needed credit lines to induce job growth.

5. **Housing and Foreclosure Relief:** Monitor the implementation of Housing legislation that would encourage lenders to refinance troubled home mortgages on easier terms, backed by the Federal Housing Administration. The idea is to stabilize the real-estate market and prevent housing prices from falling. Seek further changes to law that would encourage banks to provide additional options such as a short term moratorium on mortgage payments by moving 6-8 months of mortgage payments to the back end of a loan or further extending out the months of a particular mortgage term.

The Federal laws governing which homeowners are able to access funds to help with mortgage payments are too rigid and have not been able to reach some of the neediest homeowners especially in South Florida and other areas of the country that have seen home values plummet. Change percentage limits on Federal housing programs to allow homeowners to access mortgage help when their home value to loan ratio is over 125%.

TRANSPORTATION

Palm Tran Bus and Bus Facility Funding: Public transportation is provided to Palm Beach County residents by Palm Tran, an entity created by Palm Beach County, currently operating 34 fixed routes and managing Paratransit service for the elderly and disabled. Palm Tran Connection, Palm Tran's Paratransit service, received the 2009 Urban Community Transportation Coordinator of the Year award at the 2009 annual conference of the Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged for delivering outstanding performance, service delivery, and cost-effectiveness.

Our fixed route operation provides service throughout the county as far north as the Town of Jupiter and as far south as Boca Raton with one route crossing to Broward County connecting with Broward Service. One route travels to the western boundary of the County where it connects with two circulator routes that serve the rural communities of Belle Glade, Canal Point and South Bay. In 2009, a new route was introduced to cross county boundaries and reach as far north as Stuart in Martin County.

FY-2011 EARMARK REQUEST

The Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners is requesting \$6.8 million in funding for Fiscal Year 2011 under Section 5309 for Bus and Bus Facilities.

1. BUS REPLACEMENTS

Palm Beach County requests \$3 million for bus replacements. Public Transit buses have a useful life of 12 years or 500,000 miles. Due to the long distances covered by the routes offered to the public, on average, Palm Tran buses reach their maximum mileage in nine 1/2 years. Bus service is provided in an area of approximately 1,974 square miles; Palm Beach County is the largest county east of the Mississippi River. In FY2011 seven (7) buses are scheduled to be replaced at an approximate cost of \$3,010,000, to be paid out of grant formula funds. Without additional grant sources, critical maintenance equipment purchases may be delayed for the next 2 years.

2. PARK AND RIDE LOT(S)

Palm Beach County requests \$3 million to build or lease space for Park and Ride Facilities. According to the Census Bureau, the 2008 population estimate for the County's employed population over 16 years of age was 1,035,006. The Bureau estimates that 558,363 of this workforce commutes to work and 468,450 vehicles are use to reach work sites. Traffic congestion continues to increase and it is necessary to offer centralized parking facilities for those who can choose to connect to public transportation. Palm Beach County has secured funding to conduct the preliminary studies to select the optimal sites for park and ride facilities that will be designed to accommodate bus service. Funding is needed to initiate construction as soon as site approval is completed.

3. BUS SHELTERS

Palm Beach County requests \$800,000 for Bus Shelters. The County developed a contract that supplies shelter installation and maintenance in exchange for the ability to sell advertising space in those shelters. In order to maximize this effort of providing County residents with shelter from the sun and rain, it is necessary to provide an incentive to Municipalities that want to offer shelters that do not display advertising. Funding will be provided to local municipalities to build shelters that the municipalities will be required to maintain.

Palm Tran, as Palm Beach County's public transportation provider is very appreciative for the previous support that we have received. Palm Tran has used the economic assistance made possible by our Federal, State and local elected officials to improve transit service in the County.

Dept.: Palm Tran (Chuck Cohen)

ENVIRONMENTAL AND NATURAL RESOURCES

1. Water Improvement Projects

Lake Region Water Treatment Plant (Water & Wastewater Infrastructure Improvement Project): The \$58 million Lake Region Water Treatment Plant (LRWTP) has been constructed to remove the City's of Belle Glade, Pahokee, and South Bay drinking water supplies away from Lake Okeechobee, an unreliable-poor water quality surface water source, to a deep, reliable brackish aquifer water supply source, the Floridan Aquifer. The purpose of that project has been to resolve persistent public health, operational reliability, and fiscal concerns for the socio-economically disadvantaged western Palm Beach County Glades communities.

