

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

### **Review Conservation Collier Strategy for Property Acquisition and provide recommendations.**

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**OBJECTIVE:** Staff requests the CCLAAC reviews and provides input and recommendations for the DRAFT 2019 Property Acquisition Strategy.

### **CONSIDERATIONS:**

During the January 22, 2019 BCC meeting under Agenda Item 11.A, the Board directed staff to provide an existing acquisition plan; or develop a plan if one does not exist.

In the past, an acquisition plan has been created on a cycle by cycle basis, starting with Cycle 1 in 2003. After Cycle 8 was completed in 2010, no further cycles were contemplated as land acquisition funds were limited. In fiscal year 2013, Conservation Collier acquisition operations were formally phased out and accumulated reserves were moved to the Conservation Collier Management Trust Fund to manage the preserves. On February 14, 2017, the Board directed staff to restart the Conservation Collier land acquisition phase and authorized utilizing up to \$17 million of the Conservation Collier Management Trust Fund.

The acquisition plan for each cycle used the “Criteria for Evaluating Lands for Acquisition and Management” (section 10) in the Conservation Collier Ordinance. The criteria includes “Target Protection Areas” (TPAs). These TPAs are areas of focus within Collier County where the Conservation Collier Land Acquisition Advisory Committee (CCLAAC), County Staff, and the Board of County Commissioners focus their efforts when the program is in a buying cycle.

Prior to most previous Acquisition Cycles, the CCLAAC determined properties to target for acquisition. Letters were sent to these property owners to determine if they were willing sellers. The CCLAAC considered the TPAs identified in the Conservation Collier Ordinance Section 10.3, as well as equitable geographic distribution by Commission District when determining where to send letters.

In summary, the Conservation Collier land acquisition strategy has been to operate from the current goals and objectives of the ordinance, consistent with the Target Protection Areas, and to solicit interested voluntary and willing sellers through direct mail contact. This mail contact has, through the course of the program, decreased due to the available land for acquisition and continued focus of the program in specific areas of concentration. Cycle 9 focused on remaining properties related to Cycle 8, per Board direction.

Staff will be taking a Draft Property Acquisition Plan to the BCC during the May 28, 2019 or later meeting. This Draft will include the history of acquisition planning ahead of cycles and request direction on future cycle strategies.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** The fiscal impact for developing a Property Acquisition would include staff time.

**GROWTH MANAGEMENT IMPACT:** Fee-simple acquisition of conservation lands is consistent with and supports Policy 1.3.1(e) in the Conservation and Coastal Management Element of the Collier County Growth Management Plan.

**LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS:** This item has been approved for form and legality and requires majority vote for approval. – JAB 4/2/2019

**RECOMMENDATION:** Staff is requesting the CCLAAC provide input and recommendations for the Property Acquisition Strategy.

**PREPARED BY:** Summer Araque, Principal Environmental Specialist, Conservation Collier Coordinator, Parks and Recreation Division