

SWFRPC RESOLUTION #2008-10

A RESOLUTION OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL (SWFRPC) REGARDING THE PROCUREMENT OF ASSETS OF U.S. SUGAR CORPORATION BY THE SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT (SFWMD)

WHEREAS, the Florida South Central Rural Area of Economic Concern (RACEC) includes Glades County, Hendry County, Okeechobee County, Hardee County, DeSoto County, Highlands County (including the cities, towns and communities within each) and the communities of Belle Glade, Pahokee, South Bay and Immokalee;

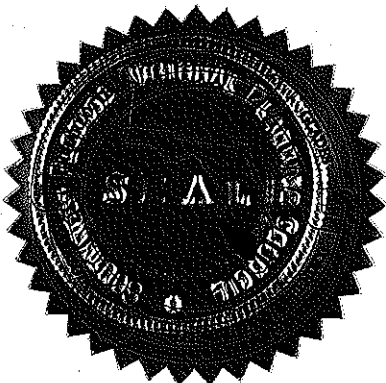
WHEREAS, the SWFRPC recognizes that the procurement of assets of U.S. Sugar Corporation by the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) has significant regional impacts on the economy of Southwest Florida while providing opportunities for environmental benefits related to Everglades restoration; and

WHEREAS, Hendry County and Glades County are where restoration, agriculture, and green energy development meet, the SWFRPC wishes to ensure that the land and property acquisition is cost efficient, environmentally sound, and economically sustainable.

WHEREAS, the benefits from land acquisition include huge increases in the available of water storage, significantly reducing the potential for harmful discharges from Lake Okeechobee to Florida's coastal rivers and estuaries, including the Caloosahatchee River and estuary.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council **DULY PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 18th DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2008 that**

- 1) The strength of the planning process lies in its transparency; involving both the community and local elected officials; thus the SWFRPC supports the desire of communities and their leaders to be represented and included in planning to maintain and preserve the economic vitality of communities affected by the acquisition of US Sugar assets;
- 2) Information needs to be made available by State of Florida agencies as quickly as possible to the communities and elected officials of Southwest Florida;
- 3) Implementation of economic development initiatives must begin now to prevent the potential loss of jobs and created as a result of this event;
- 4) Consideration be given to establishing a trust fund for green energy research, development and deployment within the impacted areas; and
- 5) The SWFRPC pledges its cooperation to the Governor's Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development (OTTED) and to SFWMD, and will work diligently with agency representatives and local officials to address concerns and opportunities.

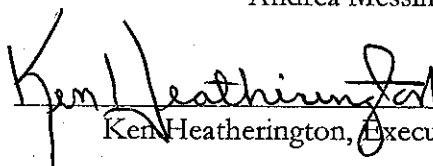


SOUTHWEST FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

BY:


Andrea Messina, Chairman

ATTEST:


Ken Heatherington, Executive Director