In 2007, the Water Resources Development Act of 2007 (P.L. 110-114) was enacted into law, authorizing \$7.5 million for this project for additional assistance to a critical project. This project will design and construct operational flexibility for concentrate disposal between LRWTP and the former Belle Glade Wastewater Treatment Plant deep well. This project is anticipated to retain and/or create new jobs in the Glades area associated with project design and/or construction activities. Additionally, this project will reduce the frequency and duration potential for potable water service interruption to the residents and businesses in the Glades Area. A side benefit will be a similar reduction in the frequency and duration potential for wastewater service interruption to the residents and businesses in Belle Glade and South Bay. The project will also implement energy technologies to reduce its carbon footprint.

To date contributions to the LRWTP include \$12.5 million from Palm Beach County, \$11.2 million from SFWMD, \$6.7 million from the State, and \$800,000 from EPA.

Glades Water Infrastructure Improvement Project The City's of Belle Glade, Pahokee, and South Bay are able to provide adequate pressures during average daily flows and maximum daily flows conditions. However, all three cities have problems providing adequate pressure (minimum 20 psi) during maximum daily flow conditions, adding also fire flow conditions. Additionally, there is considerable piping within the Glades Communities that is undersized (less than 6-inches in diameter) and needs to be replaced. This project is needed in order to maintain adequate pressures in the system to meet fire flow requirements, protecting the safety of the public and businesses within the Glades Communities. The second project, Water Infrastructure Project, is to improve fire flows in the Glades, for a project total of \$18 M, of which \$9.0M would be federal share.

Dept.: Water Utilities (Bevin Beaudet)

2. **Lake Worth Lagoon Restoration: Corps of Engineers Project:** Track legislation and line item appropriations or authorizations for ecosystem management projects. The County is seeking a \$5 million appropriation to supplement County and State funding of the Lake Worth Lagoon Restoration Project, an ecosystem management project which includes the Lake Worth Lagoon Partnership Grant Program initiated in 1998. In the event of a Supplemental Reauthorization Bill, the County requests inclusion in that legislation for the Lake Worth Lagoon.

Dept.: Env. Resources Management (Rich Walesky)

3. **Loxahatchee River Land Acquisition/Restoration:** The Northwest Fork of the Loxahatchee River is the first federally designated Wild and Scenic River in Florida. Despite this designation, the federal government has not contributed to current efforts to restore the River. Critical to River restoration is increased flow of freshwater. A surface water reservoir established along the west leg of the C-18 canal would provide the needed water supply to maintain the necessary base-flow to the River. Seek \$5 million in federal funds to support the County and Water Management District's efforts to acquire and/or restore certain lands in the River corridor. The C-18 Reservoir is a component of the Northern Palm Beach County Comprehensive Water Management Plan and is incorporated into the larger Northern Everglades Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan.

Dept.: Env. Resources Management (Rich Walesky)

4. **Maintenance Dredging & Directive Language for Continuing Authority Projects:** Lake Worth Inlet (Palm Beach Harbor) Maintenance Project includes two elements: annual maintenance dredging and implementation of advanced maintenance features to help prevent the need for emergency dredging. Maintenance of the channel is exclusively a Federal responsibility and funding of this request is essential to fulfilling the Federal obligation, enabling commerce and mitigating for inlet impacts to downdrift beaches.

Lake Worth Inlet serves the Port of Palm Beach, one of the nation's international gateways and an important terminal area for energy and economic development needs of the State of Florida. The port supports 2,427 jobs and \$261 million in annual economic impact in Palm Beach County. Though the success of the port is dependent upon deep water access through the federal channel, the Inlet is subject to regular shoaling and navigation is periodically impeded. Sand trapped within the inlet starves downdrift beaches, thereby reducing shoreline protection, recreational resources and habitat for threatened and endangered species. This \$4 million appropriation will help prevent direct revenue and associated economic development losses due to navigation impediments and help protect priceless resources in Palm Beach County.

