



RESOLUTION

Whereas: the water resources of Southwest Florida are of great economic, recreational, ecological and historic significance to the people of the region; and

Whereas: the Caloosahatchee River and estuary have been subject to extensive impacts in recent decades from changes to the watershed and other management activities that have diminished their ecological health; and

Whereas: the influences of releases from Lake Okeechobee have a direct and lasting effect on the health of the Caloosahatchee and the estuary; and

Whereas: the United States Army Corps of Engineers is the federal agency responsible for managing the operations of structures and reservoirs (including Lake Okeechobee) located in the Central and Southern Florida Project.

Now, therefore, be it resolved that the Southwest Florida Watershed Council calls upon the United States Army Corps of Engineers to take the following actions:

- A. Work with the South Florida Water Management District to revise the Lake Okeechobee regulation schedule at an accelerated pace to place greater emphasis on protection of the lake's environmental resources, as well as those of its downstream estuaries and on water quality.
- B. Allocate resources to study the effects of the recent and ongoing sediment-laden discharges from Lake Okeechobee and set aside funds to provide for the recovery of natural resources that have been negatively impacted by the releases.
- C. Work with the South Florida Water Management District to incorporate water quality components into the C-43 West Reservoir to ensure that no impairments will exist in the water released into the Caloosahatchee from the reservoir.

This Resolution was adopted by the Southwest Florida Watershed Council on this 15th day of September, 2005.