EVERGLADES COALITION US SUGAR ACQUISITION RESOLUTION

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

WHEREAS restoration of the Everglades has commenced to return the abundance of wildlife once found in the Everglades, to recover thousands of acres of marshes and estuarine habitat, and to benefit Florida and National Parks and ecosystem-based economies,

WHEREAS restoring the hydrology of the Everglades is of upmost importance for restoration efforts to recreate the quantity, quality, timing and distribution of water found in the historical system,

WHEREAS the Everglades Agricultural Area (EAA) is a critical connection between Lake Okeechobee and the southern Everglades,

WHEREAS the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) has agreed to purchase approximately 180,000 acres of land from U.S. Sugar Corp. to use to store, treat and convey water south from Lake Okeechobee to the Everglades.

Therefore be it resolved,

The Everglades Coalition, with 51 organizations dedicated to protecting and restoring the Everglades ecosystem, hereby supports the SFWMD purchase for restoration.

The Everglades Coalition hereby urges the Florida legislature to support the acquisition as a way to finally connect the ecosystem as a whole, to restore the abundance of America’s Everglades, and to ensure a dependable water supply for South Florida’s future.

Approved January 8, 2009

Mark Perry
State Co-Chair

Sara Fain
National Co-Chair