

*Miami Blue Chapter*  
North American Butterfly Association

November 17, 2023

National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration  
c/o James Duncan  
Project Administrator  
Miami-Dade County  
Division of Environmental Resources Management  
E-Mail: [Duncaj@miamidade.gov](mailto:Duncaj@miamidade.gov)

**Re: NOAA 2023 Transformational Habitat Restoration and Coastal Resilience  
Grant application NOAA Grant Application**

Dear NOAA Grant Reviewer:

I am writing on behalf of the Miami Blue Chapter of the North American Butterfly Association, in support of Miami-Dade County's NOAA 2023 Transformational Habitat Restoration and Coastal Resilience Grant application.

This application envisions the use of grant funds to backfill a section of the Goulds Canal in southern Miami-Dade County, which would reduce the distribution of contaminants into adjacent coastal waters and habitats.

Land uses surrounding Goulds Canal are a source of significant pollution into Biscayne Bay. The primary concern is a landfill adjacent to Goulds Canal. The County recently completed a report, Groundwater, and Surface Water Monitoring at the South Dade Landfill/ Goulds Canal in Miami-Dade County, concluding that ammonia and phosphorus from the landfill are leaching into Goulds Canal.

To prevent further pollution from Goulds Canal to L-31E canal and the area of the CERP Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands' S-703 and S-705 pump stations, in addition to backfilling the Goulds Canal, the County's efforts would include the protection and management of critical habitat through acquisition and education/information activities. The result will be an integration of the project into the community and ecosystem.

The County's Department of Environmental and Resources Management would design, permit, and manage the construction of the canal backfilling project, which would improve water management and water quality and prevent pump stations from pumping leachate, which originates from the landfill, into the adjacent mangroves. This will reduce nutrient inputs to the surface waters of Biscayne Bay, mangrove forests, and the existing canal.

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All of the above will be to the benefit of one of the great natural resources in the United States - Biscayne Bay.

Sincerely,

Miami Blue Chapter

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dennis J. Olle". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'D' and a stylized 'O'.

Dennis J. Olle  
President  
[dolle@carltonfields.com](mailto:dolle@carltonfields.com)

DJO/bef