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**CITY OF MARATHON, FLORIDA
RESOLUTION 2005-008**

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MARATHON, FLORIDA, REQUESTING \$50,000,000 TO BE PLACED IN THE FEDERAL FISCAL YEARS 2006, 2007, 2008, AND 2009 TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE APPROPRIATIONS BILLS FOR CENTRALIZED WASTEWATER AND STORMWATER TREATMENT FACILITIES IN MONROE COUNTY, FLORIDA

WHEREAS, the fragile health of the Florida Keys coral reef and supporting ecosystems are in serious jeopardy because of long term human waste impacts; and

WHEREAS, 4 million tourists per year are stressing the fragile Florida Keys ecosystems; and

WHEREAS, on November 16, 1990 the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary and Protection Act, Public Law 101-605 (H.R. 5909) was approved; and

WHEREAS, the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary's Water Quality Monitoring and Protection Program has identified human waste as the greatest detrimental source of harmful products impacting the Florida Keys ecosystems; and

WHEREAS, cost estimates for Marathon's central sewer project range from \$100 million to \$150 million; and

WHEREAS, the City of Marathon and the Florida Keys Aqueduct Authority will open bids on Marathon's central sewer project on Thursday, January 13, 2005; and

WHEREAS, it is beyond the means of the residents of the City of Marathon and Monroe County alone to financially solve the problems created from the large amount of visitors who frequent the area; and

WHEREAS, the Florida Keys Water Quality Improvements Act was approved by the U.S. Congress in 2001, authorizing \$100 million through the Army Corps of Engineers to provide technical and financial assistance to carry out projects for the planning, design and construction of wastewater treatment and stormwater management to improve water quality of

the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary; and

WHEREAS, only \$2.5 million has been appropriated to date, none of which has gone to wastewater facility construction.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MARATHON, FLORIDA, AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. The United States Congress is requested to provide \$50,000,000 in each of the fiscal years 2006, 2007, 2008, and 2009 Transportation Infrastructure Appropriations Bills for centralized wastewater and stormwater treatment facilities throughout Monroe County, Florida.

Section 2. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

Section 3. The Clerk is directed to mail copies of this resolution to Representative Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, the legislative delegation for Monroe County, Secretary of the Environmental Protection Agency, and the mayors of Monroe County and the municipalities contained within.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the City Council of the City of Marathon, Florida, this 11th day of January, 2005

THE CITY OF MARATHON, FLORIDA



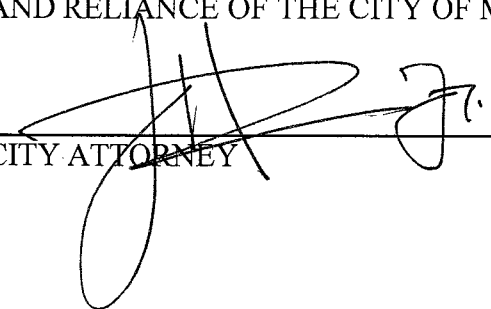
Jeff Pinkus, Mayor

AYES: Bartus, Bull, Mearns, Miller, Pinkus
NOES: None
ABSENT: None
ABSTAIN: None

ATTEST: 

Cindy L. Ecklund
City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGALITY FOR THE USE
AND RELIANCE OF THE CITY OF MARATHON, FLORIDA ONLY:



CITY ATTORNEY

Florida Keys Human Impact Mitigation Initiative

Requested Action

The fragile health of the Florida Keys coral reef and supporting eco-systems are in serious jeopardy because of long term human waste impacts. It is requested that fifty million dollars (\$50,000,000.00) be placed in the Federal FY 2006, FY 2007, FY 2008, and FY 2009 Transportation Infrastructure Appropriations Bills in order to construct modern centralized waste water treatment facilities in order to mitigate human impacts. The funding would be used to augment the local municipal, the local county, and the state of Florida's ongoing efforts to construct the proposed centralized waste and storm water treatment facilities though out Monroe County, Florida.

Identified Long Term Problem

4 million tourists, per year, are stressing the fragile Florida Keys ecosystems.

Historical Background

On November 16, 1990 the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary and Protection Act, Public Law 101-605 (H.R. 5909) was approved. Congress directed the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the State of Florida, represented by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP), to develop a Water Quality Protection Program for the Sanctuary. The Water Quality Protection Program consists of an administrative framework and a set of initial recommendations for corrective actions, monitoring, research and special studies, and education and outreach. The recommendations have been published in the "Water Quality Protection Program Document" and are included in the comprehensive management plan prepared by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to guide the use of the Sanctuary. The purpose of the Water Quality Protection Program is to "recommend priority corrective actions and compliance schedules addressing point and multipoint sources of pollution to restore and maintain the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the Sanctuary, including restoration and maintenance of a balanced, indigenous population of corals, shellfish, fish, and wildlife, and recreational activities on the water" (Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary and Protection Act). In addition to corrective actions, the Act also requires the development of a water quality monitoring program and the provision of opportunities for public participation in all aspects of developing and implementing the program.

Recommendations for monitoring and special studies are being implemented directly by the EPA and FDEP under the administration framework described in the Final Water Quality and Protection Program Document. For educational activities, the EPA and FDEP will assist NOAA, which is responsible for educational programs within the Sanctuary. In contrast, most recommendations for corrective actions will require coordination activities by numerous Federal, State, and local government agencies.

Development of the Water Quality and Protection Program occurred in two phases. During Phase I, information was compiled and synthesized on the status of the Sanctuary's natural environment. Priority problems were identified through literature review and through discussions with technical experts and other participants in technical workshops. Phase II focused on developing options for corrective actions, developing a water quality monitoring program and research and special studies programs, and developing a public education and outreach program.

The Water Quality Monitoring and Protection Program has funded three long-term monitoring projects: overall water quality, coral reef and hard bottom community health, and sea grass community health. These three projects represent a five year commitment by the EPA to assess the health of coral reef, hard bottom, and sea grass communities within the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary with a on focus issues and health concerns related to water quality. There is also a research/special studies component which consists of a multitude of smaller, more focused studies looking at specific cause and effect relationships and the impacts of specific environmental perturbations.

The Water Quality Monitoring and Protection Program has identified human waste as the greatest detrimental source of harmful products, impacting the Florida Keys ecosystems. To date, Congress has failed to appropriate adequate funding to solve any problem produced by human impact to the Florida Keys ecosystems.

Conclusion

The Florida Keys ecosystems are in long term decline. It is beyond the means of the residents of the region to handle the problem created from the large amount of visitors that frequent the area. Congressional funding support is needed to solve the long term deterioration to the Florida Keys ecosystems caused by human waste.

Contact:

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