



Joint Resolutions of the Treasure Coast and South Florida Regional Planning Councils

***REPRESENTING THE LOCAL GOVERNMENTS OF MONROE, MIAMI-DADE, BROWARD, PALM BEACH,
MARTIN, ST. LUCIE, AND INDIAN RIVER COUNTIES, FLORIDA***

Passed on October 25, 2019

RESOLUTION TCSF #19-01

A JOINT RESOLUTION SUPPORTING FULL APPROPRIATION OF STATE AND LOCAL HOUSING TRUST FUNDS FOR HOUSING

RESOLUTION TCSF #19-02

A JOINT RESOLUTION URGING THAT ANY REAUTHORIZATION OF THE NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE PROGRAM MUST INCLUDE MEANINGFUL AFFORDABILITY PROTECTIONS FOR ALL POLICY HOLDERS, SPECIFICALLY A LOWER CAP ON ANNUAL INCREASES.

RESOLUTION TCSF #19-03

A JOINT RESOLUTION SUPPORTING LEGISLATION THAT WILL QUANTIFY AND ADDRESS THE CURRENT AND PROJECTED DEFICIT IN FUNDING NEEDED FOR WATER AND WASTEWATER INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT TO ACCOMMODATE FLORIDA'S GROWING POPULATION AND PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT

RESOLUTION TCSF #19-04

A JOINT RESOLUTION SUPPORTING COLLABORATION WITH STATEWIDE ORGANIZATIONS, STATE AGENCIES, AND OTHER PARTNERS TO INCREASE AWARENESS OF BIOSOLIDS MANAGEMENT ISSUES IN FLORIDA AND PRIORITIZE THE REDUCTION AND EVENTUAL ELIMINATION OF THE LAND APPLICATION OF HUMAN WASTEWATER BIOSOLIDS; AND URGING THE GOVERNOR AND FLORIDA LEGISLATURE TO ESTABLISH A PILOT PROJECTS PROGRAM FOR FUNDING NEW STATE OF THE ART WASTEWATER TREATMENT TECHNOLOGIES TO IMPROVE RECOVERY, PROVIDE MORE EFFICIENT USE OF HUMAN WASTEWATER BIOSOLIDS, AND REDUCE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

RESOLUTION TCSF #19-05

A JOINT RESOLUTION URGING THE GOVERNOR AND FLORIDA LEGISLATURE TO ESTABLISH A LONG-TERM, RECURRING REVENUE SOURCE TO PROVIDE ADEQUATE AND FLEXIBLE FUNDING FOR CORAL REEF DISEASE INTERVENTION AND RESTORATION AND TO BETTER ADDRESS HARMFUL ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS ENABLING THE DISEASE EPIDEMIC CRITICALLY DAMAGING THE FLORIDA REEF TRACT, WHICH CONSISTS OF THE SOVEREIGN SUBMERGED LANDS AND STATE WATERS OFFSHORE OF MONROE, MIAMI-DADE, BROWARD, PALM BEACH, AND MARTIN COUNTIES; AND SUPPORTING FEDERAL LEGISLATION FOR INCREASED FUNDING OF RESPONSE ACTIVITIES AND CODIFICATION OF THE CORAL REEF TASK FORCE



RESOLUTION TCSF #19-01

A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SOUTH FLORIDA AND TREASURE COAST REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCILS REPRESENTING THE LOCAL GOVERNMENTS OF MONROE, MIAMI-DADE, BROWARD, PALM BEACH, MARTIN, ST. LUCIE, AND INDIAN RIVER COUNTIES, FLORIDA; SUPPORTING FULL APPROPRIATION OF STATE AND LOCAL HOUSING TRUST FUNDS FOR HOUSING

WHEREAS, the South Florida and Treasure Coast Regional Planning Councils' seven county geographical area is comprised of Broward, Indian River, Martin, Miami-Dade, Monroe, Palm Beach, and St. Lucie counties and 122 municipalities, which contain over 6.7 million residents or nearly one-third of the State's population, responsible for generating over one-third of the State's gross domestic product; and

