EVERGLADES COALITION RESOLUTION
SUPPORTING EAA LAND ACQUISITION

WHEREAS, restoration of the Greater Everglades Ecosystem is vital to protecting Florida's environment, economy, and drinking water supplies;

WHEREAS, restoration is reliant upon the ability to increase the quality, quantity, timing and distribution of freshwater flows from the Kissimmee River to Florida Bay;

WHEREAS, additional land is needed to store water during the rainy season and eliminate harmful discharges from Lake Okeechobee to the Caloosahatchee and St. Lucie rivers and provide water supply for the natural system;

WHEREAS, the South Florida Water Management District has the opportunity through a legal option to purchase a 26,100-acre parcel of land optimally located south of Lake Okeechobee, which can provide a cost effective water storage solution to help solve Florida's water crisis;

WHEREAS, time is of the essence as the contract to purchase 46,800 acres expires on October 12, 2015;

Therefore be it resolved:

The Everglades Coalition, with 56 organizations dedicated to the full protection and restoration of the Greater Everglades ecosystem, hereby endorses and strongly supports the purchase of 46,800 acres of land south of Lake Okeechobee for Everglades restoration and coastal estuary protection.

And further be it resolved, that the Everglades Coalition hereby endorses and strongly urges the State of Florida to identify necessary funds to purchase the 46,800 acres that will assist in reducing harmful discharges to estuaries, improve the health of Lake Okeechobee and increase flow to the Everglades. These funding opportunities include but are not limited to: bonding, appropriations by the Florida Legislature, and use of resources allocated by the Florida Water and Land Legacy.

Approved December 30, 2014

Cara Capp
National Co-Chair

Jason Totoiu
State Co-Chair