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State Approves Expanded Boundaries of Palm Beach County Enterprise Zone

For immediate release: September 24, 2012

Contact: Sherry Howard, Deputy Director Dept. of Economic Sustainability (561) 233-3653

Public Affairs Department

P.O. Box 1989
West Palm Beach, FL 33402-1989
(561) 355-2754
FAX: (561) 355-3819
<http://www.pbcgov.com>



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The Board of County Commissioners, through the Department of Economic Sustainability (DES) has received notification of approval from the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity of the county's request to amend the boundaries of its Enterprise Zone (EZ). The expanded boundaries will provide greater opportunities for businesses to obtain tax benefits and regulatory relief to encourage further revitalization, economic development and job creation in the Glades.

The county's EZ includes portions of the cities of West Palm Beach, Riviera Beach, Belle Glade and South Bay. The boundaries were amended to include a larger portion of Belle Glade and the 850 acres designated for the future inland logistics center site in unincorporated Palm Beach County.

In 2011, the Florida Legislature passed a law which allowed the county to apply for an EZ boundary amendment encompassing an area up to three (3) square miles. The law required the county to include a portion of the state-designated Rural Area of Critical Economic Concern, which has high concentrations of poverty, unemployment, and general economic and social distress.

The Florida Enterprise Zone Act was enacted in 1994 to assist local communities in creating the proper economic and social environment to induce the investment of private resources in productive business enterprises to create jobs for residents of severely distressed areas.

DES serves as Palm Beach County's Enterprise Zone coordinator, assisting businesses in preparing and submitting their qualifying applications. The amended enterprise zone boundary took effect September 1, 2012, and will remain in effect through December 31, 2015.

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