

July 27, 2006

TO: Watershed Study Advisory Committee Members

FROM: John M. Fredrick

SUBJ: Water Resources Implementation Strategies for Flood Protection

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The following implementation strategies are submitted by the Dade County Farm Bureau and are essential for flood protection. We encourage Advisory Committee members to reach consensus on including the strategies in the final work product.

1. Miami-Dade County staff must understand that water table management is the key to reducing flood damage to agricultural crops in South Dade. A high water table will harm many crops, even when there is no flooding on the surface.
2. County staff should work with federal and state agencies involved in ecosystem restoration to make sure that restoration plans do not increase the risk of flooding to privately-owned agricultural property. This is especially important in the Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands, the C-111 Spreader Canal and the Combined Structural Operating Plan related projects.
3. County staff should work the United States Army Corps of Engineers and the South Florida Water Management District to ensure that effective pre-storm operational plans are in place, and followed, in anticipation of heavy rainfall events.
4. In all future water supply plans, the County should make it clear that irrigation from private, on-site wells is an essential component of agricultural land use and must be maintained in all County and South Florida Water Management District efforts.

Thank you for your consideration and recognition of the importance of flood protection for agriculture.

JMF/kae