

From: Kevin Ruane

Sent: Monday, July 18, 2016 7:00 AM

To: [RHenderson@cityftmyers.com](mailto:RHenderson@cityftmyers.com); Marni Dilsaver Retzer; [dennis@fortmyersbeachfl.gov](mailto:dennis@fortmyersbeachfl.gov); Peter Eric Simmons; [batos@estero-fl.gov](mailto:batos@estero-fl.gov)

Cc: Pamela Smith; Judie A. Zimomra; James Evans

Subject: Fwd: Resolution 16-060

Mayors,

The two potential projects below are listed in the white paper. The first request is to the state of Florida and the second one is to the federal government.

The current CERP plan includes a number of projects aimed at moving additional water south and away from the Northern Estuaries. One project in particular that exists in the plan and is referenced in the Integrated Delivery Schedule (IDS) is the Everglades Agricultural Area Storage Project. However, planning for the project is not scheduled to begin until 2020, with an estimated completion date of 2026. Significant planning and design has already gone into the original Central and Southern Florida Project EAA Storage Reservoirs Project. A draft Project Implementation Report (PIR) was completed for this project in February 2006. The PIR prescribes an above-ground reservoir, Stormwater Treatment Area (STA), and improvements to primary and secondary canals. The reservoir would cover approximately 31,000 acres with a storage capacity of 360,000 acre-feet water.

The EAA Reservoirs Project is anticipated to provide far-reaching benefits to the Northern Estuaries, Everglades National Park and Florida Bay. As a result, the project should be accelerated and the land needed to complete this project must be acquired as soon as possible to ensure this project moves forward. We should advocate for the planning in 2016/2017.

The CEPP expedites a sub-set of CERP projects to move additional water south. It includes projects that address seepage control along south Miami-Dade, decompartmentalization, removing impediments to flowing water south, and would move approximately 210,000 acre-feet of additional water south through the central portion of the historic Everglades. The project will lay the foundation for moving additional water south as additional storage and treatment becomes available.

It is a wide believe and gaining momentum that these two projects would be a game changer in our long term solution for water quantity and quality.

Please review this attachment and would like to request your city adopt a similar resolution.

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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