This request includes the following:

| | |
|---------------------|---|
| \$ 3,300,000 | Dredging Contract |
| \$ 200,000 | Supervision and Administration (Field Office) |
| \$ 300,000 | Design (surveys, P&S, coordination) |
| <u>\$ 200,000</u> | <u>Environmental (permits, NEPA)</u> |
| \$ 4,000,000 | Total Request |

Directive Language

The Assistant Secretary of the Army is directed and authorized to prioritize placement of sand dredged from the Lake Worth Inlet (Palm Beach Harbor) Maintenance Project to the upland portion of the downdrift beach at one hundred percent federal cost.

- In addition to supporting the authorized allocation of Corp funds for the Palm Beach County Peanut Island project, the County is also supporting the inclusion into legislation of directive language for continuing authority projects. The language which is supported by the local Corp of Engineers office should read: *THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY IS AUTHORIZED AND DIRECTED TO ALLOW PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA, WHILE ACTING AS THE NON-FEDERAL SPONSOR, TO PERFORM ALL PHASES OF CONTINUING AUTHORITY PROJECTS AND SEEK RETROACTIVE REIMBURSEMENT UPON COMPLETION AND APPROVAL OF EACH PHASE.*

Dept.: Env. Resources Management (Rich Walesky)

5. **Wetlands Reserve Program Executive Order:** The Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) under Executive Order 12866, was amended in 2008 in Section 1467.4(e) to prohibit local governments from participating in the Program. In the past, Palm Beach County has purchased and restored over 35,000 acres of environmentally sensitive land. Two parcels, totaling over 5,000 acres, were restored with assistance from the WRP. Those federal dollars were put to immediate use in the form of contracts with local vendors who carried out the restoration. Our county would request a change that would allow local government participation in the WRP for purposes of restoring land already purchased by the local government when such restoration will be in the form of contracts quickly awarded to vendors provided that such projects meet the objectives of the WRP.

Dept.: Env. Resources Management (Rich Walesky)

6. **Jupiter Carlin Beach Restoration and Ocean Ridge Restoration:**

Jupiter Carlin: Palm Beach County is requesting \$8,130,965 for planning, engineering, design, permitting, construction, project management, and monitoring for the Jupiter/Carlin Segment of the Palm Beach County, Florida Shore Protection Project. The funding will be used for maintenance of the beach adjacent to Jupiter Inlet in Palm Beach County. 80% of the beachfront is public park or hotel. A second renourishment of this beach is planned for November of 2010. The total project cost is \$9,992,000. The County received \$581,000 for initial permitting and engineering in 2010.

Ocean Ridge: Palm Beach County is requesting \$11,961,812 for all associated project costs (PED, project management, construction, and monitoring) for Ocean Ridge. In addition, funding is included in this request for a mitigation reef.

Dept.: Env. Resources Management (Rich Walesky)

7. **SE Florida Climate Adaptation Pilot:**

SE Florida, comprised of Broward, Miami-Dade, Palm Beach, and Monroe Counties, is home to nearly 5.5 million residents, accounts for nearly one-third of Florida's total economic production, and is one of the most vulnerable regions in the United States to the impacts of climate change. The Four-County Area is requesting \$15,000,000 as part of the Federal Clean Energy or related legislation to support the development of a regional climate change adaptation strategy for SE Florida.

Without intervention, continued increases in sea level will inundate vast coastal areas and compromise the region's drinking water supply. Recognizing the need for immediate action, the counties of Southeast Florida convened a Regional Climate Leadership Summit and later signed a Regional Climate Compact, committing to the cooperative development a regional climate strategy to address shared mitigation goals and adaptation needs. Funding of this appropriations request, and the support of our federal partners, will be pivotal to this endeavor, and the development of a climate adaptation strategy for SE Florida is expected to serve as an effective national model for other vulnerable areas of the Country.

