

SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

RESOLUTION NO. 2007- _____

A RESOLUTION OF THE GOVERNING BOARD OF THE SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO INFORM THE SUPERINTENDENT, EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK, UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, THAT THE GOVERNING BOARD URGES THE ADOPTION OF A “PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE” FOR THE PROPOSED EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN THAT IS SIMILAR IN CONCEPT TO “ALTERNATIVE E” PREPARED BY LEADERS AND MEMBERS OF THE FLORIDA KEYS FISHING GUIDES ASSOCIATION AND OTHER CITIZENS WHO VISIT THE BACKCOUNTRY OF EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK.

WHEREAS, in May 2007, the Everglades National Park planning team published for public comment, four Preliminary Alternatives for evaluation as part of the Park General Management Plan planning process. The Park planning team will evaluate public comments and will recommend a “preferred alternative” for development of the General Management Plan to guide operation and management of the Park for the next 15 to 20 years, and;

WHEREAS, three of the Preliminary Alternatives proposed additional restrictions on motorized vessel use of vast expanses of Florida Bay, and prohibited access to areas proposed for designation as wildlife habitat, research or backcountry. In addition, the alternatives proposed the designation of certain areas of the East Everglades as wilderness areas, and;

WHEREAS, the Recreation Issues Workshop of the Water Resources Advisory Commission met on May 21 and June 28 to review and develop comments on the Preliminary Alternatives and a new “Alternative E” developed by the boating and fishing public in the Florida Keys, and the workshop participants supported concepts nearly identical to those included in “Alternative E”, and;

WHEREAS, the South Florida Water Management District Water Resources Advisory Commission considered recommendations of the Recreation Issues Workshop at the Commission’s July 5 monthly meeting, and;

WHEREAS, there is broad public support for concepts similar or identical to those included in "Alternative E"; **now therefore**

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BOARD OF THE SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT:

Section 1: The Governing Board of the South Florida Water Management District hereby directs the Executive Director to convey to the Superintendent, Everglades National Park, United States Department of the Interior, the Board's strong support for the concepts included in "Alternative E" as discussed above, for selection as the Preferred Alternative for the Everglades National Park General Management Plan.

Section 2: This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

PASSED and ADOPTED this _____ day of _____, 2006.

SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT,
BY ITS GOVERNING BOARD

By: _____
Chair Person

ATTEST:

District Clerk

Approved as to form:

By: _____
Office of Counsel