



# Everglades Coalition

## Resolution Opposing the Extension of State Road 7 adjacent to the Grassy Waters Preserve and the Pond Cypress Natural Area

1000 Friends of Florida  
Arthur R. Marshall Foundation  
Audubon  
Audubon Florida  
Audubon of the Everglades  
Audubon of Southwest Florida  
Audubon of the Western Everglades  
Caloosahatchee River Citizens  
Association / Riverwatch  
Center for Biological Diversity  
Clean Water Action  
Conservancy of Southwest Florida  
Defenders of Wildlife  
“Ding” Darling Wildlife Society  
Earthjustice  
Environment Florida  
Everglades Coordinating Council  
Everglades Foundation  
Everglades Law Center  
Everglades Trust  
Florida Conservation Alliance  
Florida Defenders of the Environment  
Florida Keys Environmental Fund  
Florida Native Plant Society  
Florida Oceanographic Society  
Florida Wildlife Federation  
Friends of the Arthur R. Marshall  
Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge  
Friends of the Everglades  
Hendry Glades Audubon Society  
Institute for Regional Conservation  
Izaak Walton League Florida Division  
Izaak Walton League Florida Keys Chapter  
Izaak Walton League Mangrove Chapter  
Izaak Walton League of America  
Last Stand  
League of Women Voters of Florida  
Loxahatchee River Coalition  
Martin County Conservation Alliance  
Miami Waterkeeper  
National Parks Conservation Association  
National Wildlife Federation  
National Wildlife Refuge Association  
Natural Resources Defense Council  
Ocean Research & Conservation Association  
Reef Relief  
Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation  
Save It Now, Glades!  
Sierra Club  
Sierra Club Broward Group  
Sierra Club Calusa Group  
Sierra Club Central Florida Group  
Sierra Club Florida Chapter  
Sierra Club Loxahatchee Group  
Sierra Club Miami Group  
Snook and Gamefish Foundation  
South Florida Audubon Society  
Southern Alliance for Clean Energy  
Tropical Audubon Society  
The Urban Environment League of  
Greater Miami

**WHEREAS**, the Florida Department of Transportation (“FDOT”) and Palm Beach County are proposing to widen 4.4 miles of State Road 7 from Okeechobee Boulevard to 60<sup>th</sup> Street and extend State Road 7 an additional 4.1 miles from 60<sup>th</sup> Street to Northlake Boulevard immediately adjacent to the Pond Cypress Natural Area and the Grassy Waters Preserve;

**WHEREAS**, the Pond Cypress Natural Area is 1700 acres acquired by Palm Beach County for the purpose of preserving the wet prairie mosaic, pine flatwoods, and the associated wildlife that once commonly surrounded the Loxahatchee Slough;

**WHEREAS**, Grassy Waters Preserve contains 12,800 acres of pristine wetlands and is a state-designated natural preserve providing significant regional ecological and environmental benefits including water recharge, water quality and wetland habitat for numerous federally listed species including the critically endangered Everglade Snail Kite and the Wood Stork while providing water supply for the City of West Palm Beach, the Town of Palm Beach and the Town of South Palm Beach;

**WHEREAS**, the project proposes to directly impact more than 57 acres of freshwater wetlands including 25 acres of hydric pine flatwoods and more than 17 acres of freshwater sawgrass marsh and other freshwater wetlands that have been designated by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency as Aquatic Resources of National Importance;

**WHEREAS**, the project will indirectly impact the entire Grassy Waters Preserve and Pond Cypress Natural Area through light, noise, and contaminant pollution, roadkill and other disturbance to animal populations, and impacts to regional hydrology and ecosystem functions;

**WHEREAS**, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has determined the project will likely result in significant adverse effects to public conservation lands and fish and wildlife, including the critically imperiled Snail Kite within Grassy Waters Preserve and the Pond Cypress Natural Area;

**WHEREAS**, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers have all urged FDOT and Palm Beach County to select an alternative alignment for the roadway with less impacts to fish and wildlife or to select the “no build” alternative;

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**WHEREAS**, the project could negatively impact the water supply of the City of West Palm Beach, the Town of Palm Beach, and the Town of South Palm Beach by roadway pollution or a toxic spill along the roadway extension;

**WHEREAS**, the City of West Palm Beach issued a notice of intent to sue FDOT over Endangered Species Act (ESA) issues on April 29, 2015; and

**WHEREAS**, alternatives to the proposed roadway extension with fewer impacts to wetlands, wildlife, natural areas, and water supply exist but have not been adequately evaluated or selected;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** the Everglades Coalition opposes the expansion and extension of State Road 7 into the Pond Cypress Natural Area and Grassy Waters Preserve and urges the Florida Department of Transportation and Palm Beach County to eliminate the selected alignment from consideration and to select the “no build” alternative or an alignment that eliminates impacts to the Pond Cypress Natural Area and Grassy Waters Preserve.

Adopted December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2015

*Cara Capp*

Cara Capp  
National Co-Chair



Jason Totoiu  
State Co-Chair

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