

House Bill No. 329

An act relating to limerock mining; amending s. 373.4149, F.S., relating to the Miami-Dade County Lake Belt Plan; providing legislative intent; revising description of land included in the Miami-Dade County Lake Belt Area; providing for local land use jurisdiction and for land use compatibility within the Lake Belt Area; requiring certain notice of mining activities; revising membership of the Miami-Dade County Lake Belt Plan Implementation Committee; providing additional requirements for Phase II of the Lake Belt Plan; extending the existence of the implementation committee; deleting requirement for development of a comprehensive mitigation plan; creating s. 373.41492, F.S.; imposing a mitigation fee on commercial extraction of limerock and sand from the Lake Belt Area; providing an exemption; providing procedures for collection, report, and disposition of fees; providing for enforcement and penalties; providing duties and authority of the Department of Revenue; providing for rules; providing for annual indexed fee increases after a specified date; providing purpose of fees for wetlands mitigation and specifying uses; requiring approval of expenditures by an interagency committee; providing membership of the committee; providing that payment of the fee satisfies certain mitigation requirements; providing for suspension of the fee under certain circumstances; requiring interagency committee reports to the South Florida Water Management District and the Legislature; amending ss. 373.4415 and 378.4115, F.S.; correcting references to conform to the county's name change; providing severability; providing an effective date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. Section 373.4149, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

373.4149 Miami-Dade ~~Dade~~ County Lake Belt Plan.—

(1) The Legislature hereby accepts and adopts the recommendations contained in the Phase I Lake Belt Report and Plan, known as the "Miami-Dade ~~Dade~~ County Lake Plan," dated February 1997 and submitted by the Miami-Dade ~~Dade~~ County Lake Belt Plan Implementation Committee.

(2)(a) The Legislature recognizes that deposits of limestone and sand suitable for production of construction aggregates, cement, and road base materials are located in limited areas of the state.

(b) The Legislature recognizes that the deposit of limestone available in South Florida is limited due to urbanization to the east and the Everglades to the west.

(3) The Miami-Dade ~~Dade~~ County Lake Belt Area is that area bounded by the Florida Turnpike to the east, the Miami-Dade-Broward ~~Dade-Broward~~ County line to the north, Krome Avenue to the west and Tamiami

Trail to the south together with the land south of Tamiami Trail in sections 5, 6, 7, 8, 17, and 18, Township 54 South, Range 39 East, and in sections 11, 12, 13, 14, 23, 24, 25, 26, 35, and 36, Township 54 South, Range 38 East less those portions of section 10, except the west one-half, section 11, except the northeast one-quarter and the east one-half of the northwest one-quarter, and tracts 38 through 41, and tracts 49 through 64 inclusive, section 13, except tracts 17 through 35 and tracts 46 through 48, and section 14, except the west three quarters, Township 52 South, Range 39 East, lying north of the Miami Canal, sections 35 and 36 and the east one-half of sections 24 and 25, Township 53 South, Range 39 East and Government Lots 1 and 2, lying between Townships 53 and 54 South, Range 39 East and those portions of sections 1 and 2, Township 54 South, Range 39 East, lying north of Tamiami Trail.

(4) The identification of the Miami-Dade County Lake Belt Area shall not preempt local land use jurisdiction, planning, or regulatory authority in regard to the use of land by private land owners. When amending local comprehensive plans, or implementing zoning regulations, development regulations, or other local regulations, Miami-Dade County shall strongly consider limestone mining activities and ancillary operations, such as lake excavation, including use of explosives, rock processing, cement, concrete and asphalt products manufacturing, and ancillary activities, within the rock mining supported and allowable areas of the Miami-Dade County Lake Plan adopted by subsection (1); provided, however, that limerock mining activities are consistent with wellfield protection. Rezoning or amendments to local comprehensive plans concerning properties that are located within 1 mile of the Miami-Dade Lake Belt Area shall be compatible with limestone mining activities. No rezonings, variances, or amendments to local comprehensive plans for any residential purpose may be approved for any property located in sections 35 and 36 and the east one-half of sections 24 and 25, Township 53 South, Range 39 East until such time as there is no active mining within 2 miles of the property. This section does not preclude residential development that complies with current regulations.