WHEREAS, the Councils are multi-purpose regional governmental entities with policy responsibility in the areas of affordable housing, economic development, emergency preparedness, energy, regional health, natural resources, urban planning, and regional transportation; and

WHEREAS, a diversity of housing options along income ranges is an essential component of economic development and new job creation; and

WHEREAS, college graduates and entry-level hires who would otherwise relocate or stay in Southeast Florida are leaving the region due, in part, to high housing costs; and

WHEREAS, rising property values, low wages, and high transportation costs are pricing new workers and businesses out of Southeast Florida and exacerbating an existing housing crisis; and

WHEREAS, high housing costs mean that households have less money for nutritious food and health care, education, transportation, family emergencies, dependent care, and other necessities, and can lead to homelessness, stress and depression, and economic and family insecurity; and

WHEREAS, the 2018 ALICE Report (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed) by the United Way of Florida defines ALICE households as households that earn more than the Federal Poverty Level but less than what it costs to survive in the state; and

WHEREAS, the 2018 ALICE Report indicates the following percentages for residents in poverty and ALICE households in Southeast Florida: Indian River 51%, Martin 38%, St. Lucie 51%, Palm Beach 46%, Broward 50%, Miami-Dade 59%, and Monroe 42%, and

WHEREAS, Florida is experiencing a homeownership rate of 65.5%, which while it is greater than the prior year rate of 64.1% may be moving back down again. This further defines its existing affordable housing crisis; and

WHEREAS, South Florida's rental affordability crisis was found to be the worst in the nation according to The State of the Nation's Housing Report by the Harvard Joint Center for Housing Studies; and

WHEREAS, affordable housing is housing that is affordable to the elderly, young families with children, and essential workers including firefighters, police officers, teachers, and other workers that drive the region's service and professional economy; and

WHEREAS, the William E. Sadowski Affordable Housing Act of 1992 deliberately used the documentary stamp tax as its revenue source because of its nexus with the development of housing and because the source of funding needed to grow to keep pace with escalating land and housing costs; and

WHEREAS, the William E. Sadowski Affordable Housing Act has worked as planned, providing needed revenues into the State and Local Housing Trust Funds; and

WHEREAS, the Governor and Legislature provided full funding from the Housing Trust Funds every year from Fiscal Year 1992-1993 through Fiscal Year 2002-2003; and

WHEREAS, since that time, the Legislature has failed to appropriate all the housing trust fund monies for housing; and

WHEREAS, it is projected that during Fiscal Year 2020-2021, the documentary stamp tax will generate more than \$350 million for the State and Local Housing Trust Funds; and

WHEREAS, the full appropriation of the State and Local Housing Trust Funds would create approximately 30,000 jobs and \$4.4 billion dollars of positive economic benefit for Florida; and

WHEREAS, more than \$2 billion for affordable housing has been diverted from state and local housing programs by the Florida Legislature over the past sixteen years to other programs; and

WHEREAS, Florida's affordable housing needs far exceeded the funds available prior to the exacerbation of affordable housing need related to Hurricane Irma and Hurricane Michael.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SOUTH FLORIDA AND TREASURE COAST REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCILS THAT:

Section 1. The South Florida and Treasure Coast Regional Planning Councils strongly urge that the Florida Legislature support state and local housing programs by appropriating 100% of the monies deposited in the State and Local Housing Trust Funds for housing; and

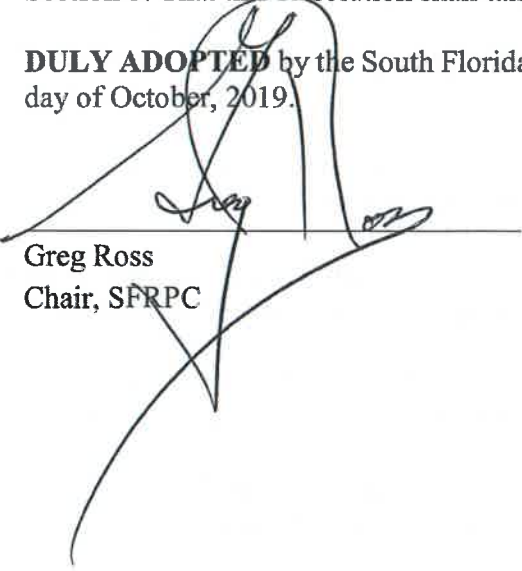
Section 2. The South Florida and Treasure Coast Regional Planning Councils strongly urge that the Governor support full appropriation of the funds in the State and Local Housing Trust Funds for housing; and

