

COUNTY OF HENDRY, STATE OF FLORIDA

RESOLUTION NO. 2016-

RESOLUTION

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF HENDRY COUNTY, FLORIDA, OPPOSING ACTIONS THAT DO NOT PROVIDE SOLUTIONS FOR EXCESSIVE WATER RELEASES TO CALOOSAHATCHEE RIVER AND ST. LUCIE RIVER ESTUARIES.

WHEREAS, the Board strongly believes in the need to be proactive and not reactive on water issues pertaining to Lake Okeechobee, Caloosahatchee River, and St. Lucie River which have a direct effect on the quality of life on all communities throughout our State.

WHEREAS, planning and execution has been underway by Federal and State agencies as well as key stakeholders to develop solutions to water related issues in the Lake Okeechobee region; and

WHEREAS, the State and Federal governments have invested in science-based water storage and treatment projects totaling approximately \$3 billion on Central Everglades Planning projects and \$800 million on Herbert Hoover Dike Rehabilitation, with an estimated \$2.6 billion additional funding needed for completion; and

WHEREAS, accelerated funding and completion of existing approved projects within the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan and the Herbert Hoover Dike Rehabilitation Project must be the top priority; and

WHEREAS, any effort to buy land south of Lake Okeechobee prior to their completion will prevent existing critical projects from being completed; and

WHEREAS, South Florida Water Management District recognizes buying land south of Lake Okeechobee does not solve the problem of Lake Okeechobee releases in the foreseeable future

WHEREAS, water stored north of Lake Okeechobee provides the greatest flexibility for operating the water management system to balance and improve missions of flood control, water supply, water quality and natural systems; and

WHEREAS, increased and sustained State and Federal funding and support of the Water Resources Development Act is critical to provide additional water storage and treatment.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE HENDRY COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HEREBY:

1. Opposes efforts which do not provide solutions to Lake Okeechobee releases such as purchasing land south of Lake Okeechobee.
2. Supports efforts to provide water storage and treatment north of Lake Okeechobee
3. Supports the acceleration of funding and completion of existing approved projects affecting Lake Okeechobee, Caloosahatchee River and St. Lucie River.
4. Calls for the continued and increased commitment of State and Federal funding to complete critical projects already designed and permitted prior to buying more land.

This resolution shall become effective upon adoption.

DULY CONSIDERED AND ADOPTED by the Board of County Commissioners of Hendry County, Florida this 23rd day of August, 2016.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF HENDRY COUNTY, FLORIDA

By: _____
Michael Swindle, Chairman

ATTEST:

Barbara S. Butler, Clerk