



P.O. Box 2627, Stuart, FL 34995

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Resolution

WHEREAS, prior to 1930 Lake Okeechobee waters would overflow South, and move slowly through the 40-mile wide “River of Grass” Everglades to Florida Bay however the construction of the Herbert Hoover Dike around Lake Okeechobee in 1937 stopped this flow to the South; and

WHEREAS, the 700,000 acres of land south of the Lake is drained for agriculture, mainly sugar cane, and designated as the Everglades Agricultural Area while the waters in the Lake are now controlled by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers using a Lake Okeechobee Regulation Schedule that discharges water to the East and West from the Lake into coastal estuaries, the Atlantic Ocean and Gulf of Mexico, instead of South to the Everglades, “River of Grass”; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and South Florida Water Management District continue large volume discharges of polluted, sediment-filled water from Lake Okeechobee into the St. Lucie Estuary, Indian River Lagoon and Caloosahatchee Estuary which have State and Federal protective designations including Aquatic Preserves, Essential Fish Habitat, Outstanding Florida Waters, National Estuary and State Preserve Reefs; and

WHEREAS, these discharges cause devastating impacts to the coastal marine life such as oyster reefs, seagrass beds and nearshore coral reefs and also severely impact the health and welfare of the people and the economies surrounding these vital waterways; and

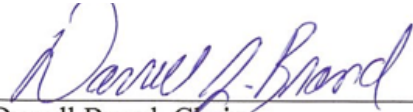
WHEREAS, the mission of Rivers Coalition is to fight for a safe, healthy and ecologically balanced St. Lucie River Estuary and Indian River Lagoon, natural resources that are vital to the economy and quality of life of Martin County and the Treasure Coast.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The Rivers Coalition demands the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and South Florida Water Management District stop the massive, destructive discharges from Lake Okeechobee to the St. Lucie Estuary, Indian River Lagoon and Caloosahatchee Estuary.
2. The Rivers Coalition advocates that the State of Florida and Congress amend the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan to include a “River of Grass” project that provides 500,000 acre-feet of water storage south of the Lake in the EAA connecting to 40,000 acres of existing Stormwater Treatment Areas and with a capacity to move 18,000 cubic feet per second of water out of the Lake providing for dynamic, slow movement of clean water from the Lake through the Everglades to Florida Bay in the approximate amount of 1.5 million acre-feet per year.
3. The Rivers Coalition advocates that the State of Florida use the funds from the 2014 Amendment 1 Land Acquisition Trust Fund to buy the lands necessary for the “River of Grass” project above stated (2) to provide enough storage, treatment and conveyance of water from Lake Okeechobee south to the Everglades and thereby stopping the destructive discharges of Lake water to the northern coastal estuaries.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, the *Chairs* of the Rivers Coalition authorize and forward this Resolution on behalf of *Eighty Three (83) Rivers Coalition members* by signature below.

DULY PASSED AND ADOPTED THE 7TH DAY OF March, 2016.



Darrell Brand, Chair
Rivers Coalition



Mark Perry, Chair
Rivers Coalition



Nic Mader, Chair
Rivers Coalition



Jim Moir, Chair
Rivers Coalition

Members: 1000 Friends of Florida, 27-80 Paddlers, Arthur R. Marshall Foundation, Audubon Florida, Audubon of Martin County, Ballantrae Anglers Club, Ballantrae Yacht Club, Beau Rivage HOA, Business Development Board of Martin County, Circle Bay Yacht Club Condo Ass Inc., Citizens for Clean Water, Coconut Point Yacht Club, Conservation Alliance of St. Lucie Co. Inc., Computer Network Services, Cypress Lake HOA, Economic Council of Martin County, Florida Oceanographic Society, Florida Sportsman, Four Rivers Property Association, Friends of Harbor Branch -FAU, Gregor Woods HOA, Harborage Yacht Condominiums, Harbour Ridge Yacht Club, Indian Riverkeeper, Jensen Beach Chamber of Commerce, Joe's Point HOA, Keep Martin Beautiful, League of Women Voters of Martin Co., Leadership Martin, Lighthouse Point Association Inc., Locks Landing HOA, Marine Cleanup Initiative Inc., Marine Industries Assoc. of Treasure Coast, Marine Resources Council, Martin County Anglers, Martin County Conservation Alliance, Martin County Farm Bureau, Martin County Future Group, Martin County Hotel & Motel Association, Martin Soil & Water Conservation Dist, Miramar P.O.A., Nettles Island Community Action Assoc., North River Shores Prop. Assoc., Ocean Research and Conservation Association, Palm City Chamber of Commerce, Palm City Civic Association, Palm Cove Yacht Club, Palm Cove HOA, Pierpoint Condominium Assoc., Port Salerno Commercial Fishing Dock Assoc., Port Sewall Harbor & Tennis Club Owners Ass, Port Sewall Property Owners Assoc., Port St Lucie Anglers, Presidents Council of Hutchinson Island, Realtor Association of Martin County, Rio Civic Club, River Club Dock Owners Association Inc., River Kidz, River Vista HOA, River Warriors, Rustic Acres Property Owners Association, Sailfish Point POA, Sailfish Point Yacht Club, Savanna Fishing Club, Seagate Harbor Homeowners Assoc., Snug Harbor Yacht Club, St. Lucie Sailing Club, St. Lucie Settlement Inc., Stuart Corinthian Yacht Club, Stuart Flyrodders, Stuart Heritage, Stuart Rod & Reel Club, Stuart/Martin County Chamber, Surfrider Foundation, The Garden Club of Stuart Inc, The Junior League of Martin County, Treasure Coast Builders Association, Treasure Coast Golf Course Superintendents Association, Treasure Coast Rod Benders Fishing Club, Treasure Coast Rowing Club, US Sailing Center, Windjammer Condo Association