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VILLAGE OF ESTERO, FLORIDA

RESOLUTION NO. 2020 - 24

**A RESOLUTION OF THE VILLAGE COUNCIL OF THE
VILLAGE OF ESTERO, FLORIDA, SUPPORTING THE
CONCEPT AND PURPOSE OF; AND PROVIDING AN
EFFECTIVE DATE.**

WHEREAS, the Southwest Florida Regional Resiliency Compact (hereinafter, the Compact) has been formed to develop a regionally consistent approach to the impacts of climate change and to advance local and regional responses to and preparations for economic and community disruption projected to result from the impacts of climate change; and

WHEREAS, the Counties of Charlotte, Lee, and Collier and the municipalities in these counties (hereinafter, the Compact Members) form a unique and extraordinary area, sharing a sense of community, economy, and critically important environmental resources; and

WHEREAS, the Southwest Florida region has some of Florida's most remarkable beaches, rivers, estuaries, and unique ecosystems which are closely coupled to the region's history and cultural heritage.

WHEREAS, the Southwest Florida region has approximately 1.26 million permanent residents which represents approximately 6.1% of Florida's population, and is projected to exceed 1.7 million residents by 2040; and

WHEREAS, tourism is of critical importance to the Southwest Florida region with approximately 7.5M visitors to our 3 counties in 2019 and is heavily dependent on its unique natural resources to promote and sustain that tourism; and

WHEREAS, the Southwest Florida region is especially vulnerable to the impacts of a changing climate, including: sea-level rise, rainfall, heat events, wildfires, droughts, flooding, and storms, which threaten community priorities, human well-being, and natural resources; and

WHEREAS, rising sea levels, intense rainfall, rising water temperatures, and other climatic stressors will compromise crucial drainage infrastructure and water quality (e.g., saltwater intrusion); and

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WHEREAS, extreme weather events can impact the lives of residents, damage property, and disrupt businesses; and

WHEREAS, natural areas including forests, beaches with dunes, wetlands, mangroves, and oyster reefs can provide valuable flood risk reduction and water quality benefits and may be compromised by changing climate conditions; and

WHEREAS, planning for and implementation of activities to reduce the Southwest Florida region's vulnerability to a changing climate is among the most consequential actions the Southwest Florida region could pursue; and

WHEREAS, a regionally consistent message communicated through a coordinated outreach program to citizens of, and visitors to, the Southwest Florida region is critically important to ensuring thorough understanding of the issues facing the region; and

WHEREAS, the Compact Members are committed to being resilient to a changing climate, and will consider adaptation and risk reduction strategies intended to ensure public safety and safeguard infrastructure, property, cultural and environmental assets, and basic quality of life for current residents and future generations; and

WHEREAS, measures to mitigate hazard risks provide a significant return on investment because resilient communities and regions support a thriving economy and create opportunities to attract new businesses and economic investments; and

WHEREAS, proactively preparing for a changing climate will be less costly and enhance the major sectors of the regional economy, maintaining and growing manufacturing, health care, tourism, agriculture, and other economic drivers; and

WHEREAS, many of the activities undertaken to enhance resiliency to a changing climate will be concurrent and supportive of existing local efforts, such as addressing aging infrastructure, emergency management, and public health; and

77 **WHEREAS**, local governments play a critical role in fostering social equity
78 in the face of climate-related challenges, including the potential for
79 community displacement; and

80 **WHEREAS**, while counties and cities in Southwest Florida have independently
81 identified and undertaken activities to address vulnerabilities, they recognize the
82 value of a collaborative commitment to build resiliency in the region; and

83

84 **WHEREAS**, the Compact Members have joined in formation of the Southwest
85 Florida Regional Resiliency Compact to coordinate their efforts and enhance their
86 abilities to prepare, adapt, and mitigate for the effects of climate change in their
87 individual communities and throughout the entire Southwest Florida region.

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89 **NOW, THEREFORE**, be it resolved by the Village Council of the Village of Estero,
90 Florida:

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92 **Section 1. Findings** - The findings set forth above are adopted and set forth as the
93 reasons and statement of purpose for the formation of the Southwest Florida Regional
94 Resiliency Compact.

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96 **Section 2. Regional Cooperation** - The Compact Members shall work together to
97 maximize their efforts to adapt to and work to mitigate the effects of climate change
98 by: identifying vulnerabilities to the effects of climate change in their communities;
99 identifying common vulnerability assessment methodologies; planning for adaptation
100 and mitigation actions that will enhance the resiliency of their communities; learning
101 from each other and their prior efforts and planning documents; leveraging their
102 resources; and pursuing public-private partnerships.

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104 **SECTION 3 Regional Resiliency Action Plan** - The Compact Members shall
105 develop a Regional Resiliency Action Plan which shall include strategies for
106 coordinated regional preparation for and adaption to a rapidly changing global
107 environment.

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109 **SECTION 4. Science-based Decisions** - The Compact Members will base their
110 strategies and actions on sound science and technical data and shall work together to
111 identify experts for guidance and use recognized and consistent sea-level rise
112 projections to assess vulnerability and inform planning efforts.

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114 **SECTION 5. Legislative Strategy** - The Compact Members shall develop a
115 legislative strategy which recognizes the region-specific vulnerabilities of Southwest
116 Florida to the impacts of climate change and includes recommendations for the
117 allocation of state and federal resources.

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SECTION 6. Community Involvement - Recognizing the importance of involvement in these regional, cooperative efforts by all members of the community, the Compact Members shall engage and involve local businesses, organizations, associations, and individuals in developing the Compact’s plans, policies and recommendations. Additionally, the Compact membership may grow, with private and public organizations joining as best seen fit by the existing members.

SECTION 7. Education and Outreach - It is critical that the Southwest Florida region present a cohesive and consistent message to avoid ambiguity across jurisdictional lines. Therefore, the Compact Members will develop a Regional Resiliency Education and Outreach strategy to assist the Compact Members in communicating efforts to their citizens.

SECTION 8. Intent - The Compact Members each join the Southwest Florida Regional Resiliency Compact as an expression of their intent and commitment to work together on a regional level to identify and address the effects of climate change.

SECTION 9. Funding – The compact members do not hereby commit any financial resources to the operation of the compact and shall seek alternative funding sources through grants, philanthropic funding and other means to fund the operation of the compact.

SECTION 10. Governance – The compact shall be governed by a leadership committee consisting of one member appointed by each compact member. This member may be staff or an elected official of the jurisdiction they are representing. Each compact member shall have one vote on the actions of the compact and all actions shall require a majority vote to progress.

SECTION 11. Autonomy – Nothing in this compact will prevent any compact member from taking actions to increase their own resiliency nor shall this compact take any power or authority away from the individual compact members.

SECTION 12. Separation from the Compact – Any compact member may leave the compact at any time by informing the other compact members in writing of their intent to leave the compact.

Section 13. This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

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ADOPTED BY THE VILLAGE COUNCIL of the Village of Estero, Florida this 4th day of November, 2020.

Attest:

VILLAGE OF ESTERO, FLORIDA

By: _____
Steve Sarkozy, Acting Village Clerk

By: _____
Bill Ribble, Mayor

Reviewed for legal sufficiency:

By: _____
Burt Saunders, Esq., Village Attorney