

BEFORE THE COUNTY COALITION FOR RESPONSIBLE
MANAGEMENT OF LAKE OKEECHOBEE—ST. LUCIE AND
CALOOSATCHEE ESTUARIES—LAKE WORTH LAGOON

RESOLUTION NUMBER – 2007-3

A RESOLUTION OF COUNTY COALITION FOR RESPONSIBLE
MANAGEMENT OF
LAKE OKEECHOBEE—ST. LUCIE AND CALOOSAHATCHEE
ESTUARIES—LAKE WORTH LAGOON

IN SUPPORT OF A COMPREHENSIVE ANALYSIS OF THE
CONCEPT OF CONVEYING WATER FROM LAKE
OKEECHOBEE BY MEANS OF A STORAGE FLOWWAY
SOUTH, UPON RECEIVING APPROPRIATE WATER QUALITY
TREATMENT, TO ONE OR MORE OF THE WATER
CONSERVATION AREAS AND IN SUPPORT RESPECTFULLY
REQUESTS THE FEDERAL AND STATE GOVERNMENTS TO
GIVE SERIOUS CONSIDERATION OF THIS CONCEPT AS AN
ADDITIONAL ALTERNATIVE OPTION INCLUDED IN THE
RESTORATION OF AMERICA'S EVERGLADES AND
ASSOCIATED SOUTH FLORIDA ECOSYSTEMS.

WHEREAS, the County Coalition for Responsible Management of Lake Okeechobee - St. Lucie and Caloosahatchee Estuaries and Lake Worth Lagoon (hereafter known as the County Coalition) is committed to the protection and restoration of its water resources; and

WHEREAS, the County Coalition represents over 3.3 million residents of Palm Beach, Martin, St. Lucie, Okeechobee, Osceola, Glades, Polk, Highlands, Lee and Hendry Counties who are dedicated to the restoration of America's Everglades, its estuaries and Lake Okeechobee; and

WHEREAS, the County Coalition is concerned over the health of its water resources; and

WHEREAS, the frequent and destructive practice of releases of high volumes of nutrient-laden water into the coastal estuarine systems has caused deleterious effects on estuarine ecosystem; and

WHEREAS, high Lake water levels have also resulted in substantial discharges to Lake Okeechobee and the coastal estuaries such that concerns exists regarding the health of these waterbodies; and

WHEREAS, the health of Lake Okeechobee, the St. Lucie and Caloosahatchee Estuaries and the Lake Worth lagoon including its native plant and animal life, has declined in recent years; and

WHEREAS, the public health, welfare and safety of lake and coastal communities has been called into question due to algal blooms, seagrass losses, and fish diseases associated with high nutrient levels in the lake and its discharge waters; and

WHEREAS, the Everglades National Park Protection and Expansion Act, December 1989, authorized the Secretary of the Army to take action to improve water deliveries to the Everglades National Park and to take steps to restore natural hydrologic conditions to the extent practicable; and

WHEREAS, the US Army Corps of Engineers has determined that the Herbert Hoover Dike is vulnerable to failure and continued uncontrollable Lake Okeechobee water levels are a major concern for human health, safety and welfare; and

WHEREAS, the present surface water conveyance system south of Lake Okeechobee is not adequate to deliver water south to Everglades National Park and thousands of acre feet of water are discharged to sea each year through the St. Lucie and Caloosahatchee Rivers to the detriment of the receiving estuaries; and

WHEREAS, a flowway south from Lake Okeechobee to the Water Conservation Areas was identified as an option of the minimum plan for everglades restoration in documents such as Federal Objectives for The South Florida Restoration by The Science Sub-Group of The South Florida Management and Coordination Working Group November 15, 1993; and

WHEREAS, the Lake Okeechobee Committee of the South Florida Water Management District's Water Resources Advisory Commission has recommended, in its draft recommendations of April 25, 2007, that the need for and feasibility for additional conveyance capacity, flow ways, and reservoirs to send Lake Okeechobee water to the south be evaluated.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the County Coalition supports the restoration of America's Everglades and associated ecosystems; and,

Section 1. The County Coalition hereby states its support for further investigation of routing excess surface water from Lake Okeechobee by means of a storage flowway south to one or more of the Water Conservation areas. This is not intended to replace, but rather supplement other ongoing initiatives such as additional storage and treatment north of the Lake, ASR, deep well injection, adoption of an improved Lake regulation schedule and revised permitting criteria for new development.

Section 2. The County Coalition is directed to transmit this Resolution to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the South Florida Water Management District, the office of the Governor of the State of Florida and the member counties of the County Coalition for the Responsible Management of Lake Okeechobee – St. Lucie and Caloosatchee Estuaries – Lake Worth Lagoon.

Section 3. This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

Duly adopted this 7th day of June, 2007

By the County Coalition for Responsible Management of Lake Okeechobee - St. Lucie and Caloosahatchee Estuaries - Lake Worth Lagoon

DEBRA LEWIS
Deputy County Clerk
Okeechobee County

RAY JUDAH, CHAIRMAN
County Coalition for Responsible Management
of Lake Okeechobee—St. Lucie and
Caloosahatchee Estuaries—Lake Worth
Lagoon

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