

SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

Resolution No. 2016 - 0711

A Resolution of the Governing Board of the South Florida Water Management District advising the U.S. Congress to appropriate emergency funding necessary to complete repair and rehabilitation of the Herbert Hoover Dike around Lake Okeechobee as soon as possible. This action will make more storage available in the lake and reduce harmful discharges into the St. Lucie and Caloosahatchee estuaries.

WHEREAS, years of government failure to maintain and repair the Herbert Hoover Dike around Lake Okeechobee has left the 80-year-old structure, in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' own assessment, "critically near failure or extremely high risk;"

WHEREAS, because of this structural vulnerability, the lake is unable to properly function as the "liquid heart" of South Florida's regional system, as intended, to provide flood protection, water storage, and water supply for millions of residents, businesses, and the Everglades;

WHEREAS, the Corps asserts that lake levels could be higher, yet because of inadequate maintenance and repair of the dike, the lake has been holding substantially less water;

WHEREAS, historic rainfall in 2016 significantly increased the lake level and once again highlighted the dike's lack of maintenance by forcing the Corps to send billions of gallons of water east into the Indian River Lagoon and St. Lucie River and Estuary and west to the Caloosahatchee River and Estuary to prevent a potential structural failure;

WHEREAS, the devastating and unnatural releases are a contributing factor in the development of massive algae blooms that are harmful to humans, wildlife, South Florida's ecosystems, and economy;

WHEREAS, Governor Scott declared a state of emergency in several counties and has asked for a federal emergency declaration because of the effects of algae blooms;

WHEREAS, adequate government funding for the Corps to complete repairs to the dike is the most meaningful, timely, and effective federal assistance to provide additional water storage capacity and therefore relief for South Florida families in this ongoing public health and safety crisis;

WHEREAS, since 2007, Congress has appropriated more than \$500 million for dike repair and rehabilitation in order to complete only about half the necessary work;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BOARD OF THE SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT THAT:

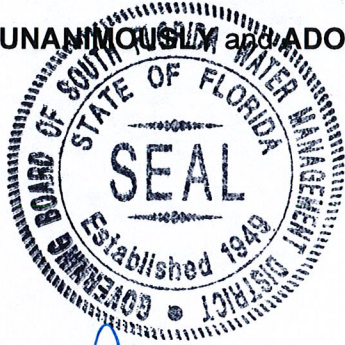
Congress appropriate emergency funding to complete the last half of repair and rehabilitation of the Herbert Hoover Dike around Lake Okeechobee; and,

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Congress direct the Corps to deploy all available resources to accelerate construction; and,

Congress direct the Corps, once repairs are complete, to stop the devastating discharges to the St. Lucie and Caloosahatchee rivers and estuaries and store more water in Lake Okeechobee as required according to system conditions.

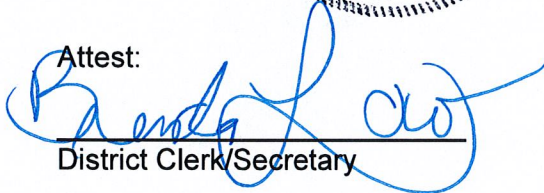
PASSED UNANIMOUSLY and ADOPTED this 14th day of July, 2016.



SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT, BY ITS GOVERNING BOARD
By:


Chairman

Attest:


District Clerk/Secretary