



April 5, 2021

To: The League of Women Voters of St. Lucie County
Sea and Shoreline Aquatic Restoration, Winter Garden, FL.

Dear Sir/Madam:

The City of Fort Pierce supports the St. Lucie County League of Women Voters in partnership with Sea and Shoreline Aquatic Restoration project titled: "Tackling Estuarine Based Climate Change via Wrack Harvesting/ Planting of Manatee Seagrass Rhizomes within the Fort Pierce Inlet - Tucker's Cove area."

The City supports all efforts by volunteer organizations to contribute to seagrass recovery and restoration in the Indian River Lagoon through enhancing the biodiversity of varying types of seagrasses, augmenting efforts to increase feeding, nesting grounds for native marine mammals, fish, turtles, crustaceans and birds, and to improve upon the water quality of that part of the lagoon, while also recognizing the value of seagrasses as carbon storers and sequesters in helping to reduce detrimental climate change effects within the city, county, region and beyond.

This seagrass project will also align with other efforts within the City of Fort Pierce to reduce nitrogen and phosphorous based fertilizers and inputs to the inlet, monitor and document Lake Okeechobee discharges to the inlet and their subsequent impacts, and further efforts to reduce algal blooms, harmful pollutants, and human induced impacts to the ecology and water quality within the inlet.

It is for these reasons that we endorse the proposed efforts by the St. Lucie County League and their partner, Sea and Shoreline Aquatic Restoration for this seagrass restoration project.

Sincerely,

Linda Hudson
Mayor

cc: City Commissioners
Nick Mimms, City Manager
Nicole Fogarty, Legislative Affairs Director