

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF
THE TOWN OF FORT MYERS BEACH, FLORIDA
RESOLUTION NUMBER 05-21

The Town of Fort Myers Beach calls upon the South Florida Water Management District to immediately declare an emergency due to high flows from Lake Okeechobee and the Caloosahatchee watershed.

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 South Florida Water Management District is the State agency charged with managing and protecting the water resources of the region by balancing and improving water quality, flood control, natural systems and water supply.

Now, therefore, be it resolved that the Town of Fort Myers Beach calls upon the South Florida Water Management District to immediately declare an emergency due to high flows from Lake Okeechobee and the Caloosahatchee watershed and to take the following actions:

- A. Work with the United States Army Corps of Engineers 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. With regard to high (wet season) flows from Lake Okeechobee:
 1. In a public forum, explore all possibilities for the routing of Lake Okeechobee flows, including allowing water from Lake Okeechobee to be routed into Water Conservation Areas through the suspension of Environmental Resource Permits active in the Everglades Agricultural Area.
 2. 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. With regard to low (dry season) flows from Lake Okeechobee:

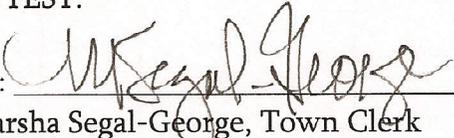
1. Amend the Caloosahatchee Minimum Flows and Levels Rule, in Section 40E-8.011(3), F.A.C., to incorporate forward pumping from Lake Okeechobee in the recovery and prevention strategy, thereby adding another method to supply water necessary to achieve the minimum flow criteria for the river.
2. Establish a reservation of water for the Caloosahatchee that will ensure the long-term health of the river and estuary by November of 2006.
3. Work with the United States Army Corps of Engineers 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.

The foregoing resolution was adopted by the Fort Myers Beach Town Council upon being put to a vote, the result was as follows:

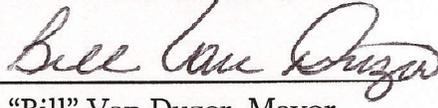
Howard Rynearson	<u>Aye</u>
Donald Massucco	<u>Aye</u>
Garr Reynolds	<u>Aye</u>
Ken Katcko	<u>Aye</u>
W. H. "Bill" Van Duzer	<u>Aye</u>

Approved this 12th day of September 2005

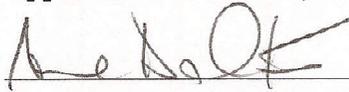
ATTEST:

By: 
Marsha Segal-George, Town Clerk

TOWN OF FORT MYERS BEACH

By: 
W. H. "Bill" Van Duzer, Mayor

Approved as to form by:


Anne Dalton, Town Attorney

September 16, 2005

D. T. Minich, CDME
Lee County Visitor and Convention Bureau
12800 University Drive, Suite 550
Fort Myers, FL 33907

To All Concerned with Environmental Quality:

RE: Lake Okeechobee and the Caloosahatchee Water Shed

At its Town Council meeting on September 12, 2005, the Fort Myers Beach Town Council passed Resolution 05-21 asking the SFWMD to declare an emergency due to high flows from Lake Okeechobee.

The enclosed resolution clearly explains what needs to be done to protect our beaches and water quality now and for generations to come.

This resolution is being sent to Lee County Commissioner Ray Judah, Colleen Castille, Secretary of the Department of Environmental Protection in Tallahassee; SFWMD; and Congressman Connie Mack.

It is our hope that you will give this request your immediate attention.

Sincerely,

Rachel Lambert, IHM
Administrative Services Director

Enc.

Department of Environmental Protection

850 / 488-1554

Colleen Castille, Secretary
3900 Commonwealth Boulevard, MS 10
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-3000

The mission of the Department of Environmental Protection is to protect, conserve and manage Florida's environment. The department's responsibilities include the management and regulation

D. T. Minich, CDME
Lee County Visitor and Convention Bureau
12800 University Drive, Suite 550
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South Florida Water Management District
PO Box 24680
West Palm Beach, FL 33416-4680

Congressman Connie Mack
2000 Main Street
Fort Myers, FL 33901-3050