

**A RESOLUTION FROM THE FLORIDA KEYS NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY
ADVISORY COUNCIL FULLY SUPPORTING THE CONTINUED RESTORATION OF
AMERICA'S EVERGLADES**

December 10, 2013

WHEREAS, the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary (FKNMS) helps protect the unique marine waters of the Florida Keys that are a national treasure and of international significance, and

WHEREAS, these waters are connected to and dependent on the Everglades landscape as a primary source of fresh water that serves as the foundation of the near shore estuarine ecosystem, and

WHEREAS, the statute establishing the FKNMS conveyed to the Sanctuary the responsibility of managing all impacts affecting these resources whether generated from within or from outside the boundaries of said Sanctuary, and

WHEREAS, the FKNMS Advisory Council (SAC) recognizes that key industries and businesses in southern Florida, including commercial and recreational fishing, tourism, real estate, boating, construction and agriculture, depend on a healthy America's Everglades, and

WHEREAS, the FKNMS SAC recognizes that the restoration of America's Everglades is critical to the long-term sustainability of southern Florida's economy, quality of life and environment, and

WHEREAS, it has been determined that restricted freshwater flows through the Everglades ecosystem has caused significant and sustained damage to the resources of the FKNMS, including to the nursery grounds of spiny lobster, shrimp, stone crab and many reef fish species, and

WHEREAS, the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan of 2000 (CERP) intended to provide significant environmental benefits to the Florida Keys and Florida Bay, and

WHEREAS, the SAC and staff of the FKNMS have fully participated in efforts to provide for the restoration of the Everglades ecosystem for the tenure of its history beginning with the first SAC Chair, the late George M. Barley;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that this resolution is hereby adopted expressing the support of the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council for:

- The Water Resources Reform and Development Act (WRRDA) of 2013 as the authorization of two essential projects for restoring water flow south are dependent upon this: 1) C-43 reservoir for the Caloosahatchee, 2) Central Everglades Planning Project (CEPP)
- Inclusion of CEPP in a 2013 WRRDA and an exploration of all possible opportunities to fast track implementation and construction of CEPP
- Funding a final 5.5 miles of Tamiami Trail bridging
- Completion of the U.S. Sugar land purchase
- Planning and implementation of Phase 2 of the C-111 Spreader Canal project as soon as possible

- Completion of incremental implementation of Phase 1 of the Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands Project with intent to further rehydrate coastal wetlands and reduce freshwater point source discharges to Biscayne Bay

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED, that this resolution be transmitted in a timely fashion to the Superintendent of the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary, Director of Office of Everglades Restoration Initiatives and other interested parties via letter from the Chair of the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council.