Section 3. The South Florida and Treasure Coast Regional Planning Councils strongly urge that all local governments, economic development organizations, the Florida League of Cities, the Florida Association of Counties, and other public, private, non-profit, and philanthropic partners adopt this position as one of their top, "must have" priorities for the upcoming 2020 Florida Legislative Session and beyond, and deploy their state legislative advocacy staff and lobbying teams to secure the support of the Florida Legislature and Governor for appropriating 100% of the monies available in the State and Local Housing Trust Funds for housing; and

Section 4. The South Florida and Treasure Coast Regional Planning Councils strongly urge that base allocations be maintained for the 26 "constrained counties," but that the "lottery system" of distributing affordable housing dollars be eliminated and replaced with an allocation system that prioritizes and formulates distribution based on actual needs; and

Section 5. That this Resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption hereof.

DULY ADOPTED by the South Florida and Treasure Coast Regional Planning Councils this 25th day of October, 2019.



Greg Ross
Chair, SFRPC



Susan Adams
Chair, TCRPC



RESOLUTION TCSF #19-02

A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SOUTH FLORIDA AND TREASURE COAST REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCILS REPRESENTING THE LOCAL GOVERNMENTS OF MONROE, MIAMI-DADE, BROWARD, PALM BEACH, MARTIN, ST. LUCIE, AND INDIAN RIVER COUNTIES, FLORIDA; URGING THAT ANY REAUTHORIZATION OF THE NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE PROGRAM MUST INCLUDE MEANINGFUL AFFORDABILITY PROTECTIONS FOR ALL POLICY HOLDERS, SPECIFICALLY A LOWER CAP ON ANNUAL INCREASES.

WHEREAS, the South Florida and Treasure Coast Regional Planning Councils' seven-county geographical area is comprised of Broward, Indian River, Martin, Miami-Dade, Monroe, Palm Beach, and St. Lucie counties and 122 municipalities, which contain over 6.7 million residents or nearly one-third of the State's population, responsible for generating over one-third of the State's gross domestic product; and

WHEREAS, flooding is the number one natural disaster in the United States; and

WHEREAS, the National Flood Insurance Program ("NFIP") is a program created by Congress to mitigate future flood losses across the United States, by providing access to affordable flood insurance protection for property owners and to provide an insurance alternative to disaster assistance to meet the increasing costs of repairing damage to buildings and their contents caused by floods; and

WHEREAS, the NFIP must be reauthorized by Congress every five years. Congress has authorized numerous short-term extensions of the program, with the current extension set to expire on November 21, 2019; and

WHEREAS, the NFIP maintains a significant role in providing financial protection against flood events to Florida's residential and commercial property owners; and

WHEREAS, the State of Florida has the highest number of NFIP policies, with over 1.7 million policies and 35% of the national portfolio; the highest insured value at \$442 billion; the highest annual premiums paid at \$976 million; and is a "net donor" to the program; and

WHEREAS, Southeast Florida has 760,000 NFIP policy holders, \$187 billion in insured value and pays \$351 million in annual premiums; and

WHEREAS, the Councils recognize that the reauthorization of the National Flood Insurance Program must strike a balance between affordability of the program with the need for fiscal solvency; and

WHEREAS, key issues must be handled properly during the reauthorization process to avoid the unintended consequences felt in 2013 following the passage of the Biggert-Waters Act; and

