

**PROPOSED FY 2013-2014
CITY COUNCIL GOALS
APPROVED NOVEMBER 05, 2013**

- I. CONTINUE THE CITY'S REDEVELOPMENT WORK PLAN**

- II. SUSTAIN AND STRENGTHEN THE CITY'S FINANCIAL STABILITY**

- III. IMPROVE WATER QUALITY**

**FY 2013-2014
CITY COUNCIL GOALS**

I. REDEVELOPMENT WORK PLAN FOR THE COMMERCIAL DISTRICT

Continue the City-wide redevelopment work plan by focusing on the future success and stability of the Island's Commercial District as it relates to the existing mix of retail and service uses that accommodate fulltime and seasonal residents and visitors of Sanibel. As an outcome of this work plan and effort Staff will:

- Develop an area referred to as the "Civic Core," which would incorporate architectural and environmental design standards that reinforces the natural rural and residential character of the community, eases traffic and parking congestions, and provides for a centralized area for community events and gatherings
- Update specific redevelopment zoning and land use requirements that consider the evolution of our community and are consistent with the community's vision statement and Sanibel Plan. The specific land use issues will include permitted uses, parking, interconnectivity, non-conforming structures and setbacks

II. SUSTAIN THE STRENGTH OF THE CITY'S FINANCIAL STABILITY

Develop a long-term debt early retirement plan, identify adequate reserves to sustain the City and identify a policy to adequately track and better evaluate potential revenue that might come from Causeway toll revenues

- Continue to evaluate options to retire the City's debt in order to reduce annual fixed costs and produce substantial finance cost savings for taxpayers
- Evaluate current reserves to determine and identify a policy to adequately ~~to~~ determine appropriate levels based on risk factors, access to liquidity, insurance deductibles and current condition based on historical values
- Develop a process for evaluating, communicating and collecting toll revenues from Lee County that allows for open dialog and transparency between staffs

II WATER QUALITY and QUANTITY

Local

- Continue the education campaign for the responsible use of fertilizer in concert with Lee County, local municipalities, and other partners with the objective of enhancing public awareness
- Work with local and State legislators to reduce the impact of unreliable septic systems impact on the Caloosahatchee River and estuary

Regional

- Support all legislative actions which reduce freshwater releases from Lake Okeechobee that impact the St. Lucie and Indian River Lagoon and Caloosahatchee River and estuary

Federal or National

- Work with Federal representatives to approve and fund WRDA and associated water projects



Freshwater Discharges from Lake Okeechobee & Caloosahatchee Watershed

SANIBEL LEGISLATIVE AND FUNDING PRIORITIES

FEDERAL PRIORITIES

- 1. Fully support the 2013 Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) bill**, which includes authorization for the Caloosahatchee C-43 West Basin Reservoir Project; and appropriate the necessary funds to implement the C-43 Reservoir Project. (Reservoir will provide 170,000 acre-feet of storage within the Caloosahatchee basin and help address high and low flow issues.)
- 2. Fast track the Central Everglades Planning Project (CEPP) and get congressional support and funding for the project.** (The project will move approximately 210,000 acre-feet of water south of Lake Okeechobee and will reduce some of the damaging flows to the St. Lucie and Caloosahatchee estuaries.)
- 3. The Federal Government needs to fund their share of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP) and implement the projects** agreed to in the plan. (A majority of the lands needed for the projects have been purchased by the State and need Federal funding to move forward with the projects.)
- 4. Continue to keep pressure on the Army Corps to move as quickly as possible to rehabilitate the Herbert Hoover Dike.** (The project will protect the communities around Lake Okeechobee and provide more freeboard and temporary storage in the lake to reduce peak flows to the estuaries.)
- 5. Revisit the Lake Okeechobee Release Schedule (LORS 2008)** risk assessment to determine if there are any opportunities to minimize discharges to the estuaries in light of recent improvements in the Herbert Hoover Dike; and to reevaluate how flows to the Caloosahatchee are measured under the LORS 2008 schedule to make regulatory releases more equitable.

STATE PRIORITIES

- 1. Purchase additional lands south of Lake Okeechobee at fair market value, acquire private easements, or swap existing State-owned lands for the critical lands needed to facilitate storage, treatment and conveyance of water south into Everglades National Park.** The State currently owns 26,790 acres of land that was purchased for \$197,396,088 (\$7,400/acre) from U.S. Sugar Corp. as part of the *Reviving the River of Grass Project*, with an option to purchase an additional 153,209 acres. The State should acquire the critical lands needed to store, treat and convey water south through purchase from willing sellers, acquisition of private easements, or by swapping existing non-essential state-owned lands to acquire the footprint needed to effectively store, treat and convey water south through the Everglades Agricultural Area.
- 2. Interim storage on C-43 West Reservoir site** – Project would significantly increase the amount of water that can be stored on the C-43 West Reservoir (Berry Groves) property until the full project is completed. It would require additional infrastructure including building berms and installing larger pumps to put more water on the site. This would be considered phase I of the larger C-43 West Reservoir CERP project and could be included in the state cost share for the federal project. Estimated cost of the interim storage project is \$10 million. In addition, the 1,500 acres of land purchased as part of the Berry Groves acquisition should be used to construct a stormwater treatment area (STA) adjacent to the reservoir to treat water before it is discharged into the Caloosahatchee.
- 3. Lake Hicpochee Restoration Project** – Funds needed to complete planning and construction on north and south sides of Lake Hicpochee to increase storage and treatment. Estimated cost for planning and construction is \$20-30 million. Project will result in increased water storage and treatment within the Caloosahatchee basin.
- 4. Increase distributed storage in Kissimmee, Lake Okeechobee, and Caloosahatchee basins.** Additional funds are needed for the state to partner with large land owners in the Kissimmee, Lake Okeechobee and Caloosahatchee basins to store more water on the land so that it is not discharged to Lake Okeechobee or to the Caloosahatchee River. No cost estimate available, but new partners could be brought on as funds become available.

*Note: *The state needs to continue to fully support the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Program (CERP) projects. Our biggest relief from the freshwater releases into the Caloosahatchee are going to come from the larger federal projects, which have much larger water storage benefits and can move water south into the Everglades. The state needs to continue to work with our federal partners to come up with strategies to move more water south of Lake Okeechobee.*