

RESOLUTION NO. 16-R43

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF FORT PIERCE, FLORIDA, **SUPPORTING** FLORIDA SENATE PRESIDENT-DESIGNATE JOE NEGRON'S PLANS TO PURSUE FUNDING TO ADD **120 BILLION GALLONS OF NEW WATER STORAGE SOUTH OF LAKE OKEECHOBEE** TO REPAIR THE FRAGILE EVERGLADES ECOSYSTEM; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, The Everglades ecosystem, spanning from the Kissimmee River Valley to Florida Bay, is a significant national resource and international treasure; and

WHEREAS, on Tuesday, August 9, 2016, State Senator Joe Negron called for a \$2.4 billion state and federal land-buying program to buy land to store water south of Lake Okeechobee and repair the fragile Everglades ecosystem; and

WHEREAS, Senator Negron's initiative is to store and clean phosphorus-laden water before releasing it into Everglades National Park; and

WHEREAS, permanent storage south of Lake Okeechobee is unquestionably needed as part of the overall plan to solve this catastrophic problem, particularly given the devastating effects the current toxic algae blooms are causing in both our estuaries and the Everglades; and

WHEREAS, Senator Negron has been meeting with the agricultural community, Florida's best scientists, community advocates and others with relevant backgrounds and knowledge, regarding strategies to reduce and eventually eliminate harm discharges from Lake Okeechobee. Certain areas that appear optimal for new water storage have been identified as a result of these meetings. The estimated cost of reservoirs on 60,000 acres of land providing 120 billion gallons of storage in the area south of Lake Okeechobee is roughly \$2.4 billion; and

WHEREAS, these proposed reservoirs were identified based on the ability to leverage existing structures to facilitate the continued flow of water to the South. Senator Negron states that with the federal government playing at least half of the cost of these reservoirs, the state's commitment would be \$1.2 billion. He proposes to use approximately \$100 million annually of documentary stamp tax revenue set aside by Amendment 1 over the next 20 years to finance the acquisition of the land and construction of these reservoirs, and will pursue this funding during his upcoming term as President of the Florida Senate.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the City Commission of the City of Fort Pierce, Florida, that this Commission does hereby proclaim its support for Florida Senate President-Designate Joe Negron's plans to secure funding for his proposal to repair the fragile Everglades ecosystem.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Resolution shall become effective upon adoption.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, this Resolution has been duly adopted this 6th day of September, 2016.

ATTEST:

Linda Hudson, Mayor-Commissioner

Linda Cox, City Clerk

Approved as to form and correctness:

James Messer, Esq.
City Attorney