RESOLUTION SUPPORTING ALTERNATIVE 4
FOR CENTRAL EVERGLADES PLANNING
PROJECT

WHEREAS, the Everglades Coalition is committed to the restoration of America’s Everglades, and protecting lands critical to the future of Florida’s environment, drinking water, economy, recreation and quality of life; and

WHEREAS, the Everglades Coalition has previously supported Central Everglades Planning Project (CEPP) goals to: 1) restore habitat in the central Everglades, focusing on the “River of Grass”; 2) deliver “new” sources of clean water to the central Everglades and Everglades National Park (ENP); and 3) reduce damaging discharges to the east and west coast estuaries.

WHEREAS, removal of the L-29 along the bottom of WCA-3B is consistent with long term restoration goals and represents a clear step forward in Everglades restoration as it removes a barrier to sheet flow and will improve fishery conditions;

WHEREAS, Alternative 4 is the only alternative in CEPP which will begin more natural flow into Water Conservation Area (WCA) 3B and ENP, re-establish ridge and slough topography, and improve ecological connectivity, all of which are priority tenets of Everglades restoration;

WHEREAS, restoration of the Everglades should not significantly increase the footprint of levees in sensitive wetlands;

WHEREAS, restoring the natural flow path of the Everglades, as proposed in Alternative 4, will reduce soil oxidation and loss in WCA 3B, increase biological connectivity, improve the mosaic of landscapes essential to the food chain, and provide more corridors and habitat for fish and wildlife.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Everglades Coalition supports CEPP Alternative 4, with the WCA 3B river training structure implemented with a minimal footprint, as the best alternative for the environment. The Coalition requests that it be designated the Tentatively Selected Plan in the Project Implementation Report because it most comprehensively and meaningfully advances restoration goals, achieves ecosystem benefits, and increases ecological connectivity and water conveyance between ENP and Water Conservation Areas 3A and 3B.

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