



# Everglades Coalition

## **Resolution of the Everglades Coalition on the Ecological Conditions and Restoration Needs of Everglades National Park and Florida Bay**

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**, Florida Bay is a vitally important ecosystem located between the mainland and the Florida Keys, with nearly all of Florida Bay within the boundaries of Everglades National Park;

**WHEREAS**, the health of Florida Bay is vital to South Florida and the Florida Keys’ ecotourism and fishing economies, including commercial and recreational fishing charters, snorkeling, diving, boat and equipment rentals, and other related businesses;

**WHEREAS**, longterm restoration efforts to send much-needed freshwater flow to Florida Bay and Everglades National Park have been planned for decades but have yet to be fully implemented in part due to escalating demands from the agricultural community for increased flood protection above and beyond flood mitigation in response to restored ecological flow;

**WHEREAS**, these restoration projects are fully or partially funded by the federal government for its goals of restoring national parks and wildlife refuges and protecting endangered species;

**WHEREAS**, lack of freshwater flow, coupled with unseasonably low rainfall patterns over the past year, have led to high temperatures and salinity in Florida Bay that have already caused mass sea grass die-offs that may continue to worsen in the weeks and months ahead;

**WHEREAS**, scientists caution that a toxic cyanobacteria algal bloom in Florida Bay is possible as a result of the widespread sea grass decomposition that would lead to habitat loss and degradation for a number of species including sponges, spiny lobster, and a myriad of native fish that would take many years to recover; and,

**WHEREAS**, the dire situation in Florida Bay is a symptom of larger water crisis plaguing Florida whereby coastal estuaries are being inundated by polluted Lake Okeechobee discharges while the Everglades National Park and Florida Bay are starved for freshwater due to lack of infrastructure for restoration of flow;

*Committed to full protection and restoration of America’s Everglades*

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Everglades Coalition, with its 58 member organizations committed to the full protection and restoration of America's Everglades, urges state and federal agency partners to expedite full implementation of planned restoration projects, including Modified Water Deliveries to Everglades National Park, C-111 South Dade, C-111 Spreader Canal, and bridging of Tamiami Trail.

Further, these projects must be operated to maximize restoration goals and ecological benefits to Everglades National Park and Florida Bay. Changes to the initially authorized goals of these projects that are inconsistent with restoration should not come at the expense of the federal government. Outside interests cannot delay or minimize restoration progress.

Adopted November 4<sup>th</sup>, 2015

*Cara Capp*

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National Co-Chair



Jason Totoiu  
State Co-Chair

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