



# FACT SHEET

DECEMBER 9, 2014

## PROPOSED: “FLORIDA KEYS ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP BILL”

- *Passage of State Constitutional Amendment 1 in November 2014 means that upwards of \$650M will be dedicated each year to the environmental projects in the State. In light of Amendment 1, this is an initiative to position the Florida Keys, one of the State’s most valuable environmental treasures, for a dedicated portion of those monies.*
- *The plan is to develop a comprehensive environmental bill for the Florida Keys -- something like “Florida Keys Environmental Stewardship Act.” The primary purpose of the bill is to establish a dedicated annual amount of funding from Amendment 1 funds to the Florida Keys to address our most significant environmental needs, namely:*
  - *The remaining water quality improvement projects we need to complete (wastewater, storm water, and canal restoration) to improve our water resources, and*
  - *The importance of our land acquisition needs for conservation and endangered species and habitat purposes, and to prevent takings issues.*
- *The amount of the authorization has not been determined. However, County Administrator Roman Gastesi has proposed an authorization amount of \$400M -- \$20M per year over 20 years. The ultimate authorization and annual appropriation amounts depend upon what our total need is and how much we can reasonably spend in a year – and in continued consultation with the local governments and with House leadership.*
- *\$400M may sound like a lot of money, but keep in mind that of the \$16B expected in Amendment 1 funds over the next 20 years, \$400M is only 2.5%. It’s also not a huge number when we really look at the water quality and land acquisition needs of all of the Key’s entities; we all know they far surpass \$400M. The bill will highlight the importance of our land and water resources, not only the environmentally but also economically, to make the argument for the authorization.*
- *How the bill relates to/is coordinated with the Mayfield authorization is an important strategy question. This again requires consultation and coordination with the local governments. The new authorization will likely encompass the existing Mayfield authorization and its remaining \$100M.*

- Very importantly, the bill will maintain the current ILA distribution amounts for the Mayfield authorization exactly as they are:

<b>Entity</b>	<b>Mayfield Years 4 and 5 Combined Distribution Amount</b>
<i>Islamorada</i>	\$ 17.5M
<i>Marathon</i>	\$ 17.5M
<i>KLWTD</i>	\$ 26M
<i>Monroe</i>	\$ 29M
<i>Key West</i>	\$ 9M
<i>Key Colony Beach</i>	\$ 1M
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$100M</b>

- *We have a draft of the bill available. This is just a first pass at the language. The specifics are not yet included like the authorization amount and the annual appropriation amounts -- more changes and continued word-smithing are expected as we continue to consult on it.*
- *Next steps: to bill drafting and eventually, filing. Also, the local governments should start compiling their water quality and land acquisition needs, so that we can include those in the intent and findings section of the bill.*

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