

Commissioner Sue Gunzburger

Broward County Commission, District 6

Sand Bypass Update

Many of you have contacted my office for an update on the sand bypass project. I have consistently supported the funding for the sand bypass and have worked with staff to ensure that the funds remain in the budget. The Broward County Commission has passed the funding for this fiscal year (2009) and I will work to keep it in the budget in future years, until it is completed in 2011.

The next scheduled phase will include finalization of permitting, detailed engineering/design and plans/specifications, physical and environmental monitoring, bidding support, and construction oversight. I would hope that the amendment which results from the upcoming negotiations will be brought to County Commissioners by June.

An additional item is an amendment to our existing contract with the State of Florida Department of Environmental Protection to share in the cost for the bypass project, which will add funds appropriated by last year's legislature. That item could come before the Commission possibly by May or June.

2010 Budget Update

Broward County Commissioners held the first of several budget workshops to plan for the fiscal year 2010 budget. The poor economy, deteriorating housing prices and the impact of Amendment 1 may leave us with a budget gap of \$135 to \$160 million dollars. That kind of impact will most surely reduce or eliminate some county services and programs.

I am pleased to announce that the budget workshops scheduled for April 21, May 19 and June 16 will be able to be viewed on Comcast and Advanced Cable as well as through Video Central on www.broward.org.

If you haven't done so already, please go to my website at www.broward.org/sue and take the survey that's located on home page. We have upgraded our site so you will be able to just click and send it to me electronically. I want to hear from you on what county services are most important to you and what you could do without. I'll take your opinions into consideration as we move forward with the budget process.

"Go Green"

Broward County was a "green" county long before the term became fashionable. As early as 1997, Broward County was implementing programs to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions, now referred to as our "carbon" footprint.

Our first "green" building was the South Regional Library in Hollywood. Green buildings use energy, water, materials and land more efficiently than buildings that are simply built to meet local code requirements.

Now, Broward County has developed a "Go Green" website, which brings all of our environmental programs and initiatives together under one, easy to access location. Simply go to my web page at www.broward.org/sue and click on the "Go Green" icon. You can use the website to find environmental programs offered by the County and there also tips on what residents and businesses can do to "go green."

You know my door is always open and I'm always interested in your thoughts and comments. You can reach me or my staff at (954) 357-7006 or send an e-mail to sgunzburger@broward.org.

We would like to wish you a Happy Passover and Happy Easter!