

RESOLUTION 16-R12

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PORT ST. LUCIE, FLORIDA, REQUESTING THE GOVERNOR OF FLORIDA, THROUGH EXECUTIVE ORDER AND/ OR OTHER POWERS AVAILABLE UNDER THE LAW, TO ACTIVATE ALL AVAILABLE STATE AND LOCAL EMERGENCY AND RELIEF RESOURCES AND MECHANISMS FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE INDIAN RIVER LAGOON AND ST. LUCIE ESTUARY

WHEREAS, the Indian River Lagoon is a diverse, shallow-water estuary stretching across 40 percent of Florida's east coast; and

WHEREAS, the Lagoon is an important commercial and recreational fishery and economic resource to the state and region. The total estimated annual economic value of the lagoon is \$3.7 billion, supporting 15,000 full and part-time jobs and providing recreational opportunities for 11 million people per year; and

WHEREAS, the St. Lucie River and Estuary is an ecological jewel on Florida's Treasure Coast that is integral to the environmental and economic well-being of Martin and St. Lucie Counties. The St. Lucie River is part of the larger Indian River Lagoon system, the most diverse estuarine environment in North America with more than 4,000 plant and animal species, including manatees, oysters, dolphins, sea turtles and seahorses; and

WHEREAS, extensive historical modifications to the St. Lucie River and its watershed have altered the hydrology of the region and as a result, heavy rainfall can bring large influxes of fresh water into the St. Lucie Estuary from storm water runoff within the basin, Lake Okeechobee releases or both. The increased freshwater flows affect salinity levels and water quality in the estuary, potentially causing environmental harm; and

WHEREAS, the Lagoon is at a turning point. The coming months could herald a slow recovery of this unique ecosystem or an imminent collapse of the remaining portion of the estuary that has been sustainable up to this point; and

WHEREAS, since the beginning of this year, the St. Lucie River Estuary water quality has been poor, in part due to low salinity levels and high bacteria content. Prolonged exposure to low salinity levels has been demonstrated to cause harm to natural shellfish communities and habitat.

WHEREAS, the Martin County Board of County Commissioners passed Resolution No. 16-2.3 on February 9, 2016, requesting the Governor take necessary action for the protection of the St. Lucie Estuary and the Indian River Lagoon.

WHEREAS, On February 10, 2016, the Florida Department of Health released a public advisory urging residents to avoid contact with the North Fork of the St. Lucie River due to high enteric bacteria levels.

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WHEREAS, on February 11, 2016, Governor Rick Scott sent a letter to the Secretary of the US Army Corps of Engineers requesting that the Corps take immediate action to relieve the flooding in the Everglades Water Conservation Areas and the releases of water from Lake Okeechobee to the Caloosahatchee and St. Lucie Estuaries.

WHEREAS, this Council requests that the Governor declare an emergency so that the Counties can proceed to seek direct assistance with any and all agencies of the State of Florida as may be needed to meet this emergency.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PORT ST. LUCIE, FLORIDA, AS FOLLOWS:

1. The City Council requests that the Governor of the State of Florida consider issuing an Executive Order, and/or other powers available under law, to activate all available State and Local emergency and relief resources and mechanisms to protect the Indian River Lagoon and the St. Lucie Estuary.
2. The City Council of the City of Port St. Lucie requests that the State release funds to the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) for temporary pumping and redirection of water to maximum capacity on SFWMD designated lands or other state lands, including but not limited to the Holey Land and Rotenberger tracts, and Water Conservation Areas.
3. The City Council of the City of Port St. Lucie requests that the State and Federal Government provide economic assistance to the businesses damaged by the discharges.
4. The City Council of the City of Port St. Lucie supports the passage of HB 989/SB 1168 "Legacy Florida," providing dedicated funding for Everglades restoration and funding in the House and Senate to provide short and long term storage and water quality treatment options.
5. The City Council of the City of Port St. Lucie requests the Legislature use Amendment 1 funds for design of 507,000 acre- feet of additional storage, treatment, and conveyance south of Lake Okeechobee, and for the associated purchase of identified land for said storage to redirect water that would otherwise be discharged into the estuaries, away from the estuaries, as recommended in the 2015 Independent Technical Review by the University of Florida Water Caloosahatchee Estuaries and Move More Water from Lake Okeechobee to the Southern Everglades.
6. The City Council of the City of Port St. Lucie urges completion of the CERP.
7. The City Clerk shall forward this Resolution to the Governor of the State of Florida.
8. This Resolution shall become effective immediately upon adoption.

