



**ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION and GROWTH MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT
NATURAL RESOURCES PLANNING & MANAGEMENT DIVISION**

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DATE: April 28, 2014
TO: Broward County Board of Commissioners
FROM: Dr. Jennifer Jurado, Director, Natural Resources Planning and Management Division *JJ.*
SUBJECT: **Approval of Most Reasonable Source Request: Nova Southeastern University to Provide Services for the Broward County Sea Turtle Conservation Program**

The County has been contracting with Nova Southeastern University's Oceanographic Center (NSUOC) for 26 years to provide successful county-wide sea turtle conservation services including all associated monitoring activities and interpretive programs. Additionally, NSUOC staff is currently permitted by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission to carry out sea turtle conservation activities in Broward County, and only one such permit can be issued at a time for activities of this nature in the same area of beach. NSUOC has experienced personnel that will allow for continued successful operation of this program, essential for the continued delivery of beach cleaning and management activities, and has direct experience with endangered and threatened sea turtles, specifically in Broward County.

At this time, there is no other person/organization permitted to fulfill monitoring and related requirements in support of the County's sea turtle conservation program. Any interruption in sea turtle monitoring will result in a minimum delay in beach cleaning of 65 days, creating a significant hardship for our coastal cities.

Selecting another vendor is not considered feasible during the nesting season given the potential for interruption in beach cleaning activities due to the time required to conduct an RLI solicitation and to effectuate potential changes in program administration. Therefore the only reasonable path forward at this time is to enter into an interim agreement with Nova Southeastern University.

We are requesting approval of an interim agreement with NSUOC for Fiscal Year 2014, effective May 30, 2014, for a 19-month period ending on December 31, 2015. This provides sufficient time to pursue a vendor for a longer term through a competitive process without risk of interruption of sea turtle surveys.

Your prompt consideration and approval of this Most Reasonable Source request is greatly appreciated.