

NOV 16 1987

NO. 87-ENV-03

A RESOLUTION OF THE ORANGE COUNTY COMMISSION SUPPORTING
THE CONCEPT OF PLACING PORTIONS OF THE LAKE APOPKA MUCK
FARMS INTO PUBLIC OWNERSHIP AS A RESULT OF LAKE EXCHANGE
FOR OTHER STATE HELD LANDS.

WHEREAS, the Orange County Commission, Orange County, Florida, supports the efforts of the Lake Apopka Restoration Council which was created by Chapter 85-148 Laws of Florida to advise the St. Johns River Water Management District and work in conjunction with that district to initiate a pilot project for restoring Lake Apopka to a Class III water body; and

WHEREAS, the major cause of Lake Apopka's waters failing to meet Class III water standards is the accelerated introduction of nutrients into the lake resulting from the man-made alterations of the lake and its watershed; and

WHEREAS, one major land alteration which is contributing large concentrations of nutrients to Lake Apopka is the muck farm activities on the north end of the lake which are operated on land that historically formed a marsh system within the lake; and

WHEREAS, restoration of a significant portion of these muck farm lands to a marsh system associated with the lake would benefit Lake Apopka and downstream areas in the following ways:

1. Eliminate approximately 13 billion gallons per year of nutrient laden pump discharges to Lake Apopka and the Apopka-Beauclair Canal that result from agricultural activities on the exchange lands;

2. Restore 8,000 acres of lost habitat for spawning and breeding of sport fish populations and other wildlife;

3. Reduce the negative impacts of Lake Apopka on downstream lakes by reducing the pollutant load exiting the Apopka-Beauclair Canal;

4. Improve water quality in Lake Apopka by providing for increased nutrient precipitation and uptake;

5. Increase the feasibility of options for restoring Lake Apopka, such as lake drawdown and sediment removal;

6. Provide enhanced economic benefits, such as sport fishing, tourism, and increased frost and freeze protection;

7. Provide greater opportunity to assure long term viability of Lake Apopka by supplying the necessary components for natural and sustainable lake functioning; and

WHEREAS, the state currently owns certain lands in the Everglades Agricultural Area and leases those lands to private agricultural interests; and

WHEREAS, the private owners of certain Apopka muck farm lands have indicated a willingness to exchange their Lake Apopka land holdings for an equal value of Everglades Agricultural Area state lands subject to the existing lease; and

WHEREAS, the trade of the Lake Apopka muck lands would result in those lands being taken out of agricultural production and used for the restoration of Lake Apopka; and

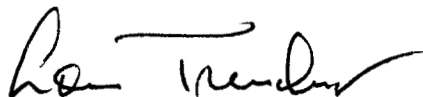
WHEREAS, the environmental benefits enjoyed in the Lake Apopka area would not be gained at the expense of environmental degradation in other areas since the traded lands would merely remain in agricultural production under the appropriate regulatory authorities;

NOW, THEREFORE, Be It Resolved by the Orange County Commission, Orange County, Florida, that:

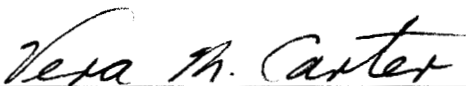
1. The Commission endorses the concept of trading state held Everglades Agricultural Area lands for Lake Apopka muck farm lands.

2. The Commission determines such a trade would be compatible with and supportive of the recommendations of the Lake Apopka Restoration Council to the St. Johns River Water Management Governing Board and to the 1987 legislature for the restoration of Lake Apopka to a Class III water body.

SIGNED and SEALED this 16th day of November, 1987.



LOU TREADWAY, CHAIRMAN



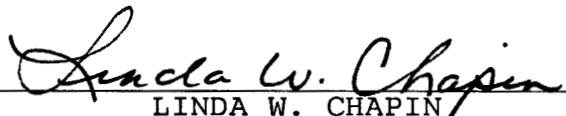
VERA M. CARTER



TOM DORMAN



HAL MARSTON



LINDA W. CHAPIN