RESOLUTION
of the
ORANGE COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
regarding the
ESTABLISHMENT OF THE LAKE APOPKA ENTERPRISE ZONE PROVIDING:

Resolution No. 99-M-09

WHEREAS, Orange County desires to participate with the City of Apopka in the Florida Enterprise Zone Program pursuant to Chapter 290 of the Florida Statutes, and intends to use the designation of Enterprise Zone to encourage revitalization of the area illustrated on Exhibit “A” attached hereto and incorporated herein, and described on Exhibit “B” attached hereto and incorporated herein (the “Lake Apopka Area”), using the methods set forth in the Florida Enterprise Zone Program; and

WHEREAS, Orange County desires to adopt a resolution identical in form to the resolution to be adopted by the City of Apopka pursuant to the requirement in section 290.0067 of the Florida Statutes that Orange County and the City of Apopka jointly apply for designation of the Lake Apopka Area as an Enterprise Zone; and

WHEREAS, the Lake Apopka Area exhibits extreme and unacceptable levels of poverty, unemployment, physical deterioration, and economic disinvestment; and

WHEREAS, Orange County has determined that the rehabilitation, conservation or redevelopment of the Lake Apopka Area is necessary in the interest of public health, safety, and welfare of the residents; and

WHEREAS, Orange County has determined that the rehabilitation, conservation or redevelopment of the Lake Apopka Area can occur only if the private sector can be induced to invest its own resources to build or rebuild the economic vitality of the area; and

WHEREAS, the Florida Enterprise Zone Program was enacted to provide the means to assist local communities, their residents, and the private sector in creating the proper economic and social environment to induce the investment of private resources in productive business enterprises located in severely distressed areas and to provide jobs for residents of such areas; and

WHEREAS, Orange County desires to express support of and adopt the Strategic Development Plans prepared for the Lake Apopka Area, as set forth in Exhibit “C” attached hereto and incorporated herein, in its effort to achieve Enterprise Zone designation for the Lake Apopka Area.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF ORANGE COUNTY, FLORIDA:
1. The recitals stated above are true and correct and are hereby incorporated into this Resolution.

2. Orange County hereby requests, pursuant to section 290.0067 of the Florida Statutes, that the State of Florida Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development designate the Lake Apopka Area as an Enterprise Zone.

3. Orange County hereby approves the Strategic Development Plans attached hereto as Exhibit “C”.

4. Orange County hereby authorizes joint submission, along with the City of Apopka, of an application for designation of the Lake Apopka Area as an Enterprise Zone.


ORANGE COUNTY, FLORIDA
By: Board of County Commissioners

BY: [Signature]
Mel Martinez, Orange County Chairman

ATTEST: Martha O. Haynie, County Comptroller
As Clerk of the Board of County Commissioners

