

**SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2009- \_\_\_\_\_**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE GOVERNING BOARD OF THE SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT COMMENDING THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION'S LAND ACQUISITION PROGRAM FOR THE PICAYUNE STRAND RESTORATION PROJECT; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

**WHEREAS**, the Picayune Strand Restoration Project (Picayune Project) is a component of Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan that covers approximately 86 square miles of former cypress-dotted wetlands in Collier County, Florida; and

**WHEREAS**, the South Florida Water Management District is the local sponsor for the Picayune Project; and

**WHEREAS**, the Picayune Project includes the failed Southern Golden Gate Estates residential development that intercepted the historic wetland flows and over drained the landscape with its 290 miles of roads and 48 miles of canals; and

**WHEREAS**, the Picayune Project will restore seasonal slow-moving sheet flow, improve wetland wildlife and vegetation, rejuvenate freshwater aquifers, and improve the Ten Thousand Islands National Wildlife Refuge; and

**WHEREAS**, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection took on the challenge of acquiring the approximately 55,000 acres of land needed for the Picayune Project, which entailed acquiring almost 20,000 parcels from 17,000 landowners, many of whom reside out of state or in foreign countries; and

**WHEREAS**, the Department's land acquisition efforts have spanned more than 20 years with land acquisitions under the Conservation and Recreational Lands, Florida P-2000, and Florida Forever land purchase programs and the Department has expended approximately \$180 million dollars, including \$38 million in grants from the U.S Department of Interior; and

**WHEREAS**, this monumental land acquisition effort merits special recognition.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BOARD OF THE SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT:**

**Section 1.** Deborah Poppell and her exceptional staff at the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Division of State Lands, and in particular, Judy Warrick, are hereby commended for their dedication, tireless efforts, and singular contribution to the Picayune Project.

**Section 2.** Greg Knecht, Director, and John Outland, Environmental Administrator, in the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Office of Ecosystem Projects, also

deserve special recognition in expediting the development of the Cooperation Agreement with the South Florida Water Management District and associated land certification requirements so that the State lands are available for incorporation into the Picayune Project.

**Section 3.** Such cooperative efforts of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and the South Florida Water Management District significantly enhance the scope and pace of Everglades restoration.

**Section 4.** This resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

**PASSED** and **ADOPTED** this 15<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2009.

SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT  
DISTRICT, BY ITS GOVERNING BOARD

By:

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Eric Buermann, Chair

ATTEST:

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District Clerk

Approved as to form:

By:

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Office of Counsel