

CHAPTER 2015-141

Committee Substitute for House Bill No. 359

An act relating to the Miami-Dade County Lake Belt Area; amending s. 373.4149, F.S.; requiring amendments to local zoning and subdivision regulations concerning properties located within a certain area to be compatible with limestone mining activities; prohibiting amendments to local zoning and subdivision regulations which would result in an increase in residential density for certain property until there is no mining activity within a certain distance; amending s. 373.41492, F.S.; conforming a cross-reference; including monitoring as an environmental purpose for which the per-ton mitigation fee may be applied; decreasing the amount of the per-ton mitigation fee for limerock and sand sold after certain dates; decreasing the amount of the per-ton water treatment plant upgrade fee; requiring that a portion of the proceeds from the per-ton water treatment plant upgrade fee be used to fund a study reviewing certain mining activities and claims relating to such activities; adding water quality monitoring to the required uses for mitigation fee proceeds; providing for expiration of the water treatment plant upgrade fee; removing a requirement that uses of the mitigation fee proceeds be approved by the Miami-Dade County Lake Belt Mitigation Committee; deleting an obsolete provision; providing legislative findings with respect to certain water treatment plant upgrades; requiring Miami-Dade County to submit certain reports to the Legislature; amending s. 552.30, F.S.; requiring the State Fire Marshal to conduct a study reviewing the appropriateness of the established statewide ground vibration limits for construction materials mining activities and any legitimate claims paid for damages caused by such mining activities; providing funding for the study; requiring a report to be submitted to the Governor and the Legislature by a certain date; reenacting s. 373.41495(1),(2), and (3), F.S., relating to the Lake Belt Mitigation Trust Fund to incorporate the amendment made to s. 373.41492, F.S., in reference thereto; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Subsection (4) of section 373.4149, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

373.4149 Miami-Dade County Lake Belt Plan.—

(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 zoning and subdivision regulations, and 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, amendments to local zoning and subdivision regulations which would result in an increase in residential density, 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.

Section 2. Sections (1), (2), (3), (6), and (8) of section 373.41492, Florida Statutes, are amended, subsection (9) is renumbered as subsection (8), and a new subsection (9) is added to that section, 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. The Lake Belt Mitigation Plan consists of those provisions contained in subsections ~~(2)-(8)~~ ~~(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, monitoring, maintenance, and other environmental purposes. It is the intent of the Legislature that the per-ton mitigation fee not be a revenue source for purposes other than enumerated in this section. 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 25 45 cents per ton, beginning on January 1, 2016; 15 cents per ton beginning on January 1, 2017; and 5 cents per ton beginning on January 1, 2018, and thereafter. 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 section ~~subsection~~ for each ton of limerock and sand sold shall be 6 15 cents per ton, 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. The water treatment plant upgrade fee imposed by this section expires July 1, 2018. 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.~~

~~(b)(e) 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 and less 2 cents per ton transferred pursuant to paragraph (c), 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).~~

~~(c) Until December 1, 2016, or until funding for the study is complete, whichever comes earlier, 2 cents per ton, not to exceed \$300,000, shall be transferred by the Department of Revenue to the State Fire Marshal to be used to fund the study required under s. 552.30 to review the established statewide ground vibration limits for construction materials mining activities and to review any legitimate claims paid for damages caused by such mining activities. Any amount not used to fund the study shall be transferred to the trust fund established by Miami-Dade County, for the sole purpose authorized by paragraph (6)(a).~~

~~(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 to conduct water quality monitoring to ensure the protection of water resources within the Lake Belt Area and be approved by the Miami-Dade County Lake Belt Mitigation Committee. 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 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.

~~(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.~~

(8)(a) The Legislature finds that more than 1,000 water samples from quarry lakes and groundwater sources near the Northwest Wellfield have been analyzed without a single detection of pathogens. The Legislature further finds that the best available science indicates that there is no connection between the quarry lakes in the Miami-Dade County Lake Belt and any potential need to upgrade the water treatment plant that receives water from the Northwest Wellfield for pathogen removal and none is expected in the future.

(b) To assist the Legislature in determining whether a portion of the limestone mining fee should be dedicated to a treatment plant upgrade through July 1, 2018, pursuant to subsection (2), Miami-Dade County shall:

1. By January 15, 2016, submit to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives a detailed accounting of the Lake Belt fees collected through June 30, 2015, and all expenditures of those fees; and

2. By January 15, 2017, submit to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives a detailed report on all pathogen data collection and analyses related to the Northwest Wellfield and the planning and engineering studies undertaken to upgrade any water treatment plant to provide treatment for pathogens in water from the Northwest Wellfield.

Section 3. Subsection (3) is added to section 552.30, Florida Statutes, to read:

(3) The State Fire Marshall is directed to conduct or contract for a study to review whether the established statewide ground vibration limits for construction materials mining activities are still appropriate and to review any legitimate claims paid for damages caused by such mining activities. The study must include a review of measured vibration amplitudes and frequencies, structure responses, theoretical analyses of material strength and strains, and assessments of home damages.

(a) The study shall be funded using the specified portion of revenues received from the water treatment plant upgrade fee pursuant to s. 373.41492.

(b) The State Fire Marshal shall submit a report to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives by December 1, 2016, which contains the findings of the study and any recommendations.

Section 4. For the purpose of incorporating the amendment made by this act to section 373.41492, Florida Statutes, in a reference thereto, subsections (1), (2), and (3) of section 373.41495, Florida Statutes, are reenacted to read:

373.41495 Lake Belt Mitigation Trust Fund; bonds.—

(1) The Lake Belt Mitigation Trust Fund is hereby created, to be administered by the South Florida Water Management District. Funds shall be credited to the trust fund as provided in s. 373.41492, to be used for the purposes set forth therein.

(2) The South Florida Water Management District may issue revenue bonds pursuant to s. 373.584, payable from revenues from the Lake Belt Mitigation fee imposed under s. 373.41492.

(3) Net proceeds from the Lake Belt Mitigation fee and any revenue bonds issued under subsection (2) shall be deposited into the trust fund and, together with any interest earned on such moneys, shall be applied to Lake Belt mitigation projects as provided in s. 373.41492.

Section 5. This act shall take effect July 1, 2015.

Approved by the Governor June 11, 2015.

Filed in Office Secretary of State June 11, 2015.