WHEREAS, unless reauthorized properly, the loss of the NFIP or drastic premium increases will threaten all of coastal and riverine America as new FEMA flood maps are unveiled in coming years; and

WHEREAS, the Florida Building Code requires communities to ensure that “new buildings and structures in flood hazard areas are designed and constructed to resist the effects of flood hazards and flood loads” including existing buildings undergoing substantial improvement or repair; and

WHEREAS, the Florida Building Code is consistently ranked by the Insurance Institute for Business and Home Safety, a non-profit organization funded by the insurance industry, as the strongest among 18 hurricane prone states; and

WHEREAS, FEMA was scheduled to launch a new risk rating system on April 1, 2020 to address the outdated traditional mapping process. Risk Rating 2.0 will determine a customer’s flood risk by incorporating multiple rating characteristics including types of flood risk (storm surge, intense rainfall, etc.), the distance a building is from the coast or other flooding source, and the cost to rebuild a home – all factors that are likely to subject coastal communities to higher premiums; and

WHEREAS, the strength of the Florida Building Code should be taken into consideration as a rating characteristic when determining flood risk in Florida; and

WHEREAS, robust affordability protections are further warranted by FEMA’s new Risk Rating 2.0 pricing policy, to go into effect in October 2021; and

WHEREAS, the National Flood Insurance Program reauthorization legislation should require that the upward pressures on NFIP premiums from Risk Rating 2.0, or FEMA’s remapping efforts be taken into consideration to ensure that NFIP rates are affordable; and

WHEREAS, the Councils believe that the caps on current annual increases (18% on primary residences and 25% on rental properties, commercial properties and second homes) are unsustainable for NFIP policy holders and that a lower cap, providing a more gradual and reasonable glide path of increases, provides greater economic stability and fairness; and

WHEREAS, the Councils believe it is imperative that Congress include in any reauthorization legislation a significantly lower cap on annual percentage increase for premiums, and specifically supports a 5% cap on annual increases on any policy, inclusive of surcharges and fees, especially given potential rate increases due to FEMA’s Risk Rating 2.0 initiative.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SOUTH FLORIDA AND TREASURE COAST REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCILS THAT:

We urge Congress to provide for a long-term NFIP reauthorization package that provides:

- **Inclusion** – Congressional committees of jurisdiction should include local and state stakeholders to ensure that legislation for NFIP reauthorization provides long-term reauthorization with a focus on affordability, efficiency, fairness, accountability and sustainability of the program.
- **Affordability** – Rate increases should be limited to no more than five percent (5%) per year on any policy, inclusive of any surcharges and fees, especially given potential rate increases due to FEMA's Risk Rating 2.0 initiative. Preserve grandfathering. Rates should be maintained as affordable for all policy holders.
- **Mitigation** – Increase federal investment in property and community mitigation, not only through loans; provide mitigation credits to residential property owners for proven flood proofing methods, beyond elevation and including enhancements in excess of minimum building code; oppose unfunded mandates on local governments for mitigation efforts; modernize Increased Cost of Compliance to encourage mitigation.
- **Mapping** – Improve transparency, use the most effective technology, and include input from local governments; develop a method to pay for elevation certificates.
- **Solvency** – Further address repetitive loss properties; limit NFIP payments to Write Your Own (WYO) companies; increase the pool of policyholders through enforcement and expansion of the preferred risk policy; forgive the NFIP debt and reallocate interest payments to mitigation and solvency.
- **Consumer Protection** – Create a policy review process; regionalize Flood Insurance Advocates; amend force-placing provisions to keep policyholders in NFIP instead of a surplus line; require prompt payment of claims for losses.
- **Privatization** – Require private insurers to cover the entire spectrum of risk (i.e. no cherry-picking of preferable policies); allow consumers that leave NFIP for the private market to re-enter NFIP; ensure private insurance market development does not undermine community flood mitigation through the Community Rating System.
- **Transparency** - FEMA's new Risk Rating 2.0 will bring significant changes to NFIP and rates. Require greater transparency including risk rating criteria, information sharing, and consideration of potentially significant impacts to premiums for properties in coastal and riverine communities of this new rating system in any new reauthorization. Require inclusion and take into consideration South Florida's strong building codes as a factor reducing property risk.

