

**Florida Oceanographic Society
Resolution
The EAA Storage Reservoir Project
(DRAFT-3-12-21)**

WHEREAS, prior to the 1920's Lake Okeechobee waters would overflow South and move slowly through a 40-mile wide Everglades "River of Grass" eventually entering into Florida Bay at the southern tip of Florida; and

WHEREAS, the construction of the Herbert Hoover Dike around Lake Okeechobee has halted the natural flow of Lake water south and the construction of major canals, levees and structures have diverted these waters for the purposes of drainage and water supply through coastal estuaries into the Atlantic Ocean and the Gulf of Mexico at a rate of 1.7 Billion Gallons per Day; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) has developed the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP) with 68 project components designed to restore the natural flows to the Everglades; and:

WHEREAS, one of those project components is the Everglades Agricultural Area (EAA) Storage Reservoir Project designed to receive Lake Okeechobee water releases, store and treat this water and move it south to the Everglades and Florida Bay instead of diverting Lake waters to the coastal estuaries; and:

WHEREAS, the U.S. Congress passed the 2018 Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) which authorized the CERP project south of Lake Okeechobee known as the EAA Storage Reservoir Project.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

Florida Oceanographic Society support the expeditious completion of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan project known as the Everglades Agricultural Area Storage Reservoir to send Lake Okeechobee water releases to the Everglades and Florida Bay instead of to the coastal estuaries.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, the Board Chair of Florida Oceanographic Society authorizes and forwards this Resolution on behalf of Florida Oceanographic Society by signature below:

DULY PASSED AND ADOPTED THE _____ DAY OF March 2021.

Allen Herskowitz, Chair, Board of Directors
Florida Oceanographic Society

Mark Perry, Executive Director
Florida Oceanographic Society