

**CITY OF MARATHON, FLORIDA
RESOLUTION 2010-48**

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MARATHON, FLORIDA, SUPPORTING THE EFFORTS OF GOVERNOR CHARLIE CRIST AND THE SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT TO ACQUIRE LAND SOUTH OF LAKE OKEECHOBEE FOR THE PROTECTION AND RESTORATION OF AMERICA'S EVERGLADES AND FLORIDA'S COASTAL ESTUARIES; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, America's Everglades and the South Florida ecosystem is a unique expanse of habitats, whose environmental health is critical to the economy and quality of life of South Florida; and

WHEREAS, Governor Charlie Crist unveiled a momentous strategy to bring about the largest environmental land acquisition in Florida's history and restore America's Everglades in a way never before anticipated; and

WHEREAS, the City of Marathon supports the acquisition of the first 73,000 acres of this critical land purchase; and

WHEREAS, the acquisition land south of Lake Okeechobee would provide the "missing link" needed to better protect the St. Lucie and Caloosahatchee rivers and estuaries, and revive, restore and preserve one of America's greatest natural treasures – the Everglades; and

WHEREAS, dedicating significantly more land in the Everglades Agricultural Area to restoration will build upon and enhance the 30-year state-federal Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan, offering the opportunity and flexibility to store and clean water on a scale never before contemplated; and

WHEREAS, benefits from the land acquisition include huge increases in the availability of water storage, significantly reducing the potential for harmful discharges from Lake Okeechobee to Florida's coastal rivers and estuaries; and

WHEREAS, the acquisition will prevent thousands of tons of phosphorus from entering the Everglades every year, enhance the availability of water supply, and foster green energy production; and

WHEREAS, through newly successful negotiations, South Florida Water Management District will be able to execute the bond purchases without the need to raise taxes; and

WHEREAS, saving the Everglades and protecting Florida's coastal estuaries is an environmental priority; and

WHEREAS, the South Florida Water Management District's initiative to purchase land in the Everglades Agricultural Area is a turning point for restoring a beloved national treasure – the Everglades.

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


Section 1. The above recitals are true and correct and incorporated herein.

Section 2. The City Council hereby applauds and supports the landmark efforts of Governor Charlie Crist and the South Florida Water Management District to acquire land in the Everglades Agricultural Area for the purposes of restoring and protecting the northern and southern Everglades and Florida's coastal estuaries.

Section 3. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

PASSED AND APPROVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MARATHON, FLORIDA, THIS 25TH DAY OF MAY 25, 2010.

THE CITY OF MARATHON, FLORIDA



Mike Cinque, Vice-Mayor

AYES: Cinque, Worthington, Ramsay, Keating

NOES: None

ABSENT: Snead

ABSTAIN: None

ATTEST:



Hillary Harrison, Acting City Clerk

(City Seal)

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

City Attorney