DULY ADOPTED by the South Florida and Treasure Coast Regional Planning Councils this 25th day of October, 2019.



Greg Ross
Chair, SFRPC



Susan Adams
Chair, TCRPC



RESOLUTION TCSF #19-03

A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SOUTH FLORIDA AND TREASURE COAST REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCILS REPRESENTING THE LOCAL GOVERNMENTS OF MONROE, MIAMI-DADE, BROWARD, PALM BEACH, MARTIN, ST. LUCIE, AND INDIAN RIVER COUNTIES, FLORIDA; SUPPORTING LEGISLATION THAT WILL QUANTIFY AND ADDRESS THE CURRENT AND PROJECTED DEFICIT IN FUNDING NEEDED FOR WATER AND WASTEWATER INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT TO ACCOMMODATE FLORIDA'S GROWING POPULATION AND PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT

WHEREAS, the South Florida and Treasure Coast Regional Planning Councils' seven county geographical area is comprised of Broward, Indian River, Martin, Miami-Dade, Monroe, Palm Beach, and St. Lucie counties and 122 municipalities, which contain over 6.7 million residents or nearly one-third of the State's population, responsible for generating over one-third of the State's gross domestic product; and

WHEREAS, the Councils are multi-purpose regional governmental entities with policy responsibility in the areas of affordable housing, economic development, emergency preparedness, energy, regional health, natural resources, urban planning, and regional transportation; and

WHEREAS, water is Florida's most important resource, responsible for the natural environments that define our state identity, sustain our quality of life, and support our economy; and

WHEREAS, the water infrastructure systems in the state are significant assets that protect public health and the state's water resources, and which are integral to the economic vitality and growth of the state; and

WHEREAS, in 2005 the Legislature passed and the Governor signed Senate Bill 444, visionary legislation which provided a dedicated revenue source for water protection and sustainability; and

WHEREAS, despite the significant funding called for in this landmark piece of legislation, funding for the program was largely eliminated due to the economic downturn in 2007 and 2008; and

WHEREAS, the economic recovery has led to the State budget increasing by over \$25.55 billion over the past 15 years; and

WHEREAS, over the same 15 year period the average state investment, as a percentage of the total state budget, has been only 0.63% for water infrastructure (including urban, natural and agricultural water supply, wastewater management, flood control, water quality protection, and natural system restoration); and

WHEREAS, by comparison, the average state investment for transportation infrastructure has been 11% of the State budget over the same time period; and

WHEREAS, the unprecedented blue-green algae, red tide, and hurricane events of 2018 and 2019 led Governor DeSantis to take bold first steps towards addressing the state's water resource protection and development needs; and

WHEREAS, the protection and restoration of our aquifers, coral reefs, lagoons, springs, and other natural water bodies is a shared priority of federal, state, and local governments and regional bodies; and

WHEREAS, municipal and county utilities face anticipated expenditures to repair and replace aging infrastructure, comply with new Clean Water and Safe Drinking Water Act mandates, as well as facing new responsibilities and costs relating to water security, source water protection, and additional needs for re-use of treated effluent; and

WHEREAS, municipal and county resources dedicated to water and wastewater infrastructure are being increasingly consumed by compliance with complex new mandates such as numeric nutrient criteria and testing requirements and are, therefore, unavailable for critical maintenance, repair, and rehabilitation needs without substantial increases in local water and wastewater fees; and

WHEREAS, the establishment of a new water and wastewater infrastructure funding program would not only help to protect and restore our aquifer, coral reefs, lagoons, springs, and other natural water bodies but also provide much-needed assistance to local governments and promote good paying jobs in the construction and maintenance of this infrastructure.

