

RESOLUTION NO. 2010-09

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF CLEWISTON, FLORIDA DECLARING THE NEED FOR CONTINUING THE ECONOMIC TRANSITION OF THE AFFECTED COMMUNITIES AND STATING SUPPORT FOR THE SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT (SFWMD) INITIATIVE TO PURCHASE ONLY 72000 ACRES OF THE UNITED STATES SUGAR CORPORATION LAND FOR EVERGLADES AND COMMUNITY PRESERVATION NEEDS; PROVIDING FOR COOPERATION WITH THE STATE OF FLORIDA AND THE SFWMD; PROVIDING FOR DISTRIBUTION OF THIS RESOLUTION TO DESIGNATED AGENCIES; AND DECLARING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the United States Sugar Corporation (USSC) has been the economic backbone of the City of Clewiston and other surrounding communities for over 70 years and has provided an agricultural livelihood for thousands of people in this region; and

WHEREAS, the SFWMD has announced an initiative to purchase 72000 acres of land currently owned by the USSC and the impact of that purchase will result in a direct loss of several hundred agricultural jobs and incalculable service and contract related jobs along with significantly reduced residential and commercial property values and the related revenue base within the City; and

WHEREAS, Hendry County already has the highest unemployment in the state and this purchase with proper Economic Development planning and funding has the potential to provide diversification and employment opportunities; and

WHEREAS, by Executive Order of the Governor, the City of Clewiston was previously designated as one of Florida's few Rural Areas of Critical Economic Concern and this land purchase by the SFWMD will further degrade the city's already critical economic condition; and

WHEREAS, the City needs available land now owned by USSC and other state support to provide for the sustainability and growth and livelihood; and

WHEREAS, the City conveys to the Governor and SFWMD a continued need for an Economic Transition and Support Plan (*The Plan*) the implementation of which is funded and which is deemed essential to future survival of the City; and

WHEREAS, the Everglades is our National Treasure the protection of which is of paramount interest to our Citizens and it is in the Local, State and National interest to protect this treasure while at the same time protecting the local residents and economies,

Certified to be a true and correct copy of
the original.

Marilyn McCorvey
City of Clewiston, Florida

By: Marilyn McCorvey
City Clerk

Date 6-22-10

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF CLEWISTON, FLORIDA THAT:

1. The City pledges its cooperation to all State Agencies including the Governor's Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development (OTTED), the SFWMD and will work diligently with all designated representatives to prepare, agree upon, and implement *The Plan* to the mutual benefit of all parties concerned.
2. The City proposes that vital elements of *The Plan* include but not be limited to a combination of land assets along with other incentive resources and initiatives that are presented herein at "Exhibit A" for consideration of approval by SFWMD, OTTED and other STATE AGENCIES.
3. Resolution 2010-09 will be distributed to the Governor's Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development, the South Florida Water Management District, Corps of Engineers, City's Congressional and State Delegation.

DULY ADOPTED by the City Commission of Clewiston, Florida, effective this 21st day of June 2010.

CITY OF CLEWISTON, FLORIDA



MALI GARDNER, MAYOR

ATTEST:


MARILYN MCCORVEY, CITY CLERK

(SEAL)

RESOLUTION 2010-__

EXHIBIT "A"

June 21, 2010

Economic Incentives and Support Initiatives

- 1) A "customized" Economic Support Fund (ESF) as an extension of existing DCA and OTTED economic development programs.** This fund to be used to bring replacement employment to the City.
- 2) Land ownership of the vacant parcels within the City limits including specifically the 95-acre Clewiston Airport, the Sugarland Park Property and the vacant land along the west City limits conveyed at no cost to the City of Clewiston.** The abandoned Clewiston Airport parcel is contiguous to the existing 35-acre Clewiston Commerce Park and was planned for commerce park expansion. This land mass is vital to continued "industrial" development opportunities within the City.
- 3) Land conveyed at no cost to City for Waste Water Treatment Plant (WWTP) spray field expansion.** The City's WWTP capacity is presently at 85% threshold and preliminary engineering is complete for plant expansion. (Estimated need at less than 300 acres)
- 4) Funding support from State DEP and SFWMD for the Waste Water Treatment Plant Expansion and seven mile force main extension to Hendry County Air Glades Industrial Park.** (Estimated at \$12 million)
- 5) C20 and C21 storm water area expedited for City/County along with Clewiston Trailhead Funding (Involves 728 acres of existing state-owned land) and the relocation of the S169 structure.**
- 6) State needs to make a commitment for the development of an intermodal logistics center in the Glades Area.**
- 7) State Route 80 four laned for economic growth and safety of all Florida Citizens** We are very appreciative that two SR-80 projects were moved into the FDOT's 5 Year Work Plan for District 1; however the final 18 mile stretch of SR-80 must be four-laned and should be funded in the 5 year plan. This final stretch is the heart of Hendry County and is a designated hurricane evacuation route for Lee County and is the travel route between Florida's coasts.
- 8) Relocation of SFWMD Everglades Restoration division to Clewiston/Hendry County.**