RESOLUTION

of the

ORANGE COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

regarding


Resolution No. 2010-M-02

WHEREAS, the “Florida Forever” program and its predecessor “Preservation 2000” program have immeasurably contributed to environmental health, quality of life, recreation, and sustainability in Florida for this and future generations;

WHEREAS, Florida Forever has acquired over 600,000 acres throughout Florida since 2000 and allocates $300 million annually to purchase environmentally sensitive and other lands, and has done so through numerous successful partnerships with cities, counties, state agencies, water managements districts, nonprofit organizations, private landowners, and others in achieving its conservation purposes;

WHEREAS, Florida Forever, through its partnerships with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, the Water Management Districts, and others, produces benefits that include clean air and water; healthy fisheries and wildlife habitat; improved water supply protection; and protected open spaces, including greenway corridors, park lands, forests, and water bodies;
WHEREAS, Florida Forever, through the Florida Communities Trust, has assisted Florida’s cities and counties in protecting their cultural and historical resources; meeting the challenges of growth management; directing development away from coastal high hazard areas and floodplains; fostering a healthier lifestyle for Floridians; and providing recreational outdoor experiences in both urban and rural settings;

WHEREAS, Florida Forever has helped to save many of Florida’s beaches, rivers, bays, forests, coral reefs and estuaries that provide the foundation for our tourism industry that attracts millions of visitors each year;

WHEREAS, more than fifty Florida local governments have enacted land acquisition financing programs in the past decades, and these conservation finance programs serve to leverage Florida Forever funding and increase the impact of State land conservation funding;

WHEREAS, Florida is still experiencing population growth, and Floridians demand a high quality of life that includes green space, access to water, pastoral settings and recreational opportunities;

WHEREAS, virtually all of the funding for the Florida Forever program through the Fiscal Year 2009-10 is already obligated to or anticipated for planned land purchases, having virtually no funding for new conservation projects for two years;

WHEREAS, research by the Florida Forever Coalition has found that over $20 billion is currently needed to purchase parks and recreational facilities, wildlife and wilderness areas, and open space for our state’s increasing population;

WHEREAS, a 2007 public opinion survey conducted by members of the Florida Forever Coalition found that more than 70% of Florida’s voters approve of the Florida Forever program; and

WHEREAS, the benefits of Florida Forever have included the purchase of such valuable local resources as the Joshua Creek Conservation Area; Neighborhood Lakes; Pine Plantation; Savage/Christmas Creek Preserve – Florida Communities Trust Grant; and Pine Lily Preserve - Florida Communities Trust Grant.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF ORANGE COUNTY:

Section 1. Support for Successor Program to Florida Forever Program. Orange County hereby declares its support to the Florida Legislature for the successor program to the Florida Forever program and directs the Orange County legislative delegation to advocate the funding of a successor program to Florida Forever.
Section 2. Support for Funding for Florida Forever Program. Orange County also hereby declares its support to the Florida Legislature for the immediate funding for Florida Forever’s successor program because of the enormous need for land conservation funding in all parts of Florida and directs the Orange County legislative delegation to work actively for such funding.

Section 3. Delivery of Resolution. The Clerk of the Board of County Commissioners is hereby directed to forward a copy of this Resolution to the President of the Florida Senate, the Speaker of the Florida House of Representatives, Governor Charlie Crist, and to the members of the Orange County legislative delegation.

Section 4. Effective Date. This Resolution shall take effect upon the date of its adoption.

DONE AND RESOLVED this ___ day of JAN 05 2010, 2010.

ORANGE COUNTY, FLORIDA
By: Board of County Commissioners
By: Richard T. Crotty, County Mayor
Date: 1.6.10

ATTEST: Martha O. Haynie, County Comptroller
As Clerk of the Board of County Commissioners
By: Vaness Hampton
Deputy Clerk