(5) Beginning October 1, 1999, before the sale, lease, or the issuance of a development order, including the approval of a change in land use designation or zoning, for any real property located inside the Miami-Dade Lake Belt Area or within 2 miles of the boundary of the Miami-Dade Lake Belt Area, the entity holding title to the real property is required to submit a written affidavit of disclosure to Miami-Dade County in a form prescribed by the county that is suitable for recording:

(a) Acknowledging the existence of limestone mining activities involving the use of explosives within close proximity of the real property proposed to be sold, leased, used, or developed;

(b) Agreeing to provide copies of the affidavit of disclosure to all subsequent parties to whom whole or part interest in the real property is transferred, by sale, lease, or any other means; and

(c) Acknowledging potential civil liability, as well as fines and penalties that could result from failure to provide disclosure under this section.

Failure to substantially comply with the provisions of this subsection makes the sale of the real property or interest therein voidable at the purchaser's option for a period of 7 years from the date of the affidavit of disclosure.

(6)(4) The ~~Miami-Dade Dade~~ County Lake Belt Plan Implementation Committee shall be appointed by the governing board of the South Florida Water Management District to develop a strategy for the design and implementation of the ~~Miami-Dade Dade~~ County Lake Belt Plan. The committee shall consist of the chair of the governing board of the South Florida Water Management District, who shall serve as chair of the committee, the policy director of Environmental and Growth Management in the office of the Governor, the secretary of the Department of Environmental Protection, the director of the Division of Water Facilities or its successor division within the Department of Environmental Protection, the director of the Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development within the office of the Governor, the secretary of the Department of Community Affairs, the executive director of the Game and Freshwater Fish Commission, the director of the Department of Environmental Resource Management of ~~Miami-Dade Dade~~ County, the director of the ~~Miami-Dade Dade~~ County Water and Sewer Department, the Director of Planning in ~~Miami-Dade Dade~~ County, a representative of the Friends of the Everglades, a representative of the Florida Audubon Society, a representative of the Florida chapter of the Sierra Club, ~~four representatives a representative~~ of the nonmining private landowners within the ~~Miami-Dade Dade~~ County Lake Belt Area, and four representatives from the limestone mining industry to be appointed by the governing board of the South Florida Water Management District. Two ex officio seats on the committee will be filled by one member of the Florida House of Representatives to be selected by the Speaker of the House of Representatives from among representatives whose districts, or some portion of whose districts, are included within the geographical scope of the committee as described in subsection (3), and one member of the Florida Senate to be selected by the President of the Senate from among senators whose districts, or some portion of whose districts, are included within the geographical scope of the committee as described in subsection (3). The committee may appoint other ex officio members, as needed, by a majority vote of all committee members. A committee member may designate in writing an alternate member who, in the member's absence, may participate and vote in committee meetings.

(7)(5) The committee shall develop Phase II of the Lake Belt Plan which shall:

(a) Include a detailed master plan to further implementation;

(b) Consider the feasibility of a common mitigation plan for nonrock mining uses, including a nonrock mining mitigation fee. Any mitigation fee shall be for the limited purpose of offsetting the loss of wetland functions and values and not as a revenue source for other purposes.

~~(c)(b)~~ Further address compatible land uses, opportunities, and potential conflicts;

(d)(e) Provide for additional wellfield protection;

(e)(d) Provide measures to prevent the reclassification of the Northwest ~~Miami-Dade~~ Dade County wells as groundwater under the direct influence of surface water;

(f)(e) Secure additional funding sources; ~~and~~

(g)(f) Consider the need to establish a land authority; and.

(h) Analyze the hydrological impacts resulting from the future mining included in the Lake Belt Plan and recommend appropriate mitigation measures, if needed, to be incorporated into the Lake Belt Mitigation Plan.

