

RESOLUTION 2011 - 048

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF SOUTHWEST RANCHES, FLORIDA, SUPPORTING THE CONTINUED FUNDING BY THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE AND THE FLORIDA LEGISLATURE FOR THE REPAIRS AND CERTIFICATION OF THE EAST COAST PROTECTIVE LEVEE BY THE SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the Town is committed to protecting its residents and properties against flooding and providing effective water management; and

WHEREAS, the South Florida Water Management District (hereinafter "SFWMD") along with the South and Central Broward Drainage Districts act as the multipurpose water management districts whose jurisdictional boundaries include the entire limits of the Town; and

WHEREAS, SFWMD is responsible for the operation, maintenance and repair of the East Coast Protective Levee (hereinafter referred to as "ECPL"), which extends from Lake Okeechobee to Homestead, a distance of over 100 miles; and

WHEREAS, the ECPL provides a physical barrier between the urban population of South Florida and the Florida Everglades, and protects South Florida communities from the potential of catastrophic flooding during hurricanes, tropical storms or other major rainfall events; and

WHEREAS, the ECPL provides additional benefits to the residents of South Florida by retaining water in adjacent conservation areas during the dry season, and thereby helps to preserve the regional water supply; and

WHEREAS, SFWMD is currently in the process of repairing the ECPL and certifying that the portion of the ECPL that extends across Broward County, a distance of approximately 38 miles, meets the requirements of National Flood Insurance Program; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (herein after referred to as "FEMA") is in the process of updating the Flood Insurance Rate Maps (herein after referred to as "FIRMs") for Broward County; and

WHEREAS, the FIRMs establish flood zones and base flood elevations and are the basis for establishing flood insurance rates for the residents of Broward County and the Town of Southwest Ranches; and

WHEREAS, FEMA's current update to the FIRMs in Broward County will be based on a Provisionally Accredited Levee (hereinafter referred to as a "PAL") due to

the fact that SFWMD has not completed the necessary repairs and certification required by FEMA for a full and permanent accreditation for the Broward County portion of the ECPL; and

WHEREAS, the Town fully supports SFWMD's efforts to repair and certify the Broward County portion of the ECPL and strongly encourages the Governor's Office and members of the Florida State Legislature to continue funding this very important initiative; and

WHEREAS, the SFWMD will have two (2) years from the date of submittal to FEMA for the PAL designation to complete the necessary repairs and to certify the Broward County portion of the ECPL to FEMA; and

WHEREAS, if SFWMD fails to meet the two-year deadline to complete the necessary repairs and to certify the Broward County portion of the ECPL to FEMA, then FEMA will re-issue the FIRMs for Broward County and will assume that the ECPL is nonexistent, and thereby establish base flood elevations and flood insurance rates that are much higher than with a properly certified levee system in place; and

WHEREAS, the failure to fund this critical initiative by the Governor's Office and Florida State Legislature could result in potential economic hardship for Southwest Ranches residents; and

WHEREAS, it is imperative that SFWMD complete the repairs to ECPL and certify the Broward County portion of the ECPL to FEMA, and thus ensure that Florida's communities are better protected against catastrophic flooding, and that South Florida's water supply is preserved during drought conditions, and that Southwest Ranches residents receive the most representative flood insurance rates under the National Flood Insurance Program; and

WHEREAS, the South Broward Drainage District has submitted letters to the Governor's Office and members of the Florida State Legislature informing them of this issue and encouraging them to continue funding this critical initiative.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Town Council of the Town of Southwest Ranches, Florida:

Section 1. The above-referenced recitals are true and correct and are incorporated herein by reference.

Section 2. The Town shall submit a letter to the Governor's Office and members of the Florida State Legislature informing them of the extreme importance for South Florida Water Management District to complete the repairs to the Broward County portion of the ECPL and certify to FEMA that the Broward County portion of the ECPL meets the requirements of the National Flood Insurance Program and encouraging the Governor's Office and the Florida State Legislature to ensure that funding is provided for this critical initiative.

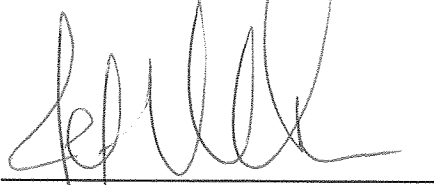
Section 3. The Town, through the distribution of this Resolution, shall encourage other Broward County Drainage Districts, Municipalities, and governmental agencies to adopt a similar resolution and/or express their support for funding of the Broward County portion of the ECPL to the Governor's Office and Florida State Legislature.

Section 4. This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Town Council of the Town of Southwest Ranches, Florida, this 31st day of March, 2011, on a motion by Council Member Steve Breitkreuz and seconded by Council Member Doug McKay.

Nelson	<u>Y</u>
Fisikelli	<u>Y</u>
Breitkreuz	<u>Y</u>
Jablonski	<u>Y</u>
McKay	<u>Y</u>

Ayes	<u>5</u>
Nays	<u>0</u>
Absent	<u>0</u>
Abstaining	<u>0</u>



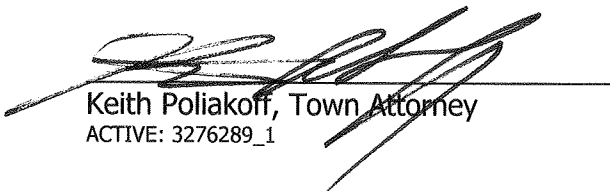
Jeff Nelson, Mayor

ATTEST:



Debra Doré-Thomas, CMC, Town Clerk

Approved as to Form and Correctness:



Keith Poliakoff, Town Attorney
ACTIVE: 3276289_1