

**RESOLUTION 15-07-56**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE VILLAGE COUNCIL OF ISLAMORADA, VILLAGE OF ISLANDS, FLORIDA, SUPPORTING A BAN ON THE USE OF HYDRAULIC FRACTURING, ACID FRACTURING, AND SIMILAR WELL STIMULATION PROCESSES AND TREATMENTS PERFORMED FOR THE PURPOSE OF EXPLORATION OR PRODUCTION OF ENERGY RESOURCES, ALSO KNOWN AS "FRACKING", IN THE STATE OF FLORIDA, OR IN THE FLORIDA KEYS AND ANY AREA THAT WOULD IMPACT THE WATER SUPPLY OR WATERSHED OF THE FLORIDA KEYS; PROVIDING FOR TRANSMITTAL; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE**

**WHEREAS**, Islamorada, Village of Islands (the "Village") is located in the Florida Keys, a designated Area of Critical State Concern; and

**WHEREAS**, the Village Council of Islamorada, Village of Islands (the "Village Council") is elected to represent the best interests of Village residents; and

**WHEREAS**, the wise stewardship of our natural resources involves the protection of Florida's water supplies and natural environment for generations to come; and

**WHEREAS**, the Florida Keys Aqueduct Authority (FKAA) pipes potable water for the Florida Keys from the mainland; and

**WHEREAS**, that water is pulled primarily from the Biscayne Aquifer as freshwater, augmented when necessary by brackish water pulled from the Floridan Aquifer and desalinated by FKAA; and

**WHEREAS**, the Biscayne Aquifer is a highly permeable unconfined aquifer; and

**WHEREAS**, the Florida Keys also contain several freshwater lenses that provide drinking water for non-human species in the Keys; and

**WHEREAS**, the possible chemical contamination and environmental degradation caused by fracking may result in grave irreparable damage to the groundwater that supplies potable water to the residents, businesses and visitors to the Florida Keys and, by threatening our water

supply and watersheds, have disastrous effects on our environmentally sensitive plant life, and marine life for generations to come; and

**WHEREAS**, protection of the environment is better accomplished by the prevention of contamination and environmental degradation, as opposed to post-contamination, post-degradation, or otherwise after-the-fact environmental cleanup and restoration; and

**WHEREAS**, the Village Council finds that the exploration for and extraction of coal, natural gas, petroleum, and other energy resources through means of well stimulation is a practice used in energy exploration and extraction that involves treatment of a well to enhance production by increasing the permeability of an underground geologic formation; and

**WHEREAS**, acid or hydraulic fracturing, also known as “fracking,” is a well stimulation process that involves the high-pressure injection of complex fracturing fluids that contain a mixture of chemicals, sand, and/or water into underground geological formations to create fractures in order to enhance access to and increase flow of the production of coal, natural gas, petroleum, and other energy resources; and

**WHEREAS**, the well stimulation process known as “fracking” involves vertical and/or horizontal drilling, which creates a nuisance and negative environmental impact upon property owners who reside on, or own property above, the drilling site, or who reside on or own property adjacent to areas subjected to such drilling; and

**WHEREAS**, such vertical and/or horizontal drilling creates a nuisance and negative environmental impact upon endangered, threatened, or otherwise vulnerable animal and plant species and their habitat(s); and

**WHEREAS**, human exposure to the chemicals used in “fracking” poses a widespread and significant risk to public health and safety, as “fracking” involves the deployment of complex chemicals, many of which are known to be carcinogenic or have otherwise been documented as having adverse effects upon human health; and

**WHEREAS**, use of fracturing mixes expose adjacent land and waters to the risk of contamination through well activities, open pit storage, and transport on roadways, resulting in heightened risk of contamination and irreparable damage to public health, safety, and environment; and

**WHEREAS**, “fracking” is the subject of grave concern regarding the documented irreparable damage to public health and safety and adverse environmental impacts of such practice, including, but not limited to, the generation of air pollutants, the underground migration of fracturing chemicals into nearshore waters and groundwater supplies, the generation of hazardous radioactive or otherwise toxic waste, and increased seismic activity; and

**WHEREAS**, such harmful effects threaten the Village’s long-term economic well-being, as both businesses and consumers depend on clean drinking water and the ecological integrity of the natural environment; and

**WHEREAS**, the potential long-term and cumulative health and environmental impacts of “fracking” pose a risk of irreparable danger to the public health, safety, and welfare of the Village’s residents;

**WHEREAS**, the Village Council finds that the support of a ban on “fracking” in Florida, the Florida Keys and any area that would impact the water supply or watershed of the Florida Keys is in the best interest of the Village.

**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 are incorporated herein by this reference.

**Section 2. Support Ban on Fracking.** The Village Council of Islamorada, Village of Islands supports a ban on the use of hydraulic fracturing, acid fracturing, and similar well stimulation processes and treatments performed for the purpose of exploration or production of energy resources, also known as “fracking”, in the State of Florida, or in the Florida Keys, or any

area where fracking would possibly impact or threaten the water supply and watersheds or natural environment of the Florida Keys, due to the potential harmful impacts on the residents, environment, and natural resources of Islamorada, Village of Islands, Florida.

**Section 3. Transmittal.** The Village Council hereby directs that a copy of this resolution be transmitted to the Governor as soon as possible.

**Section 4. Effective Date.** This resolution shall become effective immediately upon its adoption.

Motion to adopt by Councilman Chris Sante, seconded by Vice Mayor Deb Gillis.

FINAL VOTE AT ADOPTION

VILLAGE COUNCIL OF ISLAMORADA, VILLAGE OF ISLANDS

Mayor Mike Forster	YES
Vice Mayor Deb Gillis	YES
Councilman Jim Mooney	YES
Councilman Chris Sante	YES
Councilman Dennis Ward	YES

**PASSED AND ADOPTED ON THIS 9<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF JULY, 2015.**



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MIKE FORSTER, MAYOR

ATTEST:



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KELLY TOTH, VILLAGE CLERK

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



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ROGET V. BRYAN, VILLAGE ATTORNEY