(8)(6) The committee shall remain in effect until January 1, ~~2002~~ 2001, and shall meet as deemed necessary by the chair. The committee shall monitor and direct progress toward developing and implementing the plan. The committee shall submit progress reports to the governing board of the South Florida Water Management District and the Legislature by December 31 of each year. These reports shall include a summary of the activities of the committee, updates on all ongoing studies, any other relevant information gathered during the calendar year, and the committee recommendations for legislative and regulatory revisions. The committee shall submit a Phase II report and plan to the governing board of the South Florida Water Management District and the Legislature by December 31, 2000, to supplement the Phase I report submitted on February 28, 1997. The Phase II report must include the detailed master plan for the Miami-Dade ~~Dade~~ County Lake Belt Area together with the final reports on all studies, the final recommendations of the committee, the status of implementation of Phase I recommendations and other relevant information, and the committee's recommendation for legislative and regulatory revisions.

(9)(7) The committee shall report to the governing board of the South Florida Water Management District semiannually.

(10)(8) In carrying out its work, the committee shall solicit comments from scientific and economic advisors and governmental, public, and private interests. The committee shall provide meeting notes, reports, and the strategy document in a timely manner for public comment.

(11)(9) The committee is authorized to seek from the agencies or entities represented on the committee any grants or funds necessary to enable it to carry out its charge.

~~(10) The Department of Environmental Protection, in conjunction with the South Florida Water Management District and the Dade County Department of Environmental Resources Management, is directed to develop a comprehensive mitigation plan for the Dade County Lake Belt Plan, subject to approval by the Legislature, which offsets the loss of wetland functions and values resulting from rock mining in mining-supported and allowable areas.~~

(12)(11) The secretary of the Department of Environmental Protection, the secretary of the Department of Community Affairs, the secretary of the

Department of Transportation, the Commissioner of Agriculture, the executive director of the Game and Freshwater Fish Commission, and the executive director of the South Florida Water Management District may enter into agreements with landowners, developers, businesses, industries, individuals, and governmental agencies as necessary to effectuate the provisions of this section.

(13)(12)(a) All agencies of the state shall review the status of their landholdings within the boundaries of the Miami-Dade Dade County Lake Belt. Those lands for which no present or future use is identified must be made available, together with other suitable lands, to the committee for its use in carrying out the objectives of this act.

(b) It is the intent of the Legislature that lands provided to the committee be used for land exchanges to further the objectives of this act.

Section 2. Section 373.41492, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

373.41492 Miami-Dade County Lake Belt Mitigation Plan; mitigation for mining activities within the Miami-Dade County Lake Belt.—

(1) The Legislature finds that the impact of mining within the rock mining supported and allowable areas of the Miami-Dade County Lake Plan adopted by s. 373.4149(1) can best be offset by the implementation of a comprehensive mitigation plan as recommended in the 1998 Progress Report to the Florida Legislature by the Miami-Dade County Lake Belt Plan Implementation Committee. The Lake Belt Mitigation Plan consists of those provisions contained in subsections (2)-(9). The per-ton mitigation fee assessed on limestone sold from the Miami-Dade County Lake Belt Area and sections 10, 11, 13, 14, Township 52 South, Range 39 East, and sections 24, 25, 35, and 36, Township 53 South, Range 39 East, shall be used for acquiring environmentally sensitive lands and for restoration, maintenance, and other environmental purposes. It is the intent of the Legislature that the per-ton mitigation fee shall not be a revenue source for purposes other than enumerated herein. Further, the Legislature finds that the public benefit of a sustainable supply of limestone construction materials for public and private projects requires a coordinated approach to permitting activities on wetlands within Miami-Dade County in order to provide the certainty necessary to encourage substantial and continued investment in the limestone processing plant and equipment required to efficiently extract the limestone resource. It is the intent of the Legislature that the Lake Belt Mitigation Plan satisfy all local, state, and federal requirements for mining activity within the rock mining supported and allowable areas.

