

RESOLUTION NO. 23-02-10

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 MAXIMUM FUNDING FOR EVERGLADES RESTORATION IN THE 2024 FISCAL YEAR FEDERAL BUDGET; URGING STATE LEGISLATURE TO SUPPORT MAXIMUM FUNDING FOR EVERGLADES RESTORATION; 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, the Village's coast line encompasses Florida Bay and the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary; 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, as of 2021, 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, over the past several decades, the lack of sufficient freshwater flow through 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 the Village (the "Village Council") continues to urge the expedited completion of Everglades restoration projects that are necessary to increase freshwater flows through the Everglades, including the Everglades Agricultural Reservoir and the Central Everglades Planning Project; and

WHEREAS, the Village Council commends the Federal Government for consecutive years of record investment in Everglades restoration; and

WHEREAS, the Village Council commends Governor DeSantis on committing 3.5 billion dollars to Everglades restoration and protection of water resources over the next 4 years; 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 the Village's environment, economy and quality of life.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE VILLAGE COUNCIL OF ISLAMORADA, VILLAGE OF ISLANDS, 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 hereby reaffirms its strong support for full funding of and construction of Everglades restoration projects.

Section 3. Urging Federal and State Funding. The Village Council hereby urges the Federal Government to allocate \$725 million for Everglades restoration in the Federal Government's FY 2024 budget. The Village Council urges the Florida Legislature to fully fund Everglades restoration within the FY 2024 State budget.

Section 4. Transmittal. The Village Clerk is hereby authorized to transmit a copy of this Resolution to the U.S. President Joseph Biden, U.S. Senator Marco Rubio, U.S. Senator Rick Scott, U.S. Representative Carlos Gimenez, Florida Governor Ron DeSantis, Florida Senate President Kathleen Passidomo, Florida Speaker of the House Paul Renner, Florida State Representative James V. Mooney, Florida State Senator Ana Maria Rodriguez, USACE Commander Colonel James Booth and South Florida Water Management District Executive Director Drew Bartlett.

Section 5. Effective Date. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 9th day of February, 2023.

Motion to adopt by Vice Mayor Sharon Mahoney, seconded by Council Member Elizabeth Jolin.

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FINAL VOTE AT ADOPTION

VILLAGE COUNCIL OF ISLAMORADA, VILLAGE OF ISLANDS

Mayor Joseph B. Pinder III. Yes
Vice Mayor Sharon Mahoney Yes
Council Member Mark Gregg Yes
Council Member Elizabeth Jolin Yes
Council Member Henry Rosenthal Yes

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 9th DAY OF February, 2023.



JOSEPH B. PINDER III, MAYOR

ATTEST:



MARNE MCGRATH, VILLAGE CLERK

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



JOHN J. QUICK, VILLAGE ATTORNEY

