

RESOLUTION

of the

ORANGE COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

regarding

**VESSEL OPERATION DURING HIGH WATER CONDITIONS;
MARKING OF POTENTIAL NAVIGATIONAL HAZARDS; AND
TEMPORARY INFORMATIONAL SIGNAGE AT COUNTY-
OPERATED BOAT RAMPS.**

Resolution No. 2018-M-35

WHEREAS, rainfall events during 2018 have saturated the ground, flooded roadways, and caused abnormally high water levels on various water bodies and water courses within Orange County; and

WHEREAS, various water bodies and water courses have overflowed their banks and expanded into the flood plain; and

WHEREAS, objects previously well above the water and objects previously on the upland have become wholly or partially submerged, creating hazards to navigation and maritime property; and

WHEREAS, the objects mentioned in the recital above include boathouses, docks, piers, pilings, poles, signage, stumps, trees and other vegetation types; and

WHEREAS, rough and turbulent water may create hazardous conditions that may cause vessels to come dangerously upon or strike submerged objects without warning; and

WHEREAS, vessel operation at speeds greater than Slow Speed Minimum Wake may create the conditions described in the above recital and may create a danger to property inundated by the abnormally high water levels and to the vessel operator and her or his passengers; and

WHEREAS, vessel operation at speeds greater than Slow Speed Minimum Wake may increase damage caused by the abnormal high water levels and may cause damage to property that is marginally above the floodwaters; and

WHEREAS, the abnormally high water levels may have submerged accustomed footpaths and handholds, and these submerged areas could cause persons to slip and fall, perhaps resulting in injury or death; and

WHEREAS, operation of vessels at Slow Speed Minimum Wake will help protect against continued flooding; submersion of boathouses, docks, seawalls, and other structures; environmental damage, including erosion, degradation of water quality, introduction of pollutants, and the undermining of trees and other forms of vegetation; and will enhance public safety; and

WHEREAS, at this time, the Board of County Commissioners finds that voluntary measures by vessel operators and riparian property owners can help address the current high water conditions without having to take additional actions.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY

COMMISSIONERS OF ORANGE COUNTY:

Section 1. The Board hereby encourages that the operators of all vessels, except for emergency and law enforcement vessels, operate at Slow Speed Minimum Wake in all areas between the shoreline extending perpendicularly waterward to a point 300 feet off the end of a dock or pier, or if there is no dock or pier, then 300 feet from the shoreline on all navigable waters in Orange County. Outside of the areas described above in this Section 1, the Board encourages the operators of all vessels to operate in a cautious and prudent manner in order to avoid all navigational hazards and reduce the likelihood of causing rough and turbulent waters.

Section 2. The Board hereby encourages riparian owners to install visible markers, such as flags, on any structure that is or may become submerged, and thus is or may become a navigational hazard.

Section 3. The County shall install an informational sign at each County owned or operated boat ramp advising vessel operators of the high water conditions, the potential of encountering navigational hazards, and encouraging vessel operation consistent with this Resolution.

Section 4. This Resolution will take effect on the date of its adoption and will expire on the sixtieth day after adoption unless extended by action of the Board.

ADOPTED THIS _____ DAY OF SEP 18 2018, 2018.

ORANGE COUNTY, FLORIDA
By: Board of County Commissioners

By: *Teresa Jacobs*
Teresa Jacobs
Orange County Mayor

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

By: *Katie Mick*
Deputy Clerk

