

Proclamation

Whereas, the South Florida Water Management District scheduled a land acquisition closing on a 12,000-acre property known as "Lykes" to support the Kissimmee River Restoration on July 20, 2006; and,

Whereas, the South Florida Water Management District required the release of \$34million dollars to complete the transaction from the State of Florida; and,

Whereas, through the pre-audit review of the release of funds two days prior to the scheduled acquisition, the State of Florida discovered challenges that could have potentially delayed the closing of the project; and,

Whereas, through the leadership of Deena Reppen, Chief of Staff, Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Eva Armstrong, Director, Florida Division of State Lands, John Outland, Environmental Administrator and their respective staffs, the State of Florida resolved these challenges; and,

Whereas, in particular, two representatives from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Lydia Louis and Donna Ruffner, deserve specific recognition for their tireless efforts to identify the issues, develop solutions and coordinate communication between both agencies; and,

Whereas, Lydia Louis' and Donna Ruffner's extraordinary efforts ensured that all necessary funds were released from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection to the South Florida Water Management District in time to close on the transaction; and

Whereas, due to their efforts, the South Florida Water Management District successfully closed on the last major piece of property needed for Kissimmee River Restoration;

In testimony thereof, the Governing Board of the South Florida Water Management District have hereunto proclaim that the South Florida Water Management District extends its great appreciation to the State of Florida and specifically to Lydia Louis and Donna Ruffner for their contributions toward this significant accomplishment on this 9th day of August, 2006.

Kevin McCarty
Chair

Irela Bagné
Vice-Chair