The development of regional adaptation strategy will involve a 2-3 year effort focused on the development of appropriate models and planning tools that will set the stage for the adaptation strategies to be employed by local governments and the South Florida Water Management District. Particular areas of vulnerability and analysis will include sea level rise, drainage and flood control infrastructure, changing precipitation patterns, impacts on groundwater levels, surface water management, and saltwater intrusion and its influence on potable wellfields and water supplies. Efforts will include the downscaling of regional climate models to an appropriate level to provide suitable predictive abilities for the region.

The SE Florida Climate Adaptation Pilot Project will require vast technical support and professional services to be provided by industry as well as agency partners. Pilot project deliverables will include:

1. Urban system (county-level) modeling/scenario testing/plan development
2. Regional system modeling/scenario testing/plan development
3. Southeast Florida Regional Climate Change Adaptation Plan - including Plan for Early Response Infrastructure

Total Request: \$15 million.

\$8 million total for each of the 4 partner counties to analyze urban drainage/surface water management infrastructure with effort to be built upon surface/groundwater models, saltwater intrusion models, and climate models with a detailed assessment of function of existing drainage infrastructure and development of adaptation recommendations for maintaining adequate level of drainage and flood control.

\$7 million for regional flood control and surface water management modeling to be managed by the South Florida Water Management District to integrate regional scale climate model and saltwater modeling, in the context of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan, as part of a regional adaptation strategy.

HEALTH CARE

1. **Medicare Funding Formula:** There has been a discrepancy between several of the counties in South Florida regarding federal Medicare reimbursements for health care costs such as doctor office visits, outpatient substance abuse care, emergency care, inpatient hospital care, and outpatient prescription drugs. In response, HMOs in Palm Beach County have raised premiums to compensate for inadequate Medicare reimbursements. Seek changes in the Medicare funding distribution formula which allow for more equitable disbursement of federal funds.

Dept: Risk Management (Nancy Bolton)

2. **Ryan White (HIV) Grant Application:** Monitor appropriation requests to fund Palm Beach County's share of funding of Ryan White (HIV) Grant funding. The President's proposed FY11 budget expands access to HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment activities, focusing HIV testing among high-risk groups and increasing resources for the Ryan White program. The County's application in 2008 was funded at \$7,786,000 and at \$8,574,634 for 2009.

Dept: Community Services (Channell Wilkins)

3. **Federally Qualified Health Centers:** The Department of Health proposed the future development of Federally Qualified Health Centers in Lantana, Jupiter, and Riviera Beach. These are infrastructure costs for renovation and staffing that will enable

the expansion of primary care services for the medically underserved in Palm Beach County.

| Health Center | FQHC Status | Expansion Initiatives | Initiative Status | Possible Funding Sources | Needs |
|---|---------------|--|---|--|--|
| Jupiter Health Center 6405 Indiantown Road Jupiter | Future TBD | Homeless Outreach Plans to expand services beginning with adult services | Beginning as of 3/1/08 | PBCHD existing dollars FQHC Quantum BCC | a. Renovations - b. Equipment/personnel Total : \$591,693 |
| Riviera Beach Auxiliary Center 851 Avenue P Riviera Beach | Future TBD | Renovation to full service clinic to include dental | | FQHC Quantum BCC | a. building renovation -\$725,000 b. personnel/equipment \$566,963 Total: \$1,291,963 |
| Riviera Beach Health Center (Communicable Disease Specialty Services) 7289 Garden Road Riviera Beach | N/A | Expansion of services or enhancements of present services | Buy out of lease to produce long term savings of rent | DOH State Bureaus TB/STD/HIV BCC | Total: \$ 4.2 million |

| Health Center | FQHC Status | Expansion Initiatives | Initiative Status | Possible Funding Sources | Needs |
|---|-------------|---|--|---|--|
| Lantana/Lake Worth Health Center 1250 Southwinds Dr. Lantana, FL 33462 (561) 547-6800 | Y | Bridges (Ave F) – PBCHD/Highland Elementary/Adopt a Family: full service clinic with adult, peds, family planning, IPO, immunizations, lab, WIC, pharmacy | In coalition with Adopt-A-Family, Quantum, and Palm Health | (\$150,000 already obtained from Quantum) Other sources: Palm Healthcare Foundation, Federal Monies (FQHC), City of Lake Worth, HCD, PBCHD | a. Building Renovation \$415,000 b. Personnel: 2 providers, 2 nurses, 3 aids, 2 clerical staff, 2 medical records, 1 phed, 1 LIS, (1 pharmacist) \$566,963.00 Total \$981,963 |

