

# **PROPOSED CITY COUNCIL GOALS**

**FY 2008/2009**

(Not in priority order)

**APPROVED JUNE 03, 2008**

## **WATER QUALITY**

### **AGRESSIVELY CONTINUE EFFORTS TO IMPROVE WATER QUALITY THROUGH EDUCATION, POLITICAL & LEGAL METHODS**

- Release Schedule
- Water Quality C-43
- CERP Projects
- Additional Storage
- Restore water flow south to Everglades

### **REDUCE URBAN DEVELOPEMNT NUTRIENT RELEASES INTO CALOOSAHATCHEE RIVER**

- To monitor and be involved in TMDL rule making for the Caloosahatchee River and Estuaries
- Implement programs to reduce urban nutrient pollution to our waterways including releases on-island such as removing package plants
- Fertilizer, Wastewater, Septic Systems, and Stormwater Runoff within six counties of SW Florida
- Implement strategies to reduce nutrient releases from Sanibel Sewage Treatment Facility
- Investigate strategies to remove excess nutrient releases golf courses

### **OVERSEE THE ALGEA NUTRIENT RESEARCH STUDY PROJECT**

## **CONTINUE REDEVELOPMENT EFFORTS**

### **PERIWINKLE WAY WEST COMMERCIAL DISTRICT REDEVELOPMENT**

- Complete Periwinkle Way West Commercial District plans which will include redevelopment principles, policies, guidelines and concepts to support implementation of the Sanibel Plan and to guide the review of future development proposals

## **CONTINUE REDEVELOPMENT EFFORTS**

### **RESORT HOUSING REDEVELOPMENT**

- Define conditions and issues associated with the future redevelopment of non-conforming resort housing structures and uses
- Evaluate alternative redevelopment policies and strategies consistent with the Sanibel Plan
- Prepare amendments to the Land Development Code to implement resort housing redevelopment policies and the Sanibel Plan

### **CARRYING CAPACITY**

- Complete research defining best practices associated with measuring and managing carrying capacity that may be transferable to Sanibel
- Define existing baseline conditions and key impact and mitigation thresholds associated with sustaining the carrying capacity of Sanibel's natural and human systems
- Identify, evaluate and prioritize carrying capacity policies and management strategies consistent with the Sanibel Plan

## **STRENGTHENING CITY FINANCES**

- Review City Investment Policies
- Pursue Economic Incentives through energy conservation opportunities
- Alternatives for an Environmental Protection Fund

**FISCAL YEAR 2009-2010**  
**CITY COUNCIL GOALS**  
ADOPTED SEPTEMBER 05, 2009

**I. SUSTAIN AND STRENGTHEN THE CITY'S FINANCIAL STABILITY**

- **To enhance the budgeting process by including more historical trend analysis and by extending operational budgetary forecasting to five years**

In addition to forecasting the effect current decisions will have on future revenue sources and operating cost's extending the operational budget forecast to five years will provide the framework to analyze the City's capability to cover its five-year capital improvement plan. In efforts to balance budgets, often capital improvements are deferred to future years. This produces a compounding effect on future services, infrastructure deterioration, increased maintenance costs and funding requirements.

- **Protect the City's Reserve**

Diligently the City has practiced fiscal discipline to create and protect reserves to be used in true emergencies such as hurricanes and to address environmental issues such as red algae. In the current economy, many agencies are utilizing their reserves to meet normal operating costs. When true disasters strikes these practices will produce additional demands on the financially strained credit markets.

- **Complete a thorough analysis of the City's pension plans**

Due to substantial setbacks in the market, pension plans across the country experienced substantial loss in value. Additional funding is required by the City to cover the losses experienced by the City's two pension plans. A thorough analysis of the City's current plans and future impact on the City will be performed. In addition, alternative plans, variations, or options will be compared and analyzed for implementation feasibility, implementation costs and future impact on the City if implemented.

