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RESOLUTION 2009 - 10

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**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF HALLANDALE
BEACH, FLORIDA, DECLARING ITS SUPPORT FOR
THE EFFORTS OF GOVERNOR CHARLIE CRIST AND
THE SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT
DISTRICT TO ACQUIRE LAND SOUTH OF LAKE
OKEECHOBEE FOR THE PROTECTION AND
RESTORATION OF AMERICA'S EVERGLADES AND
FLORIDA'S COASTAL ESTUARIES**

WHEREAS, America's Everglades and the South Florida ecosystem is a unique
expanse of habitats, whose environmental health is critical to the economy and quality of
life of South Florida; and

WHEREAS, on June 24, 2008, Governor Charlie Crist unveiled a momentous
strategy to bring about the largest environmental land acquisition in Florida's history and
restore America's Everglades in a way never before anticipated; and

WHEREAS, the Governor announced that the South Florida Water Management
District will begin negotiating an agreement with United States Sugar Corporation to
purchase nearly 300 square miles of land spanning four counties in South Florida; and

WHEREAS, the acquisition of over 180,000 acres of land south of Lake
Okeechobee rivers and estuaries, and revive, restore and preserve one of America's
greatest natural treasures – the Everglades; and

WHEREAS, the South Florida Water Management District and United States
Sugar Corporation signed a "Statement of Principles" that provides the framework for
the potential acquisition of property and assets; and

WHEREAS, through successful negotiations and strategies land swaps, vast
tracts would be used to reestablish a part of the historic connection between Lake
Okeechobee and the Everglades through a managed system of storage and treatment;
and

WHEREAS, dedicating significantly more land in the Everglades Agricultural
Area to restoration will build upon and enhance the 30-year state-federal
Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan, offering the opportunity and flexibility to
store and clean water on a scale never before contemplated; and

WHEREAS, benefits from the land acquisition include huge increases in the
availability of water storage, significantly reducing the potential for harmful discharges
from Lake Okeechobee to Florida's coastal rivers and estuaries; and

39 **WHEREAS**, the acquisition will prevent thousands of tons of phosphorus from
40 entering the Everglades every year and eliminate the need for "
41 back-pumping" water into Lake Okeechobee; and

42 **WHEREAS**, the acquisition also provides the potential opportunity to sustain
43 remaining agriculture in the region by eliminating environmental concerns; enhancing the
44 availability of water supply; and foster green energy production; and

45 **WHEREAS**, the Governor has identified the State of Florida's Rural Economic
46 Development Initiative as a resource for working with United States Sugar Corporation,
47 local governments, area businesses, state agencies and the South Florida Water
48 Management District on an economic transition plan for the area; and

49 **WHEREAS**, saving the Everglades and protecting Florida's coastal estuaries is
50 an environmental priority for the City and its residents; and

51 **WHEREAS**, the South Florida Water Management District's initiative to purchase
52 187,000 acres of land in the Everglades Agricultural Area is a watershed event for
53 restoring a beloved national treasure – the Everglades.

54
55 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE**
56 **CITY OF HALLANDALE BEACH, FLORIDA:**

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58 **Section 1.** The City of Hallandale Beach hereby applauds and supports the
59 landmark efforts of Governor Charlie Crist and the South Florida Water Management
60 District to negotiate the acquisition of significant lands in the Everglades Agricultural
61 Area for the purposes of restoring and protecting the northern and southern Everglades
62 and Florida's coastal estuaries.

63 **Section 2.** The City reiterates its commitment to the Indian River Lagoon
64 (IRL) South component of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Program and
65 urges the South Florida Water Management District and the U.S. Corps of Engineers to
66 move expeditiously on completion of land purchases and construction of the
67 components approved in the Indian River Lagoon South Project Implementation Report.
68 Pursuant of the "Statement of Principles" should in no way supplant efforts to complete
69 the approved IRL Plan.

70 **Section 3.** The Mayor and City Commission are hereby authorized and
71 directed to ask the State, the South Florida Water Management District, Palm Beach
72 County and all other relevant government agencies for support for the purchase of
73 approximately 500 acres of U.S. Sugar land.

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Passed and adopted on May 6, 2009.



Mayor-Commissioner

Attest:



City Clerk

	VOTE	
	AYE	NAY
Mayor Cooper	✓	/
Vice-Mayor Julian	✓	/
Comm. London	✓	/
Comm. Ross	✓	/
Comm. Sanders	✓	/