

**RESOLUTION NO. 21-06-45**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE VILLAGE COUNCIL OF ISLAMORADA, VILLAGE OF ISLANDS, FLORIDA, IN SUPPORT OF FULL FUNDING FOR AND COMPLETION OF EVERGLADES RESTORATION PROJECTS; URGING ROBUST FUNDING FOR EVERGLADES RESTORATION IN THE 2022 FEDERAL BUDGET; COMMENDING THE GOVERNOR'S AND LEGISLATURE'S FULL FUNDING FOR EVERGLADES RESTORATION; AND URGING THE UNITED STATES ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS AND SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT TO CONSIDER IN THEIR UPDATES TO THE LAKE OKEECHOBEE SYSTEM OPERATION MANUAL, THE WATER SUPPLY NEEDS AND FRESHWATER FLOWS TO SOUTHERN END OF THE EVERGLADES SYSTEM CRITICAL FOR MAINTAINING THE HEALTH OF FLORIDA BAY ; PROVIDING FOR TRANSMITTAL AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE**

**WHEREAS**, Islamorada, Village of Islands (the "Village") is part of the vast Everglades ecosystem that covers much of South Florida; and

**WHEREAS**, Islamorada's coast line encompasses Florida Bay and the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary ("FKNMS"); and

**WHEREAS**, Florida Bay comprises a large portion of Everglades National Park, and is a vitally important ecosystem that provides critical habitat for numerous plants and animals including federal protected and threatened species and state special concern species; and

**WHEREAS**, Florida Bay's marine environment supports a multi-billion dollar fishing and ecotourism industry of South Florida, including commercial and recreational fishing, snorkeling, diving, boat and equipment rentals, hospitality and other related businesses; and

**WHEREAS**, the natural resources and marine environment of the Florida Keys including Florida Bay attracts over 4 million visitors and over \$4.5 billion in economic activity annually, generating \$220 million in sales tax revenue for the State of Florida each year; and

**WHEREAS**, the health of the Florida Bay’s ecosystem is highly dependent on clean and adequate freshwater flows into the southern end of the Everglades system; and

**WHEREAS**, and over the past several decades, the lack of sufficient freshwater flow thru the Everglades National Park and into the southern end of the system has contributed to hypersalinity events and algae blooms in Florida Bay damaging its valuable and fragile ecosystem and

**WHEREAS**, the Village Council of Islamorada, Village of Islands (the “Village Council”) continues to urge the expedited completion of Everglades restoration projects that are necessary to increase flows through the Everglades, including the Everglades Agricultural Reservoir and the Central Everglades Planning Project; and

**WHEREAS**, the Village Council urges that new Lake Okeechobee System Operating Manual (LOSOM) that is currently being updated includes consideration of needs of the southern end of the system, namely water supply and sufficient freshwater flows that Florida Bay; and

**WHEREAS**, the Village Council recognizes that Everglades restoration projects and water management tools that restore freshwater flows through the park and into Florida Bay are critical to the long-term sustainability of Islamorada’s environment, economy and quality of life.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE VILLAGE COUNCIL OF ISLAMORADA, VILLAGE OF ISLANDS, FLORIDA, AS FOLLOWS:**

**Section 1.**     **Recitals.** The above recitals are true and correct and incorporated into this Resolution by this Reference.

**Section 2.**     **Supporting Full Funding.** The Village Council of Islamorada, Village of Islands hereby reaffirms its strong support for full funding and construction of Everglades

restoration projects.

**Section 3. Urging Federal Funding and Commending State Funding.** The Village Council hereby urges the Federal Government to allocate \$725M for Everglades restoration in the Federal Government's FY 2021/2022 budget. The Village further commends Florida Governor DeSantis and the Florida Legislature for fully funding Everglades restoration within the FY 2021/2022 State budget.

**Section 4. Urging Consideration of Water Supply Needs.** The US Army Corps of Engineers and the South Florida Water Management District are urged to consider the water supply needs of Islamorada and the Florida Keys as well as the need for adequate freshwater flows to the southern end of the Everglades system.

**Section 5. Directing Transmittal.** It is hereby requested that the Village Clerk transmit a copy of this Resolution to the U.S. President Biden, U.S. Senator Rubio, U.S. Senator Scott, U.S. Representative Gimenez, Florida Governor DeSantis, Florida Senate President Simpson, Florida Speaker Sprowls, Florida Representative Mooney, Florida Senator Rodriguez, USACE Commander Colonel Kelly and South Florida Water Management District Executive Director Bartlett.

**Section 6. Effective Date.** This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

Motion to adopt by Councilman Mark Gregg, seconded by Councilman David Webb.

**FINAL VOTE AT ADOPTION**

**VILLAGE COUNCIL OF ISLAMORADA, VILLAGE OF ISLANDS**

Mayor Joseph B. Pinder III	YES
Vice Mayor Pete Bacheler	YES
Councilman Mark Gregg	YES
Councilman Henry Rosenthal	YES
Councilman David Webb	YES

**PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 9<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF JUNE, 2021.**

  
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JOSEPH B. PINDER III, MAYOR

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
KELLY TOTH, VILLAGE CLERK

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGALITY  
FOR THE USE AND BENEFIT OF  
ISLAMORADA, VILLAGE OF ISLANDS:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
ROGET V. BRYAN, VILLAGE ATTORNEY