CITY OF SANIBEL

RESOLUTION 16-060

A RESOLUTION OF THE SANIBEL CITY COUNCIL STRONGLY URGING THE STATE OF FLORIDA AND THE U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS TO ACCELERATE THE PLANNING AND DESIGN PROCESS FOR THE "EAA STORAGE & ASR/DECOMP PH2" PROJECT IDENTIFIED IN THE INTEGRATED DELIVERY SCHEDULE (IDS), A PROJECT THAT WILL PROVIDE ADDITIONAL STORAGE SOUTH OF LAKE OKEECHOBEE AND REDUCE THE DAMAGING HIGH-VOLUME FRESHWATER DISCHARGES TO THE COASTAL ESTUARIES; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the Florida Everglades and its coastal estuaries are an internationally unique ecosystem, a national treasure and a significant economic driver for Florida's economy; and

WHEREAS, restoration of the Everglades ecosystem and coastal estuaries is vital to Florida's future by protecting Florida's environment, economy, and drinking water supplies; and

WHEREAS, excess water from Lake Okeechobee is discharged to the Caloosahatchee and St. Lucie rivers and estuaries causing catastrophic impacts to the marine ecosystem and local economies; and

WHEREAS, Governor Scott on June 29, 2016 and June 30, 2016 issued Executive Orders 16-155 and 16-156, respectively, declaring a State of Emergency in Martin, St. Lucie, Lee and Palm Beach counties as a result of excessive freshwater discharges from Lake Okeechobee; and

WHEREAS, the University of Florida Water Institute completed an independent study commissioned by the Florida Legislature through the Senate Select Committee on the Indian River Lagoon and Lake Okeechobee basin in March 2015, titled "Options to Reduce High Volume Freshwater Flows to the St. Lucie and Caloosahatchee Estuaries and Move More Water from Lake Okeechobee to the Southern Everglades", which identified "the solution to providing relief to the estuaries is enormous increases in storage and treatment of water both north and south of the lake"; and

WHEREAS, the 2015 Integrated Delivery Schedule (IDS) prioritizes Everglades and Northern Estuaries restoration projects and includes a project titled "EAA Storage & ASR/Decomp Ph2", for which the planning process is not scheduled to begin until 2020; and

WHEREAS, the Caloosahatchee and St. Lucie estuaries, Everglades National Park and Florida Bay cannot wait until 2020 for planning to begin on additional storage, treatment and conveyance of freshwater south of Lake Okeechobee; and

WHEREAS, the citizens of Sanibel strongly urge the State of Florida and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to accelerate planning and design of the "EAA Storage & ASR/Decomp Ph2" project from 2020 to 2016/17 and begin land acquisition and construction immediately upon completion of planning and design;

NOW, THERFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Council of the City of Sanibel, Florida:

SECTION 1. The Sanibel City Council, on behalf of the City of Sanibel and its citizens, hereby registers its strong support for accelerating the planning and design process for the *EAA Storage & ASR/Decomp Ph2* project included in the 2015 Integrated Delivery Schedule from 2020 to 2016/17 to help reduce the future impacts of regulatory releases from Lake Okeechobee to the coastal estuaries. The City Clerk is hereby directed to provide a copy of this resolution to the members of the local legislative delegation, the President of the Florida Senate, the Speaker of the Florida House of Representatives, the State Association of Counties, the Florida League of Cities, the Florida League of Mayors, and the Mayors of each city within Lee County, Florida.

SECTION 2. Effective Date.
This resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

DULY PASSED AND ENACTED by the Council of the City of Sanibel, Florida, this 19th day of July, 2016.

AUTHENTICATION:

Kevin Ruane, Mayor

Pamela Smith, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM: Kenneth B. Cuyler, City Attorney

Date 7/19/16

Vote of Council Members:

Ruane	yea
Denham	yea
Goss	yea
Harrity	yea
Jennings	excused

Date filed with City Clerk: July 19, 2016