



Save Our River! Stop the Discharges!

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RIVERS COALITION RESOLUTION

Supporting The Everglades Agricultural Area Storage Reservoir Project

WHEREAS, the northern estuaries and Florida Bay are dying due to the destructive discharges from Lake Okeechobee; and

WHEREAS, the Florida Everglades and its associated estuaries are an internationally unique ecosystem, a national treasure and a significant economic driver for Florida's economy; and

WHEREAS, the citizens of Florida and Martin County, in overwhelming majority, voted to support the Florida Water and Land Conservation Initiative, Amendment 1; and

WHEREAS, additional land is needed to "flow" water during the dry/rainy season and eliminate harmful discharges from Lake Okeechobee to the Caloosahatchee and St. Lucie rivers and provide water supply for the natural system; and

WHEREAS, acquisition of key parcels as needed - completes the "River of Grass Flow"; reduces harmful freshwater discharges from Lake Okeechobee; improves the delivery of cleaner water to the Everglades; protects water supply interests; and supports a healthier ecological environment for Lake Okeechobee and the associated estuaries; and

WHEREAS, The mission of the 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.

Therefore be it resolved:

The Rivers Coalition represents 94 organizations with over 300,000 members that live along, work, or otherwise benefit from the St Lucie River and Estuary, and the Indian River Lagoon. For more than 90 years our region's economy has been sacrificed as the government-sponsored dumping grounds of polluted Lake Okeechobee water for the benefit of areas south of the lake.

We wholeheartedly support - The Water Resources Law of 2017 ([Laws of Florida, Chapter 2017-10, Senate Bill 10](#)) which directs the expedited design and construction of a water storage reservoir in the Everglades Agricultural Area (EAA) to provide for a significant increase in southern storage to reduce high-volume discharges from Lake Okeechobee.

This large dynamic reservoir will be the centerpiece of activities to store, clean and convey Lake water south. These activities will help reduce the damaging discharges and restore the historic flow to the Everglades and Florida Bay as envisioned in CERP.

DULY PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 26th day of October, 2017 by its members and presented to South Florida Water Management by the Rivers Coalition Leadership Team:

Darrell Brand, George Jones, Jim Moir, Jacqui Thurlow - Lippisch & Mark Perry