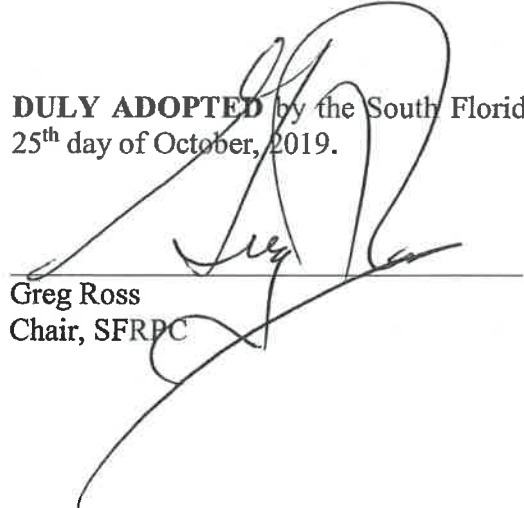
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SOUTH FLORIDA AND TREASURE COAST REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCILS THAT:

The Councils request the Florida Legislature to enact legislation which requires:

1. The assessment of, and reports on the State of Florida's water resources infrastructure; and
2. The determination of the funding necessary to protect and enhance Florida's water resources, address water resource and water supply development, provide adequate flood protection, address wastewater management, and provide water quality protection and development which includes the repair of impaired waters and the restoration of natural water bodies; and

3. The estimation of the economic impact of failures and growth constraints which will occur as a result of inaction in resolving the identified shortfall in funding; and
4. The identification and evaluation of funding alternatives currently available to the State as well as other funding mechanisms and models being used by other states and by authorities outside the United States to address short-term and long-term water infrastructure needs.

DULY ADOPTED by the South Florida and Treasure Coast Regional Planning Councils this 25th day of October, 2019.



Greg Ross
Chair, SFRPC



Susan Adams
Chair, TCRPC



RESOLUTION TCSF #19-04

A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SOUTH FLORIDA AND TREASURE COAST REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCILS REPRESENTING THE LOCAL GOVERNMENTS OF MONROE, MIAMI-DADE, BROWARD, PALM BEACH, MARTIN, ST. LUCIE, AND INDIAN RIVER COUNTIES, FLORIDA; SUPPORTING COLLABORATION WITH STATEWIDE ORGANIZATIONS, STATE AGENCIES, AND OTHER PARTNERS TO INCREASE AWARENESS OF BIOSOLIDS MANAGEMENT ISSUES IN FLORIDA AND PRIORITIZE THE REDUCTION AND EVENTUAL ELIMINATION OF THE LAND APPLICATION OF HUMAN WASTEWATER BIOSOLIDS; AND URGING THE GOVERNOR AND FLORIDA LEGISLATURE TO ESTABLISH A PILOT PROJECTS PROGRAM FOR FUNDING NEW STATE OF THE ART WASTEWATER TREATMENT TECHNOLOGIES TO IMPROVE RECOVERY, PROVIDE MORE EFFICIENT USE OF HUMAN WASTEWATER BIOSOLIDS, AND REDUCE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

WHEREAS, the South Florida and Treasure Coast Regional Planning Councils' seven county geographical area is comprised of Broward, Indian River, Martin, Miami-Dade, Monroe, Palm Beach, and St. Lucie counties and 122 municipalities, which contain over 6.7 million residents or nearly one-third of the State's population, responsible for generating over one-third of the State's gross domestic product; and

WHEREAS, the Councils are multi-purpose regional governmental entities with policy responsibility in the areas of affordable housing, economic development, emergency preparedness, energy, regional health, natural resources, urban planning, and regional transportation; and

WHEREAS, it is time to work together as a region and state to increase awareness of current and future biosolids management issues, examine potential water quality impacts from our current practices, and explore new wastewater treatment technologies to improve biosolids resource recovery and management options; and

WHEREAS, the Councils wish to collaborate with the Florida Regional Councils Association, Florida Association of Counties, Florida League of Cities, Florida Small County Coalition, Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, and other partners to accomplish these objectives and rethink 21st Century human wastewater management practices for Florida.

