

CHAPTER 2012-107

Committee Substitute for House Bill No. 377

An act relating to the Miami-Dade County Lake Belt Mitigation Plan; amending s. 373.41492, F.S.; deleting references to a report by the Miami-Dade County Lake Belt Plan Implementation Committee; deleting obsolete provisions; providing for the redirection of funds for seepage mitigation projects; requiring the proceeds of the water treatment plant upgrade fee to be transferred by the Department of Revenue to the South Florida Water Management District and to be deposited into the Lake Belt Mitigation Trust Fund; providing criterion when the transfer is not required; providing for the proceeds of the mitigation fee to be used to conduct mitigation activities that are approved by the Miami-Dade County Lake Belt Mitigation Committee; clarifying the authorized uses for the proceeds from the water treatment plant upgrade fee; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Subsections (1), (2), (3), and (6) of section 373.41492, Florida Statutes, are amended 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 Belt 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 in this section 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 the east one-half of sections 24 and 25 and all of sections 35 and 36, Township 53 South, Range 39 East. The mitigation fee is imposed 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. The mitigation fee imposed by this subsection for each ton of limerock and sand sold shall be ~~12 cents per ton beginning January 1, 2007; 18 cents per ton beginning January 1, 2008; 24 cents per ton beginning January 1, 2009; and 45 cents per ton beginning close of business December 31, 2011.~~ To pay for seepage mitigation projects, including groundwater and surface water management structures designed to improve wetland habitat and approved by the Lake Belt Mitigation Committee, and to upgrade a water treatment plant that treats water coming from the Northwest Wellfield in Miami-Dade County, a water treatment plant upgrade fee is imposed within the same Lake Belt Area subject to the mitigation fee and upon the same kind of mined limerock and sand subject to the mitigation fee. The water treatment plant upgrade fee imposed by this subsection for each ton of limerock and sand sold shall be 15 cents per ton beginning on January 1, 2007, and the collection of this fee shall cease once the total amount of proceeds collected for this fee reaches the amount of the actual moneys necessary to design and construct the water treatment plant upgrade, as determined in an open, public solicitation process. Any limerock or sand that is used within the mine from which the limerock or sand is extracted is exempt from the fees. The amount of the mitigation fee and the water treatment plant upgrade 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 fee or fees apply. The limerock or sand miner, or its subsidiary or affiliate, who sells the limerock or sand product shall collect the mitigation fee and the water treatment plant upgrade fee and forward the proceeds of the fees to the Department of Revenue on or before the 20th day of the month following the calendar month in which the sale occurs. The proceeds of a fee imposed by this section include all funds collected and received by the Department of Revenue relating to the fee, including interest and penalties on a delinquent fee. 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 fee.

(3) The mitigation fee and the water treatment plant upgrade fee imposed by this section must be reported to the Department of Revenue. Payment of the mitigation and the water treatment plant upgrade fees must be accompanied by a form prescribed by the Department of Revenue.

(a) The proceeds of the mitigation 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.

(b) Beginning July 1, 2012, the proceeds of the water treatment plant upgrade 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 until:

1. A total of \$20 million from the proceeds of the water treatment plant upgrade fee, less administrative costs, is deposited into the Lake Belt Mitigation Trust Fund; or

2. The quarterly pathogen sampling conducted as a condition of the permits issued by the department for rock mining activities in the Miami-Dade County Lake Belt Area demonstrates that the water in any quarry lake in the vicinity of the Northwest Wellfield would be classified as being in Bin 2 or higher as defined in the Environmental Protection Agency's Long Term 2 Enhanced Surface Water Treatment Rule.

~~(c) Upon the earliest occurrence of the criterion under subparagraph (b)1. or subparagraph (b)2., the proceeds of the water treatment plant upgrade fee, less administrative costs, must be transferred by the Department of Revenue to a trust fund established by Miami-Dade County, for the sole purpose authorized by paragraph (6)(a). 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 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 fees.~~

(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 approved~~ used in a manner consistent with the recommendations contained in the reports submitted to the Legislature by the Miami-Dade County Lake Belt Mitigation Plan Implementation Committee and adopted under s. 373.4149. Such mitigation may include the purchase, enhancement, restoration, and management of wetlands and uplands in the Everglades watershed, 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 or the Everglades watershed. Funds may also be used to reimburse other funding sources, including the Save Our Rivers Land Acquisition Program, the Internal Improvement Trust Fund, the South Florida Water Management District, and Miami-Dade County, 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 rock mining. The proceeds of the water treatment plant upgrade fee

deposited into the Lake Belt Mitigation Trust Fund shall be used solely to pay for seepage mitigation projects, including groundwater or surface water management structures designed to improve wetland habitat and approved by the Lake Belt Mitigation Committee. The proceeds of the water treatment plant upgrade fee which are transmitted to a trust fund established by Miami-Dade County shall be used to upgrade a water treatment plant that treats water coming from the Northwest Wellfield in Miami-Dade County. As used in this section, the terms “upgrade a water treatment plant” or “treatment plant upgrade” mean means those works necessary to treat or filter a surface water source or supply or both.

(b) Expenditures of the mitigation fee must be approved by an inter-agency 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 Fish and Wildlife Conservation 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.

Section 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.

Approved by the Governor April 13, 2012.

Filed in Office Secretary of State April 13, 2012.