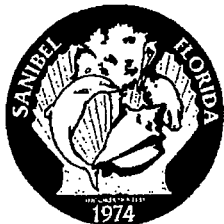


June 03, 2010



City of Sanibel

800 Dunlop Road
Sanibel, Florida 33957-4096

www.mysanibel.com

AREA CODE - 239

CITY COUNCIL	472-4135
ADMINISTRATIVE	472-3700
BUILDING	472-4555
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT	472-3111
FINANCE	472-9615
LEGAL	472-4359
NATURAL RESOURCES	472-3700
RECREATION	472-0345
PLANNING	472-4136
POLICE	472-3111
PUBLIC WORKS	472-6397

Mr. Eric Buermann
Chairman
South Florida Water Management District
3301 Gun Club Road
West Palm Beach, Florida 33406

Dear Mr. Buermann:

The Sanibel City Council at their regular meeting of June 01, 2010 unanimously adopted a Resolution supporting the acquisition of 73,000 acres of U.S. Sugar lands by the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD). A copy of Resolution 10-062 is enclosed. The importance of this land purchase is not understated and will have a direct impact on our water quality in Florida's bays, estuaries, streams, lakes, coastal areas of the Gulf of Mexico and the Atlantic Ocean.

On behalf of Sanibel City Council we applaud and fully support the South Florida Water Management District's acquisition of the 73,000 acres of land in the Everglades Agricultural Area for the purposes of restoring and protecting the Everglades and Florida's estuaries.

Failure to restore the flow way through the Everglades is a death sentence to our estuaries, our economy and our environments.

Sincerely,

Kevin Ruane
Mayor

Cc: Sanibel City Council
SFWMD Board
Judith A. Zimomra, City Manager
Kenneth B. Cuyler, City Attorney
Pamela Smith, City Clerk
Dr. Rob Loflin, Natural Resources Director

CITY OF SANIBEL

RESOLUTION 10-062

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SANIBEL, FLORIDA, SUPPORTING THE ACQUISITION OF 73,000 ACRES OF U.S. SUGAR LANDS BY THE SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT TO SIGNIFICANTLY REDUCE AGRICULTURAL POLLUTION AND TO STORE AND CLEAN WATER FOR RELEASE INTO THE EVERGLADES DURING THE DRY SEASON; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE

WHEREAS, America's Everglades and the South Florida ecosystem is a unique expanse of habitats, the environmental health of which is critical to the economy and quality of life of all of Southeast, South and Southwest 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 Sanibel City Council has previously adopted two Resolutions (attached), unanimously, urging Governor Charlie Crist and the South Florida Water Management District to acquire the United States Sugar Corporation lands south of Lake Okeechobee for the protection and restoration of America's Everglades and Florida's coastal estuaries; and

WHEREAS, the acquisition land south of Lake Okeechobee would provide the "missing link" needed to better protect the St. Lucie and Caloosahatchee rivers and estuaries, and revive, restore and preserve one of America's greatest natural treasures – the Everglades; 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

WHEREAS, the acquisition will prevent thousands of tons of phosphorus from entering the Everglades every year and eliminate the need for “back-pumping” water into Lake Okeechobee; and

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

WHEREAS, saving the Everglades and protecting Florida’s coastal estuaries is an environmental priority for the City of Sanibel and its residents; and

WHEREAS, the City of Sanibel has repeatedly gone on record as being supportive of significantly improved conveyance and treatment of Lake Okeechobee water south to the Everglades to help reduce the impacts to coastal estuaries; and

WHEREAS, the South Florida Water Management District’s opportunity to purchase 73,000 acres of land in the Everglades Agricultural Area is a watershed event for restoring a beloved national treasure – the Everglades.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Sanibel, Florida, that:

SECTION 1. The Sanibel City Council applauds and fully supports the South Florida Water Management District acquisition of 73,000 acres of land in the Everglades Agricultural Area for the purposes of restoring and protecting the Everglades and Florida’s coastal estuaries.

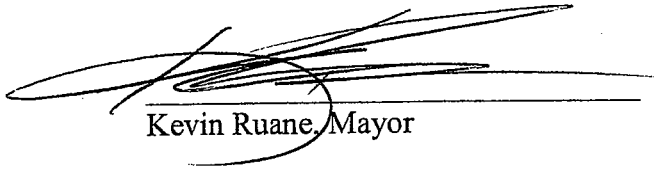
SECTION 2. A copy of this resolution be forwarded to the South Florida Water Management District.

SECTION 3. Effective Date.

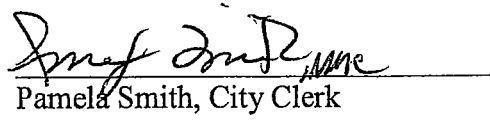
This resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

DULY PASSED AND ENACTED by the Council of the City of Sanibel, Florida, the 1st day of June 2010.

AUTHENTICATION:



Kevin Ruane, Mayor



Pamela Smith, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:  5/25/10
Kenneth B. Cuyler, City Attorney Date

Vote of Council Members:

Ruane	<u>yea</u>
Denhan	<u>yea</u>
Harrity	<u>yea</u>
Jennings	<u>yea</u>
Pappas	<u>absent</u>

Date filed with City Clerk: June 2, 2010