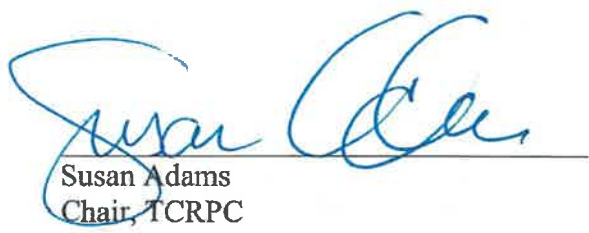
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE SOUTH FLORIDA AND TREASURE COAST REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCILS ENCOURAGE:

1. The State of Florida and its local governments to prioritize the reduction and eventual elimination of the land application of human wastewater biosolids; and
2. The State of Florida to establish a Pilot Projects Program for funding local utilities to implement new state of the art wastewater treatment technologies to improve recovery, provide more efficient use of human wastewater biosolids resources, and reduce environmental impacts.

DULY ADOPTED by the South Florida and Treasure Coast Regional Planning Councils this 25th day of October, 2019.



Greg Ross
Chair, SFRPC



Susan Adams
Chair, TCRPC



RESOLUTION TCSF #19-05

A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SOUTH FLORIDA AND TREASURE COAST REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCILS REPRESENTING THE LOCAL GOVERNMENTS OF MONROE, MIAMI-DADE, BROWARD, PALM BEACH, MARTIN, ST. LUCIE, AND INDIAN RIVER COUNTIES, FLORIDA; URGING THE GOVERNOR AND FLORIDA LEGISLATURE TO ESTABLISH A LONG-TERM, RECURRING REVENUE SOURCE TO PROVIDE ADEQUATE AND FLEXIBLE FUNDING FOR CORAL REEF DISEASE INTERVENTION AND RESTORATION AND TO BETTER ADDRESS HARMFUL ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS ENABLING THE DISEASE EPIDEMIC CRITICALLY DAMAGING THE FLORIDA REEF TRACT, WHICH CONSISTS OF THE SOVEREIGN SUBMERGED LANDS AND STATE WATERS OFFSHORE OF MONROE, MIAMI-DADE, BROWARD, PALM BEACH, AND MARTIN COUNTIES; AND SUPPORTING FEDERAL LEGISLATION FOR INCREASED FUNDING OF RESPONSE ACTIVITIES AND CODIFICATION OF THE CORAL REEF TASK FORCE

WHEREAS, the South Florida and Treasure Coast Regional Planning Councils' seven county geographical area is comprised of Broward, Indian River, Martin, Miami-Dade, Monroe, Palm Beach, and St. Lucie counties and 122 municipalities, which contain over 6.7 million residents or nearly one-third of the State's population, responsible for generating over one-third of the State's gross domestic product; and

WHEREAS, the Florida Reef Tract runs parallel to our coastline from Monroe County north to Martin County, and is a valuable national resource that protects our shores and beaches by reducing wave energy from storms and hurricanes, providing flood protection valued at over \$675 million per year and over \$1 billion during extreme weather events; and

WHEREAS, Florida's coral reef ecosystem provides a vital marine habitat for over 6,000 species, including species found nowhere else on earth; and

WHEREAS, this habitat is essential to our commercial fishing and tourism industries, supports over 71,000 jobs within the region, and generates over \$6 billion in positive economic impact annually; and

WHEREAS, protection of Florida's coral reefs is essential for ensuring the continued protection of our shorelines, coastal food sources, cultural practices, biomedical opportunities, and coastal economies that are a direct result of our coral reefs; and

WHEREAS, it has been determined that coastal ocean waters are under great user pressure and suffer from water quality degradation that has compromised the resiliency of the Florida Reef Tract and its habitat; and

WHEREAS, the global threat and impacts to coral reefs continue to grow which, coupled with local stressors, is evidenced by coral reefs declining at an alarming rate; and

WHEREAS, this coral disease outbreak of unknown origin originated offshore of Miami-Dade County in fall 2014 and has persisted and continued to spread and affect new reefs from southwest of Key West in Monroe County to the northernmost coral reefs in Martin County, harming roughly 50 percent of the coral species present in the Florida Reef Tract; and

