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March 1, 2018

Board of County Commissioners, Miami-Dade County
Stephen P. Clark Government Center
111 NW 1st Street, Suite 220
Miami, Florida 33128

Attn:

Commissioner District 1, Barbara J. Jordan Sent via Email: District1@MiamiDade.gov
Commissioner District 2, Jean Monestime Sent via Email: District2@MiamiDade.gov
Commissioner District 3, Audrey M. Edmonson Sent via Email: District3@MiamiDade.gov
Commissioner District 4, Sally A. Heyman Sent via Email: District4@MiamiDade.gov
Commissioner District 5, Bruno A. Barreiro Sent via Email: District5@MiamiDade.gov
Commissioner District 6, Rebeca Sosa Sent via Email: District6@MiamiDade.gov
Commissioner District 7, Xavier L. Suarez Sent via Email: District7@MiamiDade.gov
Commissioner District 8, Daniella Levine Cava Sent via Email: District8@MiamiDade.gov
Commissioner District 9, Dennis C. Moss Sent via Email: DennisMoss@MiamiDade.gov
Commissioner District 10, Javier D. Souto Sent via Email: District10@MiamiDade.gov
Commissioner District 11, Joe A. Martinez Sent via Email: District11@MiamiDade.gov
Commissioner District 12, Jose "Pepe" Diaz Sent via Email: District12@MiamiDade.gov
Commissioner District 13, Esteban L. Bovo, Jr. Sent via Email: District13@MiamiDade.gov

RE: Proposed Reclaimed Water Project with Florida Power & Light

Dear Commissioners,

The Water Research Foundation ("WRF") is an internationally recognized leader in water research that is dedicated to advancing the science of water by sponsoring cutting-edge research and promoting collaboration. Our research provides industry insights and practical solutions to the most complex challenges facing the water community today and into the future. Since 1966, we have funded and managed research that is trusted throughout the international water community. Our research is conducted with scientific integrity under the guidance of experts in a variety of fields. This scientific rigor and third-party credibility is valued by utility managers, public health officials, and regulators in their decision-making processes. It is from this informed vantage point that I encourage you to support the steps proposed by Miami-Dade County Water and Sewer Department and Florida Power & Light Company to explore an important opportunity to create a beneficial reuse of treated wastewater in southeastern Miami-Dade County. As a core part of our work, WRF actively collaborates with public and private utilities, global nonprofits, and government agencies to capitalize on each organization's expertise and maximize impact. Such collaboration allows us to leverage



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resources, find the best solutions to problems of shared interest, and develop and disseminate broad-based knowledge to the widest possible audience. In the proposed project, we perhaps the best opportunity in years for Miami-Dade County to begin making strides to meet its reclaimed water goals established by the State of Florida's Ocean Outfall Legislation.

As the former Director of the South Florida Water Management District, and former Deputy Secretary of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, I am personally aware of the challenges to creating meaningful reuse opportunities for reclaimed water in South Florida.

Further, I am aware of the need to make the most of our precious water resources while preserving the unique natural environment that makes Florida so special. As I understand it, the proposed project would utilize up to 60 million gallons a day of reclaimed water, cleaned to meet or surpass state and local standards, and allow FPL to minimize the use of 30 million gallons per day of Floridan Aquifer water. These are significant and important objectives, and would be supportive of potential future expansions that could provide water to regional wetlands.

In closing, I urge you to provide your support to exploring this important opportunity. As a community, we have spent decades discussing such opportunities. You now have an opportunity to take substantive action towards achieving our mutually shared water preservation goals.

Sincerely,

Melissa L. Meeker
Co – Chief Executive Officer
The Water Research Foundation