RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, algae blooms continue to plague Florida Bay, which is part of Everglades National Park likely covering over 300 square miles at one time in 2007, and have been increasing in their frequency and duration, which impacts sensitive estuary species;

WHEREAS, roseate spoonbill nesting success rates in Florida Bay declined to the lowest levels since the 1960s in the 2007 nesting season and nesting of imperiled species such as ospreys, brown pelicans, and cormorants have also declined in the bay;

WHEREAS, Florida Bay supports a substantial and economically significant fishing industry, which depends on the health of the Bay

WHEREAS, the South Dade C-111 project, federally authorized in 1996, is a critical component of the plan to restore Taylor Slough by reducing seepage out of Everglades National Park and needs continued/increased funding;

WHEREAS, the C-111 Spreader Canal project was initially authorized as part of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan in the Water Resources Development Act of 2000 and needs implementation;

WHEREAS, the expedited implementation of Phase I of the C-111 Spreader Canal project offers the most immediate potential for bringing relief to Florida Bay by increasing freshwater flows to the bay through Taylor Slough;

WHEREAS, Phase I of the C-111 Spreader Canal project must deliver freshwater flows sufficient enough to generate an ecosystem response in Florida Bay and create significant learning opportunities to guide Phase II of the project

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Everglades Coalition resolves and recommends

1. The SFWMD proceed with expediting Phase I of the C-111 Spreader Canal project and apply adaptive implementation, by operating the project in incremental stages, in order to spur an ecosystem response.
2. Congress appropriate adequate funding in upcoming fiscal years for timely completion of the Federal/South Dade C-111 project in order to increase restoration potential in Taylor Slough and Florida Bay.

3. A commitment from the SFWMD that Phase II of the Spreader Canal project will achieve restoration objectives not achieved by Phase I in order to contribute to restoration to Florida Bay.

BE IT SO RESOLVED, on July 8, 2008

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