WHEREAS, the coral disease epidemic is causing near total mortality of vulnerable species present on the Florida Reef Tract, including reef-building coral species and species listed under the Endangered Species Act, resulting in an increasing threat to fragile ecosystems that support Florida's fisheries and protect our coasts; and

WHEREAS, a collaborative, multi-organizational/multi-disciplinary emergency response has formed to address this grave threat; and

WHEREAS, inaction will ensure near extinction of these susceptible species throughout the Florida Reef Tract; and

WHEREAS, the coral disease has spread from Florida to nine locations throughout the Caribbean, with the potential threat of introduction into the Pacific Ocean; and

WHEREAS, U.S. Senators Marco Rubio (R-FL) and Rick Scott (R-FL) and Representative Darren Soto (D-FL 9th) introduced the Restoring Resilient Reefs Act of 2019 designed to reauthorize and update the Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000 to support the conservation of U.S. reefs, including through five years of directed federal funding, technical assistance to jurisdictions for coral reef management and restoration, and the codification of the U.S. Coral Reef Task Force; and

WHEREAS, establishing a long-term, recurring revenue source to provide adequate and flexible funding would provide dedicated resources to help find solutions necessary to protect the Florida Reef Tract; and

WHEREAS, the South Florida Regional Planning Council and the Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council wish to urge the Governor and Legislature to provide vital funding for the purposes specified below.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SOUTH FLORIDA AND TREASURE COAST REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCILS THAT:

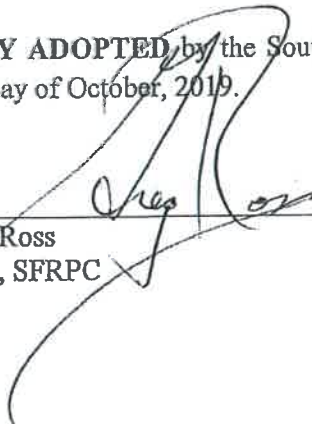
The Councils request that Florida's Governor and Legislature establish a long-term, recurring revenue source to provide adequate and flexible funding to support:

- 1) dedicated staff resources for coral reef disease intervention and restoration efforts;
- 2) infrastructure and capacity needed to maintain reproductive coral populations across the Florida Reef Tract;
- 3) infrastructure and capacity needed for assisted reproduction and propagation of resilient corals for future ecosystem restoration efforts;
- 4) in-water and land-based priority research focused on pathogen identification and disease treatment interventions;
- 5) restoration of coastal water quality through urban wastewater infrastructure upgrades; accelerated coastal septic to sewer conversions focused on local governments with matching fund programs; improved stormwater treatment; expedited closure of ocean wastewater outfalls; and additional strategies to greatly reduce nutrient loading from all human sources and pathways; and
- 6) a campaign to educate residents and tourists on the importance of their role in revitalizing this national natural resource, providing specific actions and challenges for reef users, non-users, business owners, elected officials, etc.

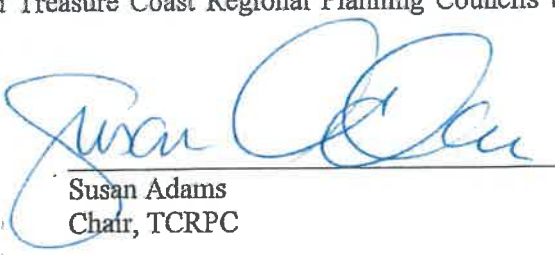
The Councils support new Federal legislation which should include the following:

- 1) measures which ensure effective, science-based protection and management of coral reefs;
- 2) codification of the United States Coral Reef Task Force;
- 3) increased funding, including an increase in direct funding of Jurisdictional Coral Reef Management Agencies; and
- 4) support for adaptive restoration activities.

DULY ADOPTED by the South Florida and Treasure Coast Regional Planning Councils this 25th day of October, 2019.



Greg Ross
Chair, SFRPC



Susan Adams
Chair, TCRPC