Resolution Urging Restored Revenue for the South Florida Water Management District for Restoration, Science, Land Management, and Water Conservation

WHEREAS, the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) is the state agency in charge of managing the water resources for 16 counties that span the Greater Everglades Ecosystem, including the Kissimmee River, Lake Okeechobee, the Caloosahatchee and St. Lucie Rivers and Estuaries, the Loxahatchee River, the Water Conservation Areas, Everglades National Park, Biscayne Bay, and Florida Bay,

WHEREAS, the SFWMD provides funding for Everglades restoration projects, Everglades water quality projects, the Northern Everglades and Estuaries Protection Program, science and monitoring for restoration and climate change, land stewardship and exotic plant and animal management, and water conservation programs,

WHEREAS, in 2011 the ad valorem revenues to the SFWMD were cut by 32%, and since then there have been further reductions in revenues,

WHEREAS, the SFWMD spend-down plan is depleting the reserves,

WHEREAS, there have been reductions in funding for the Northern Everglades and Estuaries Protection Program, science and monitoring for restoration and climate change, land stewardship and exotic plant and animal management, and water conservation programs,

WHEREAS, additional funding will be needed to sustain and advance Everglades restoration,

Therefore, be it resolved:

1. The Everglades Coalition, with 57 organizations dedicated to protecting and restoring America’s Everglades, hereby urges the Florida Legislature, Florida Governor, and SFWMD Governing Board to restore funding levels for the SFWMD to support projects and programs to restore and protect natural systems in the Greater Everglades Ecosystem, and

2. The Everglades Coalition urges the SFWMD to restore levels of funding for Northern Everglades and Estuaries Protection Program, science and monitoring for restoration and climate change, land stewardship and exotic plant and animal management, and water conservation programs.

Approved August 9, 2013.

Cara Capp
National Co-Chair

Jennifer Hecker
State Co-Chair