Dept.: Health (Dr. Alina Alonso)

4. **Chinese Dry Wall Remedy:** Residents of Palm Beach County, Florida, have suffered damages from Chinese drywall installations in their homes. It has been documented that heat and humidity cause the Chinese drywall to release gases, which

not only create a noxious odor, but corrode copper and other metal surfaces, thereby damaging air conditioners, electrical wiring, copper plumbing, appliances, and electronics. Owners of homes with Chinese drywall have alleged they are suffering from health problems associated with these effects. County residents have stated their insurance companies have denied coverage and most developers have refused to replace the Chinese drywall, leaving them with no ability to fund the necessary drywall repairs to avoid the health problems they have been suffering.

Federal funds may be available to assist Palm Beach County residents with their Chinese drywall problem; however, the State of Florida must declare an emergency in order for these funds to be released. We will work with the State to declare the emergency order and encourage the federal government to allow for the release of funds to help with this problem.

5. **Federal Assistance for Haitian Immigrants:** The January earthquake in Haiti has affected millions of residents of the country. It has destroyed hundreds of thousands of homes, businesses and government facilities and left over one million homeless. The United States has provided assistance to many of the victims which has included medical care at US facilities. Many of these individuals have been treated in Palm Beach County. Some of the victims particularly children are not in the care of an immediate parent and need medical aid from a health care clinic. The Department of Health requests waivers for children that are not in the care of an immediate parent and need medical aid from a health care clinic (i.e. immunization to go to school).

In addition, the County has been providing services such as health screening, vaccination, clinic treatment, housing, and supportive social services to Haitian immigrants that have come to the County due to the recent earthquake disaster. The Tri-County area seeks reimbursement for the cost of these expenses similar to reimbursements received when local natural disasters are declared.

Department of Health (Dr. Alina Alonso); Community Services (Channell Wilkins)

PUBLIC SAFETY

1. **Loss of Federal Entitlement Benefits for Inmates in County Jails:** Currently a person incarcerated in a county jail or juvenile detention center is ineligible to retain Medicare and Medicaid benefits or Social Security Disability Insurance once they enter the facility. As a consequence, the cost of medical care for these inmates becomes a non-federal responsibility (typically born by county government at a significant expense) upon arrest or detention. In many cases where states cannot afford to provide the non-federal cost of providing medical services to FFP eligible persons, their eligibility is sometimes suspended or terminated. If the individual has been terminated from these programs, it may take months for these federal benefits to be restored once they leave the institution. Support legislation that allows for the suspension, rather than

termination, of Medicaid benefits for individuals, including juveniles, who are convicted of a crime and incarcerated for less than one year. Support legislation that amends federal law (U.S. Code of Federal Regulations, Title 42, part 435.1009) to allow Federal Financial Participation for individuals, including juveniles, who are accused of committing a crime and are awaiting trial, even if incarcerated, until they are convicted of a crime.

Dept: Criminal Justice Commission (Mike Rodriguez)

2. **Juvenile Assessment Center**: The current Juvenile Assessment Center is a shared resource between the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ), Palm Beach County, the State Attorney, PBC School District and other local providers. The DJJ leases the space from PBC Department of Airports for \$250,962 annually with an additional \$128,000 for maintenance and utilities. The DJJ then subleases space to the School District (\$57,600), State Attorney (\$33,600), and nonprofit providers (\$27,600) annually. The Department of Airports lease with the DJJ will expire in June 2011. Florida Statute 985.69 provides a local option to create a Juvenile Assessment Center but there is no mandate or state funding to support the physical structure. The initial \$400,000 request is for the planning stage of the Capital Improvement Plan.