**II. STRENGTHEN THE CITY'S PARTNERSHIPS TO SUSTAIN ESTUARY AND COASTAL WATER QUALITY**

- **Improve Water Management in South Florida**

Focus City Council and staff efforts on the River of Grass Planning Process to ensure that the South Florida Water Management District selects an alternative for use of U. S. Sugar lands that provides the maximum water quality and water quantity benefits to the

Caloosahatchee Estuary and Sanibel's coastal waters. The plan should include redirecting excess lake water south via a flow way and provide adequate freshwater within the basin to meet the Caloosahatchee Minimum Flows and Levels (MFL) rule.

This goal will be achieved through continued participation in the River of Grass planning process and by assembling local stakeholder support for the alternative that provides the biggest benefits to the Caloosahatchee River and estuary.

- **Reduce Stormwater Runoff to Our Coastal Waters**

Focus City Council and Staff efforts to ensure that the South Florida Water Management District adopts and implements the Southwest Florida Special Basin Rule. The Basin Rule would require more efficient stormwater treatment standards and increased use of best management practices, resulting in improved water quality. Adoption of the Basin Rule would support the recommendations of the Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council's water quality initiative to reduce stormwater runoff.

This goal will be achieved through adoption of a resolution supporting the Basin Rule and by meeting with local legislators and stakeholders to gather support for the Rule. Once adopted, City Council and staff will continue to encourage the SFWMD and DEP to integrate the Basin Rule into their respective regulatory programs.

### **III. SUSTAIN A DIVERSE HOUSING STOCK THROUGH REDEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS FOR RESORT HOUSING WHILE ENSURING PROTECTION OF THE ISLAND'S UNIQUE NATURAL SYSTEM**

- **Decisional Framework**

Develop a decisional framework that is based upon best land use practices, carrying capacity, zoning and performance standards related to density, flood elevation, building height, coverage, developed area, and setbacks.

- **Resort Properties**

Develop special site and design criterion applicable to resort properties that will ensure the protection of the community's character and the Island's ecosystems and provide for the retention and restoration of resort hotel, motel, and related accommodation properties.

- **Gulf Beach Zone**

Provide for the relocation and restoration of nonconforming resort structures that are currently located with the Gulf Beach Zone.

**FY 2010-2011**  
**CITY COUNCIL GOALS**  
ADOPTED SEPTEMBER, 21, 2010

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- **To enhance the budgeting process by including more historical trend analysis and by extending operational budgetary forecasting to five years**

In addition to forecasting the effect current decisions will have on future revenue sources and operating cost's extending the operational budget forecast to five years will provide the framework to analyze the City's capability to cover its five-year capital improvement plan. In efforts to balance budgets, often capital improvements are deferred to future years. This produces a compounding effect on future services, infrastructure deterioration, increased maintenance costs and funding requirements.

- **Protect the City's Reserve**

Diligently the City has practiced fiscal discipline to create and protect reserves to be used in true emergencies such as hurricanes and to address environmental issues such as red algae. In the current economy, many agencies are utilizing their reserves to meet normal operating costs. When true disasters strikes these practices will produce additional demands on the financially strained credit markets.

- **Complete a thorough analysis of the City's pension plans**

Due to substantial setbacks in the market, pension plans across the country experienced substantial loss in value. Additional funding is required by the City to cover the losses experienced by the City's two pension plans. A thorough analysis of the City's current plans and future impact on the City will be performed. In addition, alternative plans, variations, or options will be compared and analyzed for implementation feasibility, implementation costs and future impact on the City if implemented.

**II. STRENGTHEN THE CITY'S PARTNERSHIP'S TO SUSTAIN ESTUARY AND COASTAL WATER QUALITY**

- **Improve Water Management in South Florida**
- **Increase treatment of stormwater before discharge into coastal waters**

This effort will have regulatory, outreach and on-island project components to

address excessive nutrient loading from stormwater inputs. The proposed statewide stormwater rule and its accompanying handbook will be reviewed closely following release of the latest version by DEP anticipated in October 2010.

Recommendations for improvement will be forwarded to DEP and the process tracked to completion. Local governments will be urged to improve stormwater treatment as part of the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) program and implementation of the Basin Management Action Plan (BMAP), now underway for the Caloosahatchee basin. Funding for on-island stormwater treatment improvement projects including filter marshes and retrofitting of stormwater systems discharging to the Sanibel River basin will be applied for from State and Federal sources.