RESOLUTION 16-R12

After motion and second, the vote on this resolution was as follows:

Mayor Gregory J. Oravec	_____
Vice Mayor Linda Bartz	_____
Councilwoman Michelle Lee Berger	_____
Councilwoman Shannon Martin	_____
Councilman Ronald E. Bowen	_____

PASSED AND APPROVED by the City Council of the City of Port St. Lucie, Florida, this 3rd day of March, 2016.

**CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF PORT ST. LUCIE**

BY: _____
Gregory J. Oravec, Mayor

ATTEST:

BY: _____
Karen A. Phillips, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

BY: _____

Interim City Attorney



**BEFORE THE CITY COMMISSION
CITY OF STUART, FLORIDA**

RESOLUTION NUMBER 30-2016

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF STUART, SUPPORTING THE MARTIN COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, RESOLUTION 16-2.3, REQUESTING THE GOVERNOR OF FLORIDA, THROUGH EXECUTIVE ORDER AND OTHER POWERS AVAILABLE UNDER THE LAW TO DECLARE A STATE OF EMERGENCY AND FACILITATE APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS AND OTHER AVAILABLE MECHANISMS FOR PROTECTION OF THE INDIAN RIVER LAGOON AND ST. LUCIE RIVER ESTUARY.

* * * * *

WHEREAS, the City of Stuart Commission fully supports Martin County Board of County Commissioners' Resolution No. 16-2.3, requesting the Governor of Florida to declare a state of emergency; and to use whatever lawful authority is available to protect the Indian River Lagoon and the St. Lucie River Estuary.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF STUART, FLORIDA that:

SECTION 1: The foregoing language is adopted as if set forth below.

SECTION 2: The City Commission of the City of Stuart hereby supports and readopts the Martin County Board of County Commissioners' Resolution 16-2.3 urging the Governor of Florida to declare a State of Emergency, and for other purposes; a copy of said Resolution is attached hereto and incorporated herein.

SECTION 3: This resolution shall take effect upon adoption.

Resolution No. 30-2016
Support BOCC R16-2.3 to Protect the St. Lucie River & Indian River Lagoon

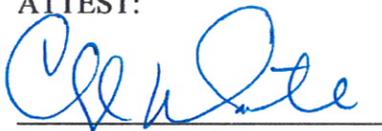
Commissioner CAMPENNI offered the foregoing resolution and moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by Commissioner CLARKE, and upon being put to a roll call vote, the vote was as follows:

JEFFREY A. KRAUSKOPF, MAYOR
EULA CLARK , VICE-MAYOR
KELLI GLASS LEIGHTON, COMMISSIONER
THOMAS F. CAMPENNI, COMMISSIONER
TROY MCDONALD, COMMISSIONER

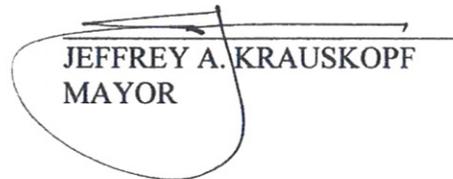
YES	NO	ABSENT
X		
X		
X		
X		
X		

ADOPTED this 22nd day of February, 2016.

ATTEST:



CHERYL WHITE
CITY CLERK



JEFFREY A. KRAUSKOPF
MAYOR

APPROVED AS TO FORM
AND CORRECTNESS:



MICHAEL J. MORTELL
CITY ATTORNEY



BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
MARTIN COUNTY, FLORIDA

RESOLUTION NO. 16-2.3

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, OF MARTIN COUNTY, FLORIDA REQUESTING THE GOVERNOR OF FLORIDA, THROUGH EXECUTIVE ORDER AND/OR OTHER POWERS AVAILABLE UNDER THE LAW, TO DECLARE A STATE OF EMERGENCY AND FACILITATE APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS AND OTHER AVAILABLE MECHANISMS FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE INDIAN RIVER LAGOON AND THE ST. LUCIE ESTUARY

WHEREAS, the Indian River Lagoon is a diverse, shallow-water estuary stretching across 40 percent of Florida's east coast; and

WHEREAS, the Lagoon is an important commercial and recreational fishery and economic resource to the state and region. The total estimated annual economic value of the lagoon is \$3.7 billion, supporting 15,000 full and part-time jobs and providing recreational opportunities for 11 million people per year; and

WHEREAS, the St. Lucie River and Estuary is an ecological jewel on Florida's Treasure Coast that is integral to the environmental and economic well-being of Martin and St. Lucie Counties. The St. Lucie River is part of the larger Indian River Lagoon system, the most diverse estuarine environment in North America with more than 4,000 plant and animal species, and