(2) To provide for the mitigation of wetland resources lost to mining activities within the Miami-Dade County Lake Belt Plan, effective October 1, 1999, a mitigation fee is imposed on each ton of limerock and sand extracted by any person who engages in the business of extracting limerock or sand from within the Miami-Dade County Lake Belt Area and sections 10, 11, 13, 14, Township 52 South, Range 39 East, and sections 24, 25, 35, and 36, Township 53 South, Range 39 East. The mitigation fee is at the rate of 5 cents for each ton of limerock and sand sold from within the properties where the fee applies in raw, processed, or manufactured form, including,

but not limited to, sized aggregate, asphalt, cement, concrete, and other limerock and concrete products. Any limerock or sand that is used within the mine from which the limerock or sand is extracted is exempt from the fee. The amount of the mitigation fee imposed under this section must be stated separately on the invoice provided to the purchaser of the limerock or sand product from the limerock or sand miner, or its subsidiary or affiliate, for which the mitigation fee applies. The limerock or sand miner, or its subsidiary or affiliate, who sells the limerock or sand product shall collect the mitigation fee and forward the proceeds of the fee to the Department of Revenue on or before the 20th day of the month following the calendar month in which the sale occurs.

(3) The mitigation fee imposed by this section must be reported to the Department of Revenue. Payment of the mitigation fee must be accompanied by a form prescribed by the Department of Revenue. The proceeds of the fee, less administrative costs, must be transferred by the Department of Revenue to the South Florida Water Management District and deposited into the Lake Belt Mitigation Trust Fund. As used in this section, the term "proceeds of the fee" means all funds collected and received by the Department of Revenue under this section, including interest and penalties on delinquent mitigation fees. The amount deducted for administrative costs may not exceed 3 percent of the total revenues collected under this section and may equal only those administrative costs reasonably attributable to the mitigation fee.

(4)(a) The Department of Revenue shall administer, collect, and enforce the mitigation fee authorized under this section in accordance with the procedures used to administer, collect, and enforce the general sales tax imposed under chapter 212. The provisions of chapter 212 with respect to the authority of the Department of Revenue to audit and make assessments, the keeping of books and records, and the interest and penalties imposed on delinquent fees apply to this section. The fee may not be included in computing estimated taxes under s. 212.11, and the dealer's credit for collecting taxes or fees provided for in s. 212.12 does not apply to the mitigation fee imposed by this section.

(b) In administering this section, the Department of Revenue may employ persons and incur expenses for which funds are appropriated by the Legislature. The Department of Revenue shall adopt rules and prescribe and publish forms necessary to administer this section. The Department of Revenue shall establish audit procedures and may assess delinquent fees.

(5) Beginning January 1, 2001, and each January 1 thereafter, the per-ton mitigation fee shall be increased by 2.1 percentage points, plus a cost growth index. The cost growth index shall be the percentage change in the weighted average of the Employment Cost Index for All Civilian Workers (ecu 10001I), issued by the United States Department of Labor for the most recent 12-month period ending on September 30, and the percentage change in the Producer Price Index for All Commodities (WPU 00000000), issued by the United States Department of Labor for the most recent 12-month period ending on September 30, compared to the weighted average of these indices for the previous year. The weighted average shall be calculated as 0.6 times

the percentage change in the Employment Cost Index for All Civilian Workers (ecu 10001I), plus 0.4 times the percentage change in the Producer Price Index for All Commodities (WPU 0000000). If either index is discontinued, it shall be replaced by its successor index, as identified by the United States Department of Labor.

(6)(a) The proceeds of the mitigation fee must be used to conduct mitigation activities that are appropriate to offset the loss of the value and functions of wetlands as a result of mining activities and must be used in a manner consistent with the recommendations contained in the reports submitted to the Legislature by the Miami-Dade County Lake Belt Plan Implementation Committee and adopted under s. 373.4149. Such mitigation may include the purchase, enhancement, restoration, and management of wetlands and uplands, the purchase of mitigation credit from a permitted mitigation bank, and any structural modifications to the existing drainage system to enhance the hydrology of the Miami-Dade County Lake Belt Area. Funds may also be used to reimburse other funding sources, including the Save Our Rivers Land Acquisition Program and the Internal Improvement Trust Fund, for the purchase of lands that were acquired in areas appropriate for mitigation due to rock mining and to reimburse governmental agencies that exchanged land under s. 373.4149 for mitigation due to rockmining.

