Everglades Coalition Resolution

WHEREAS, Florida Power & Light’s (FPL) proposed text amendment to Miami-Dade’s Comprehensive Development Master Plan (CDMP) seeks limestone excavation which compromises land important to Everglades restoration efforts.

WHEREAS, the agriculture area proposed by FPL lies within the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP) Alternative “O” study area and conflicts with the Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands CERP project, and

WHEREAS, rock mining in Miami-Dade’s agricultural areas presents a major disruptive and unnatural use of the land which is incompatible with the active and productive agricultural uses in the East Glades, and

WHEREAS, the CDMP amendment proposes permanent destruction of 298-881 acres of agricultural lands compromising Miami-Dade County’s remaining agricultural lands already on the verge of critical mass to sustain a viable agricultural economy, and

WHEREAS, FPL’s potential rock quarry pits are east of the 1995 salt intrusion line and threaten to exacerbate contamination of the Biscayne aquifer, which provides drinking water for more than 3 million people in South Florida, and

WHEREAS, there has been no demonstration of need by state or federal agencies, rock quarry pits are not a public necessity nor are they suitable “water management structures” to support the CERP or related projects, and

WHEREAS, the proposed mining could significantly impact hydrology in the Biscayne Bay and National Park and FPL has failed to identify feasibility of the experimental and untested “liner” method proposed,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Everglades Coalition resolves and recommends

1. that the Miami-Dade County Commission deny FPL’s request for text amendments to the CDMP for allowance of limestone excavation in areas designated agriculture on the Land Use Plan map as proposed by the applicant.

BE IT SO RESOLVED, on April 3, 2009

Sara Fain    Mark Perry
National Co-Chair    State Co-Chair