WHEREAS, extensive historical modifications to the St. Lucie River and its watershed have altered the hydrology of the region and, as a result, heavy rainfall can bring large influxes of fresh water into the St. Lucie Estuary from stormwater runoff within the basin, Lake Okeechobee releases, or both. The increased Lake water and basin discharges lower salinity levels and reduce water quality in the estuary, causing environmental and economic damage; and

WHEREAS, the Lagoon is at a crisis point. The coming months could herald a slow recovery of this unique ecosystem or an imminent collapse of the estuary requiring both short and long-term solutions; and

WHEREAS, the Martin County Board of County Commissioners has supported the long-term solution of completing the Indian River Lagoon South (IRL-S) project since the authorization of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP) in the year 2000; and

WHEREAS, the IRL-S project is a key element of the CERP; and

WHEREAS, Martin County has acquired 45,000 acres for various CERP projects, the funding for which has been voluntarily assessed by the residents of Martin County, generating \$75 million for land acquisition costs, including \$27 million for the C-44 Reservoir Project and leveraging those funds with state dollars; and

WHEREAS, Water-related economic benefits to Martin and St. Lucie Counties total more than \$840 million annually, with an additional \$588 million in property value benefits; and

WHEREAS, the Florida Realtors report in 2015 titled "The Impact of Water Quality on Florida's Home Values" objectively and scientifically concluded that "the ongoing problem of polluted water in the Caloosahatchee and St. Lucie rivers and estuaries has indeed resulted in a negative impact on home values"; and

WHEREAS, Florida's voters overwhelmingly approved Amendment 1 to "fund the Land Acquisition Trust Fund to acquire, restore, improve, and manage conservation lands including wetlands and forests, fish and wildlife habitat; land protecting water resources and drinking water sources, including the Everglades, and the water quality of rivers, lakes, and streams; beaches and shores; outdoor recreational lands; working farms and ranches; and historic or geologic sites, by dedicating 33 percent of net revenues from the existing excise tax on documents for 20 years"; and

WHEREAS, in 2015 at the request of and with funding from the Florida Senate, the University of Florida Water Institute completed an Independent Technical Review titled "Options to Reduce High Volume Freshwater Flows to the St. Lucie and Caloosahatchee Estuaries and Move More Water from Lake Okeechobee to the Southern Everglades" which specifically identified a need for additional storage south of Lake Okeechobee to address damaging freshwater discharges to the estuaries.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MARTIN COUNTY, FLORIDA, THAT:

1. The Martin County Board of County Commissioners requests that the Governor declare a State of Emergency for the Indian River Lagoon and St. Lucie Estuary to protect the local economy and ecosystem, including numerous endangered species located in the Estuary which are potentially harmed by the discharges from Lake Okeechobee.
2. The Martin County Board of County Commissioners requests that the State release funds to the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) for temporary pumping and redirection of water to maximum capacity on SFWMD designated lands or other state lands, including but not limited to the Holey Land and Rotenberger tracts, and Water Conservation Areas.
3. The Martin County Board of County Commissioners requests that the State and Federal Government provide economic assistance to the businesses damaged by the discharges.
4. The Martin County Board of County Commissioners supports the passage of HB 989/SB 1168 "Legacy Florida," providing dedicated funding for Everglades restoration and funding in the House and Senate to provide short and long term storage and water quality treatment options.
5. The Martin County Board of County Commissioners requests the Legislature use Amendment 1 funds for design of 507,000 acre-feet of additional storage, treatment, and conveyance south of Lake Okeechobee, and for the associated purchase of identified land for said storage to redirect water that would otherwise be discharged into the estuaries, away from the estuaries, as recommended in the 2015 Independent Technical Review by the University of Florida Water Institute titled "Options to Reduce High Volume Freshwater Flows to the St. Lucie and Caloosahatchee Estuaries and Move More Water from Lake Okeechobee to the Southern Everglades."
6. The Martin County Board of County Commissioners urges completion of the CERP.

7. The County Administrator shall forward this Resolution to the Governor of the State of Florida, the County's State and Federal legislative delegations and the St. Lucie County Administrator.
8. This Resolution shall become effective immediately upon adoption.

DULY PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 9th DAY OF FEBRUARY 2016.

ATTEST:


CAROLYN TIMMANN, CLERK OF THE
CIRCUIT COURT AND COMPTROLLER

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
MARTIN COUNTY, FLORIDA:


ANNE SCOTT, CHAIR

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND
LEGAL SUFFICIENCY:

For 
MICHAEL D. DURHAM,
COUNTY ATTORNEY