

Miami Herald

FARMWORKERS' TRAILERS ROLL, BUILDING TO BEGIN

OSCAR MUSIBAY Herald Staff Writer

July 23, 1994

One of South Dade's farmworker communities is on the move. After months of delays, the Everglades Community Association has begun relocating trailers to a temporary site in Leisure City. Once the move is complete, construction of permanent housing will begin at the ECA site outside Florida City. "The funds have been allocated, and things are looking very good for us to start construction by Oct. 1," said Enrique Vazquez, deputy director of the ECA.

The \$20 million project was funded through grants and loans from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Farmers Home Administration. The plan is to move 310 trailers from the Everglades Center to Royal Colonial Mobile Home Park, 14850 SW 280th St. Once most of the move is completed, construction of 247 homes will begin at the ECA site, 19400 SW 376th St., outside Florida City. The second phase of the three-year project involves transferring trailers from the Andrew Center, next door to the ECA, to Royal Colonial while houses are built at Andrew. About 80 trailers have been transferred in the last two weeks. The rest of them will be moved by the end of August. Construction of the first phase is expected to take 18 months.

The project stalled in April when residents of Naranja and Princeton raised concerns about opening the trailer park in their community. Kevin Broils, president of the Princeton-Naranja Community Council, was one of the plan's staunchest opponents. He said residents who opposed the move were often portrayed as prejudiced, but race or class had nothing to do with their concerns. "We felt like we were a dumping ground for other people's problems when our own needs are not being met," Broils said.