WHEREAS, the Econlockhatchee River (Econ River) is a pristine, diverse and unique ecosystem of regional and statewide significance; and

WHEREAS, the Econ River traverses three counties, including Orange County, and is within the jurisdiction of four local governments; and

WHEREAS, the Econ River provides exceptional habitat for fish and wildlife, including endangered and threatened species, and contains a wide variety of biological communities, including rare upland habitats; and

WHEREAS, the Econ River provides unique recreational opportunities for Central Florida, including designation as a Florida Recreational Canoe Trail, and contains a portion of the Florida Trail; and

WHEREAS, the Econ River corridor contains significant archaeological and historical resources from its headwaters to its confluence with the St. John's River; and

WHEREAS, the Econ River constitutes a positive economic benefit to the Central Florida region by providing open space, recreational opportunities, cultural study opportunities, and scenic value; and

WHEREAS, the Econ River Task Force, comprised of representatives from state agencies, local governments and private citizens, recommended that the Florida Department of Environmental Regulation designate the Econ River as an Outstanding Florida Water; and

WHEREAS, the Florida Department of Natural Resources in its 1989 Florida Rivers Assessment recommended the Econ River be designated as an Outstanding Florida Water; and

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners of Orange County, Florida believes that the public health, safety, and welfare are furthered by the additional protection that is afforded the Econ River by designation as an Outstanding Florida Water;

NOW, THEREFORE, Be It Resolved by the Board of County Commissioners of Orange County, Florida, that:

1. Orange County recommends the Environmental Regulation Commission make a finding that the Econ River is of exceptional ecological and recreational significance; and

2. Orange County recommends the Environmental Regulation Commission make a finding that the environmental, social and economic benefits resulting from the Outstanding Florida Water designation outweigh the environmental, social and economic costs to the Central Florida area; and

3. Orange County recommends the Environmental Regulation Commission, after full public input and findings of fact, designate the Econ River as an Outstanding Florida Water.

DONE AND ORDERED this 15th day of January, 1991.

LINDA W. CHAPIN, ORANGE COUNTY CHAIRMAN