Additionally, the Department of Juvenile Justice has a \$25.3 million Capital Improvement Plan request for the design and building of a new complex that would house both the new Juvenile Assessment Center and Juvenile Detention Center. The Juvenile Assessment Center was originally created to reduce law enforcement time processing youthful offenders. Co-location of partners and services such as assessments of risk and treatment needs, intake and probation, delinquency diversion services and substance abuse assessments allows the center to serve as a one-stop for youth and families.

Dept: Criminal Justice Commission (Mike Rodriguez)

3. **Federal Assistance for Public Water Connection in the Acreage**: In February of 2009, the Palm Beach County Health Department announced the Acreage, an area located in the Western Central portion of Palm Beach County has a cluster of childhood cancer cases. Recent studies of population and cancer data from the Acreage has found brain and central nervous system cancers at more than quadruple expected rates among children under 19. The Acreage's population is estimated at around 35,000.

Representatives from the Center for Disease Control who reviewed the data have suggested the cause of Palm Beach County's Acreage cancer cluster might be difficult to find. Local leaders have asked for additional testing of water sources in the region. Support efforts to continue with more aggressive testing of water wells in the acreage.

In addition, we are asking for support from the federal government to help assist residents with the estimated \$300 million it would cost to connect homes in the Acreage to treated county water.

**MONITOR
Issues**

1. **Peanut Island Environmental Enhancement Project - Section 1135 Authorization:** The Peanut Island Environmental Enhancement Project is a joint Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE), Palm Beach County and Florida Inland Navigation District (FIND) project that includes environmental restoration and enhancement and the addition of recreational amenities to Peanut Island. In the 2007, we were successful inserting language into the Water Resources Development Act lifting the Section 1135 cap on the Army Corps of Engineers financial contribution to the project (currently \$5 million). Total project cost, previously estimated at approximately \$27 million is now expected to exceed \$30 million. Since that time, FIND has had difficulties receiving "reimbursement" from the Corp because ACE staff believes that Congressional direction does not indicate that the dollars shall be "reimbursed" to the local entities. Monitor Florida Inland Navigation District (FIND) efforts to receive the funding now authorized by the WRDA legislation.

Dept: Env. Resources Management (Rich Walesky)

2. **Lake Okeechobee Scenic Trail (LOST):** FDOT and FDEP are in the process of finishing this trail (which is part of a federally-designated National Scenic Trail) to provide unique recreational activities around Lake Okeechobee. The Florida DEP is delaying some of the paving of the trail while the Army Corp of Engineers completes its work on the Hoover Dike. The County will monitor the progress of the Corps efforts to ensure that additional work does not further delay the state's construction efforts. In addition, in areas where paving of the trail as already occurred and the Corps has removed the trail to conduct repair work, the Corps has communicated that it is not their responsibility to repave the Trail sites. If that decision is not reversed, millions of dollars in paving on the LOST will be for naught. This project when completed will assist efforts to stimulate ecotourism in Palm Beach County associated with the trailhead connection for the Ocean to Lake Trail.

Dept: P, Z & B (Barbara Alterman); Env. Resources Mgt. (Rich Walesky)

3. **Farm to School Programs:** Farm to School programs connect schools with local farms with the objectives of serving healthy meals in school cafeterias, improving student nutrition, providing health and nutrition education opportunities that will last a lifetime, and supporting local small farmers. Florida's pioneering and successful farm to school program was initiated by the New North Florida Cooperative Association Inc. (NNFC) in 1995. The NNFC began selling to Gadsden County schools during the 1996 school year and since that time has rapidly expanded, selling to a total of fifteen school districts in Florida, Georgia, Alabama, and Mississippi.

Other entities are involved in this farm to school program. The USDA Agricultural Marketing Service, through the USDA Child Feeding Program and the US Department of Defense (DoD), through its National School Lunch Program allows the cooperative to produce and market fresh fruits and vegetables to area school districts. The DoD provides payment flow as part of the DoD Fresh program. Support efforts to continue federal support of Farm to School programs and seek grant opportunities for our local schools to teach students the value of growing and utilizing fresh foods.

