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**VILLAGE OF ESTERO, FLORIDA**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2016 - 23**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE VILLAGE COUNCIL OF THE VILLAGE OF ESTERO, FLORIDA, STRONGLY URGING THE STATE OF FLORIDA AND THE U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS TO ACCELERATE THE PLANNING AND DESIGN PROCESS FOR THE “EAA STORAGE & ASR/DECOMP PH2” PROJECT IDENTIFIED IN THE INTEGRATED DELIVERY SCHEDULE (IDS), A PROJECT THAT WILL PROVIDE ADDITIONAL STORAGE SOUTH OF LAKE OKEECHOBEE AND REDUCE THE DAMAGING HIGH-VOLUME FRESHWATER DISCHARGES TO THE COASTAL ESTUARIES; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

**WHEREAS**, the Florida Everglades and its coastal estuaries are an internationally unique ecosystem, a national treasure and a significant economic driver for Florida’s economy; and

**WHEREAS**, restoration of the Everglades ecosystem and coastal estuaries is vital to Florida’s future by protecting Florida's environment, economy, and drinking water supplies; and

**WHEREAS**, excess water from Lake Okeechobee is discharged to the Caloosahatchee and St. Lucie rivers and estuaries causing catastrophic impacts to the marine ecosystem and local economies; and

**WHEREAS**, Governor Scott on June 29, 2016 and June 30, 2016 issued Executive Orders 16-155 and 16-156, respectively, declaring a State of Emergency in Martin, St. Lucie, Lee and Palm Beach counties as a result of excessive freshwater discharges from Lake Okeechobee; and

**WHEREAS**, the University of Florida Water Institute completed an independent study commissioned by the Florida Legislature through the Senate Select Committee on the Indian River Lagoon and Lake Okeechobee basin in March 2015, titled “Options to Reduce High Volume Freshwater Flows to the St. Lucie and Caloosahatchee Estuaries and Move More Water from Lake Okeechobee to the Southern Everglades”, which identified “the solution to providing relief to the estuaries is enormous increases in storage and treatment of water both north and south of the lake”; and

**WHEREAS**, the 2015 Integrated Delivery Schedule (IDS) prioritizes Everglades and Northern Estuaries restoration projects and includes a project titled “EAA Storage & ASR/Decomp Ph2”, for which the planning process is not scheduled to begin until 2020; and

44           **WHEREAS**, the Caloosahatchee and St. Lucie Estuaries, Everglades National Park  
45 and Florida Bay cannot wait until 2020 for planning to begin on additional storage, treatment  
46 and conveyance of freshwater south of Lake Okeechobee; and  
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48           **WHEREAS**, the citizens of Estero strongly urge the State of Florida and the U.S. Army  
49 Corps of Engineers to accelerate planning and design of the "EAA Storage & ASR/Decomp Ph2"  
50 project from 2020 to 2016/17 and begin land acquisition and construction immediately upon  
51 completion of planning and design.  
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53           **NOW, THEREFORE**, be it resolved by the Village Council of the Village of Estero,  
54 Florida:  
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56           **Section 1.** The Village of Estero Council, on behalf of the Village of Estero and its  
57 citizens, hereby registers its strong support for accelerating the planning and design process  
58 for the "EAA Storage & ASR/Decomp Ph2" project included in the 2015 Integrated Delivery  
59 Schedule from 2020 to 2016/17 to help reduce the future impacts of regulatory releases from  
60 Lake Okeechobee to the coastal estuaries. The Village Clerk is hereby directed to provide a  
61 copy of this resolution to the members of the local legislative delegation, the President of the  
62 Florida Senate, the Speaker of the Florida House of Representatives, the State Association of  
63 Counties, the Florida League of Cities, the Florida League of Mayors, and the Mayors of each  
64 city within Lee County, Florida.  
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66           **Section 2.** This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption.  
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68           **ADOPTED BY THE VILLAGE COUNCIL** of the Village of Estero, Florida this  
69 17<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2016.  
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71 Attest:

**VILLAGE OF ESTERO, FLORIDA**

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74 By: Kathy Hall  
75 Kathy Hall, MMC, Village Clerk  
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By: Nicholas Batos  
Nicholas Batos, Mayor  
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78 Reviewed for legal sufficiency:

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80  
81 By: Burt H. Saunders  
82 Burt Saunders, Esq., Village Attorney