

RESOLUTION

of the
ORANGE COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
regarding
THE FLORIDA LAND ACQUISITION TRUST FUND

Resolution No. 2017-M-04

WHEREAS, Orange County is committed to protecting its natural resources, preserving the beauty and function of waterways, and the ecology and habitat that surrounds them; and

WHEREAS, natural areas and conservation lands necessary to protect our water resources, fish and wildlife, and recreational potential stretch across Florida; and

WHEREAS, Florida's remarkable biological diversity and its natural systems are fundamental to its quality of life and economy; and

WHEREAS, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection states: "Florida Forever is Florida's premier conservation and recreation lands acquisition program, a blueprint for conserving natural resources and renewing Florida's commitment to conserve the state's natural and cultural heritage"; and

WHEREAS, population growth and development are projected to increase significantly in the next two decades and will pose major challenges to our natural resources and the services they provide; and

WHEREAS, in 2014, Florida, and Orange County, voted overwhelmingly to approve an amendment to Article X, of the Florida Constitution, to acquire the best of what is left of our natural areas; and

WHEREAS, Orange County has preserved 22,708 acres of environmentally sensitive lands within Orange County and has identified an additional 14,000 acres that is necessary to close gaps and create corridors between existing preserved conservation areas; and

WHEREAS, land purchases of importance to the future prosperity of Orange County are within areas such as the Wekiva River Basin, Econlockhatchee River Basin and the St. Johns River Basin; and

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

Section 1. That the Board urges the Florida Legislature to fulfill its obligation to its people and provide adequate funding in the Land Acquisition Trust Fund consistent with the intent of Article X, Section 28 of the Florida Constitution for acquisition and improvement of conservation lands and lands protecting the water quality and quantity as called for by the Amendment.

Section 2. The Board considers this acquisition and improvement of land and water areas with Land Acquisition Trust Funds to be a crucial benefit to the future of this County and the State of Florida.

Section 3 This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon the date of its adoption.

FEB 21 2017
ADOPTED THIS ____ DAY OF February, 2017.

ORANGE COUNTY, FLORIDA
By: Board of County Commissioners

By: *Yeresa Jacobs*
Yeresa Jacobs
Orange County Mayor

ATTEST: Phil Diamond, CPA, County Comptroller
As Clerk of the Board of County Commissioners

By: *Craig A. Stopynka*
foa Deputy Clerk

