WHEREAS the Everglades ecosystem, spanning from the Kissimmee River Valley to Florida Bay, is a significant national resource and international treasure,

WHEREAS restoration of the Everglades has commenced to return the abundance of wildlife once found in the Everglades, to recover thousands of acres of marshes and estuarine habitat, and to benefit Florida and National Parks and ecosystem-based economies,

WHEREAS a critical component of Everglades restoration is improving the quality of, and reducing phosphorus levels in, water that flows from Lake Okeechobee and the Everglades Agricultural Area (EAA) to the southern Everglades,

WHEREAS the Palm Beach County Solid Waste Authority (SWA) is evaluating sites for a new landfill facility in Palm Beach County,

WHEREAS the SWA has considered the negative environmental consequences of locating a landfill directly adjacent to the Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge, as previously planned, and has hosted three new site proposals, Okeelanta, SR80/US98, and Hundley Farms

WHEREAS the selection committee has chosen the site at SR 80/ US 98 as the preferred site, which will have the lowest long-term cost and is farthest from environmentally sensitive or Everglades restoration lands,

WHEREAS the potential site at Okeelanta could seriously interfere with Everglades restoration efforts in the EAA,

WHEREAS the potential site on Hundley Farms is 0.1 miles from Stormwater Treatment Area (STA) 1W, has been unable to meet phosphorus clean-up standards, and locating a landfill on this site could increase phosphorus levels in the STA. Expansion of STA 1W has been promoted, and locating a landfill on this site would preclude options for expansion,

Therefore be it resolved,
The Everglades Coalition, with 51 organizations dedicated to protecting and restoring the Everglades ecosystem, hereby opposes a landfill being located adjacent to STA 1W at the Hundley Farms site, within the potential path for restoration at the Okeelanta site, or adjacent to the Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge.
The Everglades Coalition hereby urges the Palm Beach County Solid Waste Authority to consider locating a future landfill only on land that does not conflict with Everglades restoration efforts and is located a sufficient distance from sensitive environmental lands.

Approved March 16, 2009

Sara Fain
National Co-Chair

Mark Perry
State Co-Chair