RESOLUTION SUPPORTING CENTRAL EVERGLADES PLANNING PROJECT

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

WHEREAS, the Everglades ecosystem has continued to decline in the face of restoration delays and an expedited solution is needed to increase the quality, quantity, timing and distribution of freshwater flows into the central Everglades, Everglades National Park and Florida and Biscayne Bay; and

WHEREAS, increased deliveries of water south of Lake Okeechobee will reduce damaging discharges to the Caloosahatchee and St. Lucie estuaries; and

WHEREAS, the goal of the Central Everglades Planning Project (CEPP) is to significantly reduce planning times and deliver a finalized plan, for a suite of restoration projects in the central Everglades within 18 months,

WHEREAS, the ecological goals and objectives of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP) include increasing the total spatial extent of natural area, improving habitat and functional quality, and improving native plant & animal species abundance & diversity:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Everglades Coalition supports the completion of a project implementation report (PIR) through the CEPP using CERP adaptive management protocols by May 2013 that addresses key obstacles for restoring freshwater flows and implements meaningful ecological and economic benefits toward restoring America’s Everglades.

Approved January 5, 2012.

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