

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STAFF ANALYSIS

BILL #: HB 889 CS

Fran Reich Aquatic Preserve

SPONSOR(S): Machek

TIED BILLS:

IDEN./SIM. BILLS:

REFERENCE	ACTION	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR
1) <u>Water & Natural Resources Committee</u>	<u>9 Y, 0 N, w/CS</u>	<u>Winker</u>	<u>Lotspeich</u>
2) <u>Agriculture & Environment Appropriations Committee</u>	<u></u>	<u></u>	<u></u>
3) <u>State Resources Council</u>	<u></u>	<u></u>	<u></u>
4) <u></u>	<u></u>	<u></u>	<u></u>
5) <u></u>	<u></u>	<u></u>	<u></u>

SUMMARY ANALYSIS

The bill designates the Site 1 Impoundment Project of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan sponsored by the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) as the Fran Reich Preserve. The bill directs the SFWMD to erect suitable markers designating the Fran Reich Preserve.

The bill has no fiscal impact.

FULL ANALYSIS

I. SUBSTANTIVE ANALYSIS

A. HOUSE PRINCIPLES ANALYSIS:

The bill does not appear to implicate any of the House Principles.

B. EFFECT OF PROPOSED CHANGES:

The Site 1 Impoundment Project is a joint project between the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the South Florida Water Management District as part of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan. The purpose of the project, which is located in Palm Beach County, is to supplement water deliveries to the Hillsboro Canal by capturing and storing excess water currently discharged to the Intracoastal Waterway. The supplemental water deliveries are intended to reduce the demands upon Lake Okeechobee.

As part of the project, an impoundment pool will also provide groundwater recharge, reduce seepage from adjacent natural areas, and prevent saltwater intrusion by releasing impounded water back into the Hillsboro Canal when conditions dictate. Some measure of flood protection may also be provided by the project along with water quality improvements. The project includes canal and structure relocations, canal conveyance improvements, water control structures, and an aboveground impoundment with a total storage capacity of 13,280 acre-feet located in the Hillsboro Canal Basin in southern Palm Beach County.

Fran Reich was born in New York City in 1914. After graduating from Queens College, Fran worked in a law office and married her husband Allan. She raised a family and continued to work and be active in numerous educational and civic group issues. In 1978, Fran and her husband moved to Boca Raton, Florida where she founded the West Boca Community Council in 1980. Fran served as the Council's President and Board Chair. Fran served on many local and county advisory committees including the Infrastructure Task Force, Traffic Performance Standards, Ethics Committee, and the Land Use Advisory Board.

Fran's many accomplishments include:

- Bringing a new middle school to West Boca.
- Leading the fight against a West Boca landfill and incinerator by convincing the County that there was no need for such facilities.
- Defeating a proposed airport in West Boca.
- Assisting in the establishment of a West Boca Medical Center.
- Advocating for parks, libraries, schools, post offices, fire stations, and youth activity centers in West Boca.

With Fran's leadership, the West Boca Community Council fought the establishment by the County of a landfill on the southeastern edge of the Loxahatchee Wildlife Refuge and what has become the Site 1 Impoundment Project of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan.

Fran died in February 2005.

C. SECTION DIRECTORY:

Section 1: Designates the Site 1 Impoundment Project of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan as the Fran Reich Preserve; directs the South Florida Water Management District to erect suitable markers.

Section 2: Provides that the act becomes effective on July 1, 2006.

II. FISCAL ANALYSIS & ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

A. FISCAL IMPACT ON STATE GOVERNMENT:

1. Revenues:

None.

2. Expenditures:

None.

B. FISCAL IMPACT ON LOCAL GOVERNMENTS:

1. Revenues:

None.

2. Expenditures:

None.

C. DIRECT ECONOMIC IMPACT ON PRIVATE SECTOR:

None.

D. FISCAL COMMENTS:

None.

III. COMMENTS

A. CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES:

1. Applicability of Municipality/County Mandates Provision:

The bill does not appear to require cities or counties to spend funds or take actions requiring the expenditure of funds. Nor does the bill reduce the authority that cities and counties have to raise revenues in the aggregate or reduce the percentage of a state tax shared with cities or counties.

2. Other:

None.

B. RULE-MAKING AUTHORITY:

None.

C. DRAFTING ISSUES OR OTHER COMMENTS:

According to Department of Environmental Protection staff, designating the Site 1 Project water body as an aquatic preserve would place numerous restrictions upon the water body and would make it difficult to use it for the intended purpose of the Site 1 Project, which is essentially a water holding pond or an impoundment area. Staff recommends that the phrase "aquatic preserve" be removed from the bill and another appropriate designation be used.

IV. AMENDMENTS/COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE & COMBINED BILL CHANGES

On March 15, 2006, the Water and Natural Resources Committee adopted the bill with an amendment which removed the word "aquatic" from the bill.