WHEREAS, the destructive discharges from Lake Okeechobee are killing the northern estuaries and causing major impacts to the public health and safety of our communities; and

WHEREAS, the Florida Everglades, Florida Bay and its associated estuaries are internationally unique ecosystems, 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 south from Lake Okeechobee during the dry/rainy season, eliminate harmful discharges from Lake Okeechobee to the Caloosahatchee and St. Lucie rivers and provide water supply for the natural Everglades ecosystem; and

WHEREAS, acquisition of key parcels 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 103 organizations with over 350,000 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.

The Rivers Coalition supports the proposed modification of the Project for Central and Southern Florida authorized by Section 203 of Public Law 80-858 (62 Stat. 1175), as amended, to include public health and safety as the primary consideration for all authorized project purposes.

DULY PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 26th day of September 2018 by its members.

Rivers Coalition Leadership Team:

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