Dept: Cooperative Extension Service (Audrey Norman)

4. **Port Security Funding:** Monitor federal earmark and grant opportunities for port security funding. In FY09 Port Security Grants were funded at \$400 million. In FY 10 the funds were reduced by \$100 million. Security at our ports needs to remain a priority for first line of defense funding at the Department of Homeland Security.

5. **Telecommunications:** Monitor agency (FCC) rule-making relating to the Telecommunications Act of 1996, Open Access regulation, and the relocation/transition of Multipoint Distribution Services/Instructional Fixed Television Services (MDS/ITFS), and also general Congressional (Commerce Committee) involvement in telecommunications issues, specifically relating to local control of rights-of-way and zoning, and local authority to assess and collect franchise fees. Monitor H.R. 3745, the "C.A.P. Act," pursuant to Palm Beach BCC resolution of support.

Dept: County Attorney (Mike Jones); County Engineer (George Webb); Office of Financial Mgmt. & Budget (Liz Bloeser); Public Affairs (Lisa DeLaRionda)

6. **Funding for Purchase of Farmland:** Seek \$25 million from federal grants for state and local governments for land conservation and resources protection and seek \$5 million from the Farmland Protection Program.

Dept: County Administration (Verdenia Baker); Planning, Zoning & Building (Barbara Alterman); Cooperative Extension (Audrey Norman)

7. **Property Rights Legislation:** Monitor legislation which would affect a local government's authority over land use planning, making it easier for property owners to challenge local land use decisions by taking land use disputes almost directly to Federal court, and bypassing local authorities.

Dept: County Engineer (George Webb); County Attorney (Bob Banks);

8. **FEMA Funding for Parks & Recreation/Pre-Disaster Mitigation Programs:**

Monitor any legislation concerning reauthorization of the Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, particularly language which would have a significant negative impact on parks and recreation areas, denying funding, under the Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Act, for disaster relief to parks, recreation departments, beaches and other similar entities. Also, monitor any proposals for FEMA to offer pre-disaster mitigation pilot grants in communities throughout the nation (a total of \$220 million was authorized over a 6-year period).

Dept: Emergency Management (Vince Bonvento); Parks & Recreation (Eric Call); Risk Management (Nancy Bolton)

9. **Health Issues:** Monitor legislative proposals which would create significant new costs to counties, for example, eroding an employer's ability to establish preferred provider networks and allowing employees to sue employers in state court for personal injuries they received through their health care plans.

Dept: Risk Management (Nancy Bolton)

10. **Interstate Moving Law:** The County should be supportive of any federal legislation that would permit local or state governments to enforce federal interstate moving laws related to household goods. Since we have had our own local laws, the number of consumer complaints has decreased. Most of our complaints now relate to interstate household moving. This proposal or one similar to it would be very beneficial to the residents of Palm Beach County and the state of Florida. Currently, there is no federal agency who will respond to individual complaints against a household moving company doing interstate moves.

Dept: Consumer Affairs (Dennis Moore)

11. **Pittman Robertson – Funding for Public Ranges:** Monitor Pittman Robertson legislation that requires 10% of collections to be spent on public shooting ranges. FWCC currently administers collections and has allocated \$1.2 million to our Public Shooting Range Project; however, we still have large expenses associated with the ongoing upkeep of this facility.

Dept: Facilities (Audrey Wolf)

12. **FY2011 Appropriations for HUD Programs:** Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and Home Investment Partnerships (HOME) Programs have faced deep cuts in the budget process in previous years. These cuts would have caused significant reduction in CDBG and HOME funds brought to Palm Beach County, jeopardizing important neighborhood programs. In the President's proposed FY11 budget Home funds are reduced by \$175 million; however, full funding of \$3.99 billion is provided for CDBG. Encourage Congressional support of CDBG and HOME programs.

Dept: Housing & Community Development (Ed Lowery)

13. **Medicaid Funding:** Medicaid spending has been one of the most rapidly increasing segments of the State's budget. One of the priorities of the current Administration in Washington, D.C. is to propose changes to the current Medicaid system that would limit future program spending and allow states more flexibility in setting and limiting benefits for optional beneficiaries. Monitor proposals that may limit the state's ability to effectively meet the needs of Medicaid patients.