The Caloosahatchee Estuary continues to experience a number of inequities when compared to other regions of the SFWMD. These inequities include high regulatory releases to the Caloosahatchee from Lake Okeechobee, annual violations of the Caloosahatchee Minimum Flow and Level (MFL) and, uneven economic investment in water storage projects and infrastructure. To overcome these inequities the city council and staff will focus on:

- Removing the operational bias used by the District in managing high and low water flows that favor permitted water users at the expense of natural systems and the well being of the estuary. The city plan would include evaluating all legal options, developing a public action plan and increase lobbying the SFWMD board for policy change.
- Aggressively pursue and implement distributed storage and infrastructure development within the Caloosahatchee watershed, to ease high flows to the estuary. This would be accomplished by city staff in collaboration with the SFWMD by completing an actionable plan which meets the SFWMD water storage commitment.
- Increase water storage to protect our Coastal Waters
- Increase water storage to provide alternatives to direct discharge to estuaries

Hold the South Florida Water Management District accountable to its promise of providing 450,000 acre feet of additional storage in the Lake Okeechobee watershed. This effort would divert the maximum possible volume of polluted water to other areas where it is needed, rather than discharging it to the Caloosahatchee Estuary.

- **Improve Water Management in South Florida**

The economic realities have considerably changed the scope of the River of Grass Project Plan. The major water quality benefits to Sanibel are still to redirect excess lake water

south via a flowway and to provide adequate freshwater within the basin to meet the Caloosahatchee Minimum Flows and Levels rule. This goal will be achieved through continued participation in the River of Grass planning process

### **III. SUSTAIN A DIVERSE HOUSING STOCK THROUGH REDEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS FOR RESORT HOUSING WHILE ENSURING PROTECTION OF THE ISLAND'S UNIQUE NATURAL SYSTEM**

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# Fiscal Year 2011 – 2012

## Proposed City Council Goals

### I. SUSTAIN AND STRENGTHEN THE CITY'S FINANCIAL STABILITY

- **Develop a Long-term Debt Early Retirement Plan**

Develop a feasible plan to early retire the City's long term debt in order to reduce the City's annual fixed costs and to produce substantial finance cost savings for the City of Sanibel's taxpayers.

- **Develop a Facility Component Replacement Plan**

In order to preserve and protect the City's facilities periodically major components such as roofs, HVAC systems and flooring must be replaced. The plan will identify the City's facilities' components; each component's estimated replacement cost; and each component's scheduled replacement date. Procedures and funding requirements will be developed to establish a sinking fund account that will be used for the replacement of these components.

### II. Water Resources and Water Quality

#### Local Goals

- Continue to work with residents and the island's golf courses to reduce fertilizer runoff and implement Best Management Practices to improve water quality.
- Develop a well-defined plan to meet future water quality standards including numeric nutrient criteria and Total Maximum Daily Loads for the Sanibel River and Sanibel's coastal waters.

#### Regional Goals

- Work with the SFWMD and local stakeholders to implement water storage and treatment projects within the Caloosahatchee basin to help improve water quality and reduce ecological impacts associated with high and low-flow issues within the estuary. Goal: to attenuate high flow discharges and provide a clean source of water to meet the Caloosahatchee Minimum Flow and Level (MFL).
  - a. Implement cost-effective short-term projects (e.g., Lake Hicpochee, C-43 interim storage)
  - b. Support development of long-term solutions (C-43 reservoir and River of Grass)
  - c. Continue to push for dispersed and distributed water storage within the Northern Everglades and Caloosahatchee basin. Progress has been made through meetings between City staff and the SFWMD to identify storage opportunities. Strong partnerships will be critical for getting public support and moving these projects forward.

- Continue to support the implementation of enforceable water quality standards including numeric nutrient criteria and the Caloosahatchee Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) program and the Basin Management Action Plan (BMAP).
- Work with the Lee County business community and VCB to conduct an economic benefit study of the value of protecting our water resources from a water quality and water quantity standpoint. It is critical that we be able to demonstrate the value of our water resources to tourism and the local economy. Other special interests have united to defeat implementation of water quality standards based on economic impacts. The same argument needs to be made for protecting them with real facts and figures.