

RESOLUTION NO. 085 - 2017

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MONROE COUNTY, FLORIDA, REQUESTING SUPPORT FOR THE FEDERAL ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY (“EPA”) AND THEIR IMPORTANT ROLE IN THE *FLORIDA KEYS NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY’S WATER QUALITY PROTECTION PROGRAM* THROUGH FEDERAL CONGRESSIONAL APPROPRIATIONS IN FY18 FUNDING; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

**WHEREAS**, good water quality is critical to the health of coral reefs and all the habitats of the *Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary (FKNMS, the Sanctuary)*. Changes in water quality, including increases in levels of specific nutrients, can have serious negative effects on marine life; and

**WHEREAS**, a healthy marine environment is essential and the most important contributor to the economy of the Florida Keys; and

**WHEREAS**, the role of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is unique within the FKNMS because it is clearly specified and written into the *Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary Act* through the *Water Quality Protection Program (WQPP)*; and

**WHEREAS**, the purpose of the WQPP is to identify and implement priority corrective actions within a compliance schedule to address point and nonpoint sources of pollution to maintain the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the Sanctuary. The program also includes the restoration and maintenance of a balanced, indigenous population of corals, shellfish, fish and wildlife, and recreational activities in and on the water; and

**WHEREAS**, since 1995, appropriations from Congress to the Florida Keys EPA administrator for implementation of the WQPP have averaged \$2.1 million per year to implement essential monitoring services for coral, seagrass and water quality; and an additional \$5 million has been applied to important research projects and planning; and

**WHEREAS**, the monitoring program is the “glue” that holds the WQPP together and Monroe County recognizes the need for the continuation of the long-term monitoring, research, and special studies programs to fulfill the mission of the WQPP; and

**WHEREAS**, Monroe County has invested \$7 million for canal demonstration projects and considers the EPA a valuable partner; and

**WHEREAS**, Monroe County was previously awarded Grant Agreement X7-00D26914-0 for \$75,000 cash from EPA in support of two environmental education programs for canals; and

**WHEREAS**, Monroe County was previously awarded Grant Agreement X7-00D40915-0 for \$73,909.66 from EPA for improving water quality in residential canals; and

**WHEREAS**, Monroe County was recently awarded Grant Agreement X7-00D40915-2 for \$110,582.00 from EPA to fund phase IIIA of the *Canal Management Master Plan*; and

**WHEREAS**, Monroe County was recently awarded Grant Agreement X7-00D41115 for \$13,645 from EPA to fund the environmental education outreach program Florida Keys Water Watch; and

**WHEREAS**, EPA awarded a grant of \$300,000 to FIU to monitor water quality and nutrients in Monroe County's demonstration canals; and

**WHEREAS**, information from these EPA funded long-term monitoring programs provides critical information into the complex balance of the marine ecosystem in the Florida Keys and also allows researchers and managers to detect changes in the Sanctuary from upstream influences; and

**WHEREAS**, Monroe County and the Florida Keys greatly benefit from the EPA programs, staff and presence in Monroe County;

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MONROE COUNTY, FLORIDA:**

**Section 1.** The Board requests Federal Legislative support for the Environmental Protection Agency's role in the *Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary Water Quality Protection Program* through Federal Congressional Appropriations in FY18 funding.

**Section 2.** The Board directs the County Administrator to publicize the Board's position on the Environmental Protection Agency's importance to the *Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary Water Quality Protection Program* to the general public.

**Section 3.** A copy of this Resolution shall be immediately transmitted to Florida and Federal Legislators to prompt immediate action with transmittal to be coordinated by the Monroe County Sustainability Coordinator.

**Section 4. SEVERABILITY.** If any portion of this Resolution is determined by any Court to be invalid, the invalid portion shall be stricken, and such striking shall not affect the validity of the remainder of this Resolution. If any Court determines that this Resolution, or any portion hereof, cannot be legally applied to any individual(s), group(s), entity (ies), property (ies), or circumstance(s), such determination shall not affect the applicability hereof to any other individual, group, entity, property, or circumstance.

**Section 5. EFFECTIVE DATE.** This Resolution shall become effective upon adoption.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** by the Board of County Commissioners of Monroe County, Florida at a regular meeting of said Board held on the 15<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2017 in Key Largo, Florida.

Mayor George Neugent	<u>Yes</u>
Mayor Pro Tem David Rice	<u>Yes</u>
Commissioner Danny Kolhage	<u>Yes</u>
Commissioner Heather Carruthers	<u>Yes</u>
Commissioner Sylvia Murphy	<u>Yes</u>



Attest: Kevin Madok, Clerk  
By: Jamie Stanwick  
Deputy Clerk

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
OF MONROE COUNTY, FLORIDA**

By: George L. Neugent  
Mayor

FILED FOR RECORD  
2017 MAR 17 AM 10:33  
LLK, CIR. CLERK  
MONROE COUNTY, FLA

MONROE COUNTY  
APPROVED  
[Signature]  
ASSISTANT COUNTY CLERK  
Date 3/9/17