Dept: Community Services (Channell Wilkins)

14. **Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Project and the Restoration of the Herbert Hoover Dike:** The federal share of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan is expected to average about \$200 million per year over the lifetime of the project. Congressional appropriations should be sufficient to fully implement all plan components at the agreed upon cost share in accordance with adopted project schedules. In 2007, over \$130 million was allocated for Everglades restoration and billions more authorized in the WRDA bill. Continue to monitor the federal funding support for CERP.

Dept: Env. Resources Management (Rich Walesky)

15. **Film and Television Production Industry Act:** In 2007, House Resolution 3389 and HR 3951 and Senate Bill 2375 would have created a Federal Income tax credit designed to address the issue of "runaway film and television production." It would encourage film and television/cable production in the United States and employment of U.S. small business workers on such productions. Continue to support efforts that would encourage film and television production in Palm Beach County.

16. **Funding for Homeless Programs:** Seek increased funding in FY 2011 Department of Housing and Urban Development Appropriations (e.g., Stewart B. McKinney Act) and in FY 2011 Department of Health and Human Services Appropriations (e.g., SAMHSA) for federal programs for the homeless in the effort to end chronic homelessness. The County is now serving as the Lead Entity for coordination of funding for homeless services in Palm Beach County. The Federal government's involvement in aiding local homelessness initiatives is crucial to the success and advancement of these programs.

Support the allocation of \$2.055 billion (up from \$1.865 billion this year) in the President's FY11 budget, proposed for the Homeless Assistance Grants Program to implement the Homeless Emergency Assistance Rapid Transition to Housing (HEARTH) Act passed last year. It will provide communities with new resources and better tools to prevent and end homelessness.

Dept: Community Services (Channell Wilkins)

17. **Law Enforcement Funding (Byrne Grants, Gang Violence & Reentry Programs):** The Criminal Justice Commission administers the federal block grant allocations from the Dept. of Justice for Palm Beach County. They include the Edward Byrne Memorial Law Enforcement Fund and the Local Law Enforcement Block Grant Fund. Monitor the Byrne Law Enforcement Funds and the Local Law Enforcement Block Grant to keep these allocations separate and to restore previous year funding cuts.

Support the President's proposed FY11 spending plan, funding for COPS hiring and retention grants would be doubled from \$298 million this year to \$600 million next year with a 10 percent match requirement. Byrne Justice Assistance Grants are about level-funded at \$517 million.

The budget proposes several new initiatives, including \$25 million for a community-based violence prevention initiative intended to reduce gun and other violence among youth gangs that should be pursued for local programs in Palm Beach County.

For prisoner reentry programs, the FY11 Justice Department budget would provide \$144 million, including \$100 million for Second Chance Act programs and \$30 million for residential substance abuse treatment, both of which would be funded at current year levels. In addition, the Labor Department would provide \$103 million for reintegration of ex-offender training programs, slightly less than the \$110 million available this year, and the Education Department would provide \$17.2 million for workplace and community training grants for incarcerated individuals, the same as is available this year. Support programs that promote re-entry programs.

Dept: Criminal Justice Commission (Mike Rodriguez)

18. **Chemical Security Legislation:** The Water Security Act of 2007 was approved two years ago; it included significant changes requested by Palm Beach County Water Utilities and other water utility advocates. WUD was ultimately opposed to the legislation because it treated drinking water and waste water systems as “chemical facilities”, it created redundant oversight, and did not provide security from access to sensitive information or funding. The House is expected to act on legislation this year that will revise the Department of Homeland Security’s Chemical Anti-terrorism Standards and eliminate the water and wastewater exemption from the regulators.

Water Utilities requests continued support from the Federal Delegation to eliminate all duplication of regulations between the Department of Homeland Security and Department of Environmental Regulation related to water and wastewater systems. Presently, the EPA regulates water and wastewater system vulnerability and should continue to do so, sharing information with DHS as appropriate. However, should DHS see any need for utility security improvements, then EPA should be directed to make those changes as appropriate under the authority already granted by Congress.

Dept: Water Utilities (Bevin Beaudet)

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