(b) Expenditures must be approved by an interagency committee consisting of representatives from each of the following: the Miami-Dade County Department of Environmental Resource Management, the Department of Environmental Protection, the South Florida Water Management District, and the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission. In addition, the limerock mining industry shall select a representative to serve as a nonvoting member of the interagency committee. At the discretion of the committee, additional members may be added to represent federal regulatory, environmental, and fish and wildlife agencies.

(7) Payment of the fee imposed by this section satisfies the mitigation requirements imposed under ss. 373.403-373.439 and any applicable county ordinance for loss of the value and functions from mining of the wetlands identified as rockmining supported and allowable areas of the Miami-Dade County Lake Plan adopted by s. 373.4149(1). In addition, it is the intent of the Legislature that the payment of the mitigation fee imposed by this section satisfy all federal mitigation requirements for the wetlands mined.

(8) If a general permit by the United States Army Corps of Engineers, or an appropriate long-term permit for mining, consistent with the Miami-Dade County Lake Belt Plan, this section, and ss. 373.4149, 373.4415, and 378.4115 is not issued on or before September 30, 2000, the fee imposed by this section is suspended until revived by the Legislature.

(9)(a) The interagency committee established in this section shall annually prepare and submit to the governing board of the South Florida Water Management District a report evaluating the mitigation costs and revenues generated by the mitigation fee.

(b) No sooner than January 31, 2010, and no more frequently than every 10 years thereafter, the interagency committee shall submit to the Legisla-

ture a report recommending any needed adjustments to the mitigation fee to ensure that the revenue generated reflects the actual costs of the mitigation.

Section 3. Section 373.4415, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

373.4415 Role of Miami-Dade Dade County in processing permits for limerock mining in Miami-Dade Dade County Lake Belt.—The department and Miami-Dade Dade County shall cooperate to establish and fulfill reasonable requirements for the departmental delegation to the Miami-Dade Dade County Department of Environmental Resource Management of authority to implement the permitting program under ss. 373.403-373.439 for limerock mining activities within the geographic area of the Miami-Dade Dade County Lake Belt which was recommended for mining in the report submitted to the Legislature in February 1997 by the Miami-Dade Dade County Lake Belt Plan Implementation Committee under s. 373.4149. The delegation of authority must be consistent with s. 373.441 and chapter 62-344, Florida Administrative Code. To further streamline permitting within the Miami-Dade Dade County Lake Belt, the department and Miami-Dade Dade County are encouraged to work with the United States Army Corps of Engineers to establish a general permit under s. 404 of the Clean Water Act for limerock mining activities within the geographic area of the Miami-Dade Dade County Lake Belt consistent with the report submitted in February 1997. Miami-Dade Dade County is further encouraged to seek delegation from the United States Army Corps of Engineers for the implementation of any such general permit. This section does not limit the authority of the department to delegate other responsibilities to Miami-Dade Dade County under this part.

Section 4. Section 378.4115, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

378.4115 County certification for limerock mining in the Miami-Dade Dade County Lake Belt.—The department and Miami-Dade Dade County shall cooperate to establish and fulfill reasonable requirements for the departmental certification of the Miami-Dade Dade County Department of Environmental Resource Management to implement the reclamation program under ss. 378.401-378.503 for limerock mining activities within the geographic area of the Miami-Dade Dade County Lake Belt which was recommended for mining in the report submitted to the Legislature in February 1997 by the Miami-Dade Dade County Lake Belt Plan Implementation Committee under s. 373.4149. The delegation of implementing authority must be consistent with s. 378.411 and chapter 62C-36, Florida Administrative Code. Further, the reclamation program shall maximize the efficient mining of limestone and the littoral area surrounding the lake excavations shall not be required to be greater than 100 feet average in width.

Section 5. If any provision of this act or the application thereof to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications of the act which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this act are declared severable.

Section 6. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.

Approved by the Governor June 8, 1999.

Filed in Office Secretary of State June 8, 1999.