

**RESOLUTION NO. 2008-01**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE TRI-CITIES, BELLE GLADE, PAHOKEE, AND SOUTH BAY, FLORIDA DECLARING THE NEED FOR AN ECONOMIC TRANSITION AND SUPPORT PLAN IN RESPONSE TO THE SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT'S INITIATIVE TO PURCHASE ALL UNITED STATES SUGAR CORPORATION ASSETS; PROVIDING FOR MUTUAL COOPERATION WITH THE STATE OF FLORIDA AND THE SFWMD PROVIDING FOR DISTRIBUTION OF THIS RESOLUTION TO ALL INTERESTED PARTIES; AND DECLARING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

**WHEREAS**, the South Florida Water Management District has publicly announced its initiative to purchase all assets of the US Sugar Corporation and the acquisition of these assets as proposed will have a devastating effect on the future economy and well-being of the Tri-Cities area; and

**WHEREAS**, the economic impact will include the closure of a major industry in the Glades and the loss of 1,700 direct jobs and upwards of 2,000 service related jobs in the Glades area; additionally, residential and commercial property values in the Glades and the related revenue base within the Tri-Cities will be greatly reduced; and

**WHEREAS**, to enhance and protect the future interests of the Tri-Cities area, an Economic Transition and Support Plan must be prepared and mutually agreed upon by the SFWMD, the State of Florida, and the Glades area communities, including the Cities of Belle Glade, Pahokee and South Bay.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TRI-CITIES, BELLE GLADE, PAHOKEE, AND SOUTH BAY, FLORIDA THAT:**

1. The Tri-Cities of Belle Glade, Pahokee and South Bay pledges their mutual cooperation with the Governor's Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development (OTTED), with Florida's Rural Economic Development Initiative (REDI) and will work diligently with OTTED and REDI and with the SFWMD to prepare and implement an Economic Transition and Support Plan which will be beneficial to all parties concerned and will support the economy of the Glades area.

2. OTTED, REDI, and SFWMD must implement measures to ensure that the Cities of Belle Glade, Pahokee, and South Bay and all Glades area communities will be an integral part of this process and will be kept fully informed as to the issues surrounding this purchase. As the SFWMD negotiates the purchase of the US Sugar Corporations' assets, regularly scheduled informational meetings shall be conducted to which the Cities of Belle Glade, Pahokee and South Bay and all Glades area communities should be invited and at which the input of the Glades area communities shall be solicited and duly considered.


3. All levels of government, businesses and residents of the Glades area


communities should be made whole as it relates to lost revenues, jobs and taxes. The economic impact to the entire region shall be determined and this information shall be used as a basis for making the Glades area communities whole due to this purchase.

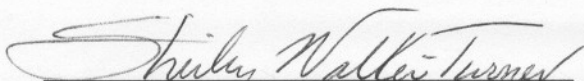
4. A copy of this resolution will be distributed to all interested parties and appropriate agencies of record.

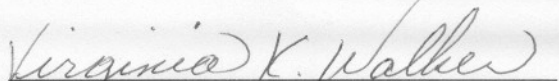
5. This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption and shall remain in full force and effect until duly amended by the Tir-Cities.

DONE AND RESOLVED at Regular Session of the Tri-Cities of the Glades, Florida, this 16<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2008.

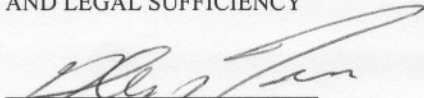
  
Belle Glade Mayor Steven B. Wilson

  
Pahokee Mayor Wayne Whitaker

  
South Bay Mayor Shirley Walker Turner

  
Secretary for the Tri-Cities

APPROVED AS TO FORM  
AND LEGAL SUFFICIENCY

  
Glen J. Torcivja, Tri-Cities Attorney