9. **WATER QUALITY**

a. Regional Planning resolution support the congressional action regarding Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) Programs (Vice Mayor Denham)

SWFRPC RESOLUTION #2010-05

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF CONGRESSIONAL ACTION REGARDING PROPERTY ASSESSED CLEAN ENERGY (PACE) PROGAMS

Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council (SWFRPC)
Florida/Lee County/Ft. Myers

WHEREAS, persistent unemployment, particularly in the construction industry, continues to burden our families;

WHEREAS, energy security and reliance on fossil fuels continue to threaten public health and the environment;

WHEREAS, residential and commercial buildings consume nearly 40% of all electricity and are responsible for 40% of U.S. annual carbon dioxide emissions;

WHEREAS, utility bills represent a major cost of operation for home and business owners;

WHEREAS, investing in cost-effective, energy efficient and renewable energy improvements to homes and business can save energy, cut utility bills, create local jobs, reduce reliance on fossil fuels and reduce greenhouse gas emissions;

WHEREAS, the upfront costs and potentially long payback periods prevent property owners from making otherwise cost-effective clean energy improvements;

WHEREAS, Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) financing programs are an innovative local government solution to help property owners finance energy efficient and renewable energy improvements to their homes and business;

WHEREAS, Whitehouse and the U.S. Department of Energy support PACE and have dedicated $150 million to develop local PACE programs and issued guidelines to ensure that PACE programs meet safety and soundness requirements and adequately protect both bond buyers and property owners;

WHEREAS, despite PACE's greatest promise, the Federal Housing Finance Agency (FHFA) and the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency (OCC) on July 6th issued statements that immediately forced existing PACE programs to halt operations and froze the development of PACE programs nationwide.

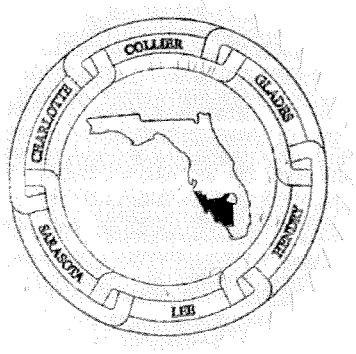
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: that the Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council respectfully urges the Florida congressional delegation to support legislation that clearly guarantees local governments the right to assess special taxes for clean energy programs and restore the promise of PACE.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Council this 16th day of September, 2010.

SOUTHWEST FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

Mick Denham, Chair

ATTEST:



Kenneth Heatherington, Executive Director