ADDITIONAL ITEM

3B

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

PLACEMENT: Proclamations, Official Acts and Special Presentations	**PRESET:**
AGENDA ITEM DATES:	
MEETING DATE:7/15/2008 COMPLETE BY:6/18/2008	COUNTY ATTORNEY:6/23/2008 DCA AND ACA:6/30/2008

TITLE:
ADOPT A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MARTIN COUNTY, FLORIDA, URGING THE SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT (SFWMD) AND THE US ARMY CORP OF ENGINEERS TO EXPEDITE THE COMPLETION OF THE LAND ACQUISITION AND CONSTRUCTION OF THE COMPONENTS OF THE INDIAN RIVER LAGOON SOUTH APPROVED PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION REPORT, AN ESSENTIAL COMPONENT OF THE COMPREHENSIVE EVERGLADES RESTORATION PLAN (CERP)

REQUESTED BY: Honorable Board of County Commissioners	**Administration:** Gary N. Roderick, Chief Office of Water Quality	**PREPARED BY:** Paul Millar Water Quality Manager

DOCUMENT(S) REQUIRING ACTION:
Resolution

QUASI-JUDICIAL:
NO

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

A resolution of the Board of County Commissioners of Martin County is requested urging the SFWMD and the Army Corp of Engineers to expedite the completion of the land acquisition and construction of the Indian River Lagoon South approved Project Implementation Report, an essential component of CERP, as well as, a definitive timeline related to these issues.

APPROVAL:

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR
ASSISTANT COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR
COUNTY ATTORNEY

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

TITLE

Adopt a resolution urging the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) and the Army Corp of Engineers to expedite the completion of the land acquisition and construction of the components of the Indian River Lagoon South approved Project Implementation Report, an essential component of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP)

BACKGROUND/RELATED STRATEGIC GOAL

Martin County has long been a partner with the SFWMD and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACOE) on the development and implementation of the Indian River Lagoon (IRL) South Plan. The C-44 reservoir/STA complex is perhaps the biggest component of that Plan which will hold and treat local basin runoff and help protect the St. Lucie River. The SFWMD had previously signified their commitment to this project by making it an ACCERER8 project. The land has been acquired in large part due to the willingness of Martin County taxpayers to tax themselves and to partner with the SFWMD and the USACOE on this essential project.

The ground breaking occurred on site in early 2006. Permits were acquired and construction was to begin in June 2007. Construction has not yet been initiated on this component, or any other of the IRL CERP.

ISSUES

The SFWMD had blamed the delay on uncertainties associated with the State's Property Tax Reform. Meanwhile focus shifted away from the IRL to the Northern Everglades Legislation and more recently has shifted again to the US Sugar land acquisition proposal.

Martin County would like to recommit its strong partnership with the SFWMD and USACOE and request that a definitive timeline for project construction be developed and shared with the Martin County Board of County Commissioners and it citizens.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

RECOMMENDATION

Board approves the Resolution and presents it to the SFWMD Governing Board and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

ALTERNATIVE RECOMMENDATIONS

Give alternate direction.

FISCAL IMPACT

RECOMMENDATION

No fiscal impact is associated with this action.

Funding Source	County Funds	Non-County Funds	Authorization
Subtotal			

Project Total	**N/A**

ALTERNATIVE RECOMMENDATIONS
Undetermined until alternate direction is given.

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
MARTIN COUNTY, FLORIDA

RESOLUTION NUMBER 08-XXX

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MARTIN COUNTY, FLORIDA, URGING THE SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT (SFWMD) AND THE US ARMY CORP OF ENGINEERS TO EXPEDITE THE COMPLETION OF THE LAND ACQUISITION AND CONSTRUCTION OF THE COMPONENTS OF THE INDIAN RIVER LAGOON SOUTH APPROVED PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION REPORT, AN ESSENTIAL COMPONENT OF THE COMPREHENSIVE EVERGLADES RESTORATION PLAN (CERP)

WHEREAS, the greater Everglades ecosystem, spanning from the Kissimmee River Valley to Florida Bay, is a national resource and international treasure; and

WHEREAS, Martin County supports Everglades restoration and recognizes it as an important part of the future economic well being of South Florida; and

WHEREAS, the Everglades Restoration and related projects will not only improve environmental conditions and quality of life, but also will improve flood protection and water supply for more than 7 million Floridians and millions of visitors to the South Florida area.

WHEREAS, the St. Lucie Estuary and Southern Indian River Lagoon continue to be degraded by high water levels and excessive freshwater discharges and nutrients carried and redirected by drainage canals constructed by the Central and Southern Flood Control project; and

WHEREAS, Martin County has a record of supporting local, state, and federal programs to improve the environmental health of the St. Lucie Estuary and the Indian River Lagoon and their associated ecosystems, which are critical to the economic and social environment of South Florida; and

WHEREAS, The citizens of Martin County have contributed over $75 Million of local tax revenue to help fund the acquisition of lands necessary for preservation and Indian River Lagoon South CERP construction components. Specifically, Martin County paid $28M to the South Florida Water Management District for acquisition of the C-44 Reservoir/STA complex – a project which has final design and permits in hand but remains inactive.

Now, therefore, be it resolved by Martin County that:

Section 1. The Board of County Commissioners is proud of their strong partnership with the SFWMD and restates its enthusiastic support for all components of the Indian River Lagoon South CERP Plan.

Section 2. The Board of County Commissioners urges the SFWMD to produce a definitive timeline for IRL implementation and to proceed with construction of the C-44 Reservoir/STA Complex immediately.

Duly Adopted this 15th Day of July, 2008

ATTEST:

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
MARTIN COUNTY, FLORIDA

_____
MARSHA EWING, CLERK

_____
DOUG SMITH, CHAIR

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND CORRECTNESS

_____
STEPHEN FRY, COUNTY ATTORNEY