A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF ORANGE COUNTY FLORIDA PERTAINING TO THE RESTORATION OF LAKE APOPKA; SUPPORTING THE CONCEPT OF STATE LAND EXCHANGE TO PLACE PORTIONS OF THE LAKE APOPKA MUCK FARMS INTO PUBLIC OWNERSHIP THEREBY ALLOWING PROGRAMS WHICH WILL IMPROVE THE AQUATIC ENVIRONMENT TO PROCEED.

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners supports efforts to restore Lake Apopka, whose problems have been well documented in public forums; and

WHEREAS, it has been determined that a major cause of Lake Apopka's failure to meet Class III water standards is the accelerated introduction of nutrients into the lake; and

WHEREAS, a major contributor of nutrients into the Lake is the muck farm activity on the north shore of the Lake; and

WHEREAS, the muck farms occupy land which was originally a marsh that provided natural filtration and restoration of the lake through aquatic plant life and breeding grounds for fish; and

WHEREAS, restoration of the muck farms to natural marsh systems could substantially benefit Lake Apopka and all downstream waters through the elimination of substantial nutrient discharge into lake and downstream waters and restoration of plant and fish habitat; and

WHEREAS, the State of Florida owns lands which might be appropriately exchanged for the muck farm lands, allowing both continuation of the muck farm owners' agricultural production and restoration of the marsh systems in the lake; and

WHEREAS, improvement to Lake Apopka without the expense of environmental degradation to other areas can be gained through diligent efforts by state and other regulatory agencies to monitor implementation;

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF ORANGE COUNTY FLORIDA:
Section 1. That Orange County supports the concept of land exchange by the State of Florida which will provide for public ownership of appropriate muck farm lands on the north shore of Lake Apopka so as to achieve the lake restoration goals of the Lake Apopka Restoration Council as described above.

Section 2. That this resolution shall become effective on the date of its adoption.


BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF ORANGE COUNTY, FLORIDA

By: Chairman, Board of County Commissioners

ATTEST: THOMAS H. LOCKER, Clerk
to the Board of County Commissioners

By: Deputy Clerk

Cathyll 03/20/87 WPPLUS -2-