

Resolution No. 08-08-03

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF LEE COUNTY, FLORIDA, URGING THE SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT AND THE US ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS TO EXPEDITE CONGRESSIONAL AUTHORIZATION OF THE CALOOSAHATCHEE WEST BASIN STORAGE AREA (C-43) PROJECT, AN ESSENTIAL COMPONENT OF THE COMPREHENSIVE EVERGLADES RESTORATION PLAN ("CERP")

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, Lee County supports the implementation of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan to restore, preserve and protect the South Florida ecosystem while providing for the other water-related needs of the region, including water supply and flood protection; and

WHEREAS, the Caloosahatchee River and Estuary are critical water resources of the State of Florida, yet these precious resources have experienced harm from excessive freshwater discharges, and the nutrients included in those discharges; and

WHEREAS, the Caloosahatchee River West Basin Storage Reservoir Project, a cornerstone component of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan, will assist in successful restoration and protection of the Caloosahatchee River and Estuary;

WHEREAS, Lee County has continuously supported federal, state and local programs to improve the environmental health of the Caloosahatchee River and Estuary, which are critical to sustaining a strong tourism-based economy in South Florida; and

WHEREAS, Lee County has contributed countless resources, including over \$52 Million towards the purchase of lands to assist in implementing the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan, and other state and local projects and programs to protect the Caloosahatchee River and Estuary; and

WHEREAS, the success of other federal and state local projects such as the Southwest Florida Feasibility Study, Caloosahatchee Water Management Plan and the Caloosahatchee Watershed Protection Plan (with a January 1, 2009 Plan completion deadline) are premised upon construction of the Caloosahatchee River West Basin Storage Reservoir; and

WHEREAS, failure to implement the C-43 project in a timely manner, and the resultant implications for other key projects and initiatives in the region, will allow continued harm to the Caloosahatchee River and Estuary; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Lee County Board of County Commissioners applauds and supports the efforts of the South Florida Water Management District and U. S. Army Corps of Engineers to implement the Caloosahatchee River West Basin Storage Reservoir Project, a component of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan, to date.

Additionally, Lee County requests that the South Florida Water Management District and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers complete the Chief's Report and Project Implementation Report immediately so that the project can be authorized by Congress in the next Water Resources Development Act.

The foregoing Resolution was offered by Commissioner Hall, who moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Mann and, being put to a vote, the vote was as follows:

ROBERT JANES	<u>Aye</u>
A. BRIAN BIGELOW	<u>Aye</u>
RAY JUDAH	<u>Aye</u>
TAMMARA HALL	<u>Aye</u>
FRANK MANN	<u>Aye</u>

DULY PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 5th **DAY OF** August, 2008.

ATTEST:
COMMISSIONERS
CHARLIE GREEN, CLERK

By: Marcia Wilson
Deputy Clerk

BOARD OF COUNTY
OF LEE COUNTY, FLORIDA

By: Ray Judah
Chairman

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

By: Andrew R. Fisher
Office of the County Attorney