BY: [Signature]
Deputy Clerk
EXHIBIT A

Lake Apopka Enterprise Zone Boundary Area

Lake Apopka Enterprise Zone Boundary Description

EXHIBIT B

Begin at the centerline intersection of Sadler Road and Round Lake Road on the west line of Section 14, Township 20 South, Range 27 East, Orange County Florida; thence go north on the centerline of Round Lake Road along the west lines of Sections 14, 11 and 2, Township 20 South, Range 27 East to the northwest corner of Section 2, Township 20 South, Range 27 East; thence go east along the north lines of Sections 2 and 1, Township 20 South, Range 27 East to the centerline of Plymouth-Sorrento Road; thence go south along the centerline of Plymouth-Sorrento Road and along the east lines of Sections 1, 12, 13, and 24 Township 20 South, Range 27 East; thence continue southeasterly along the centerline of Plymouth-Sorrento Road into the southwest ¼ of Section 19, Township 20 South, Range 28 East to the centerline of Ponkan Road; thence go west along the centerline of Ponkan Road and the south lines of Section 19, Township 20 South, Range 28 East, and Sections 24 and 23 Township 20 South, Range 27 East to the centerline of Junction Road; thence go southeast and south along the centerline of Junction Road into Section 26, Township 20 South, Range 27 East to the centerline of Orange Blossom Trail (US Highway 441); thence go southeast along the centerline of Orange Blossom Trail through the southwest ¼ of Section 26 and Section 35 Township 20 South, Range 27 East to the southwest projection of Lot 1 of Longview Groves as recorded in Plat Book K, Page 26 of the Public Records of Orange County; thence go northeast, east, and southeast along the lot lines of Lot 1 and Lot 2 of said Longview Groves and a southwest projection of northerly lot line of said Lot 2 to the centerline of Church Drive; thence go northeast and east along the centerline of Church Drive to the north line of Section 35, Township 20 South, Range 27 East and the centerline of Yothers Road; thence go east along the centerline of Yothers Road and along the north line of Sections 35 and 36, Township 20 South, Range 27 East and the north line of Section 31, Township 20 South, Range 28 East to the centerline of Plymouth Sorrento Road; thence go south along the centerline of Plymouth-Sorrento Road through Section 31, Township 20 South, Range 28 East and Section 6, Township 21 South, Range 28 East to the centerline of the CSX Railroad Right-of-Way in Section 6 Township 21 South, Range 28 East; thence go southeast along the centerline of the CSX Railroad Right-of-Way in Section 6, Township 21 South, Range 28 East to the north projection of the centerline of North Bionion Road; thence go south along the centerline projection and the centerline of North Bionion Road and the centerline of South Bionion Road through Sections 6, 7, 18, 19, and 30. Township 21 South, Range 28 East to the south line of the northeast ¼ of Section 30, Township 21 South, Range 28 East; thence go west on the south line of the northeast ¼ and the northwest ¼ of Section 30, Township 21 South, Range 28 East to the waters of Lake Apopka; thence go north and northwest along the waters of Lake Apopka to the north line of the northwest ¼ of Section 30, Township 21 South, Range 28 East; thence go east along the north line of the northwest ¼ of Section 30 and the south line of the southwest ¼ of Section 19, Township 21 South, Range 28 East to the east line of a portion of Section 19, Township 21 South, Range 28 East, described in Official Records Book 5557, page 2152 of the Public Records of Orange County, Florida; thence go northerly along the east line a portion of Section 19, Township 21 South, Range 28 East, described in Official Records Book 5557, page 2152 of the Public Records of Orange County, Florida.
Lake Apopka Enterprise Zone Boundary Description

to the south line of the southwest ¼ of Section 18, Township 21 South, Range 28 East; thence continue north on a projection of the previously described east line into the southwest ¼ of Section 18, Township 21 South, Range 28 East to the north right-of-way line of Hooper Farms Road; thence go northeasterly along the north right-of-way line of Hoopers Farm Road to the south line of a parcel in the southwest ¼ of Section 18, Township 21 South, Range 28 East described in Official Records Book 4140, page 2752 of the Public Records of Orange County, Florida; thence go west and north along the south and west lines of the parcel described in Official Records Book 4140, page 2752 of the Public Records of Orange County, Florida, to the northwest corner of the southeast ¼ of the southwest ¼ of Section 18, Township 21 South, Range 28 East; thence go east 25 feet to the centerline of Limestone Road; thence go north along the centerline of Limestone Road through Section 18, Township 21 South, Range 28 East to the north line of the southeast ¼ of the northwest ¼ of Section 18, Township 21 South, Range 28 East; thence go east along the north line of the southeast ¼ of the northwest ¼ of Section 18, Township 21 South, Range 28 East to the west right-of-way line of South Binion Road; thence go north on the west right-of-way line and a northerly projection of the west right-of-way line of South Binion Road to the south line of Section 7, Township 21 South, Range 28 East and the centerline of Lust Road; thence go west on the centerline of Lust Road to a southerly projection of the east line of that parcel lying in Section 7, Township 21 South, Range 28 East described in Official Records Book 5364, page 3125; thence go northerly on the projection of the east line, and the east line of said parcel lying in Section 7, Township 21 South, Range 28 East as described in Official Records Book 5364, page 3125 to the north line of said parcel; thence go west on the north line of said parcel to the east line of the west ¼ of the southwest ¼ of Section 7, Township 21 South, Range 28 East; thence go north on the east line of the west ¼ of the southwest ¼ of Section 7, Township 21 South, Range 28 East, to the north line of the southwest ¼ of Section 7, Township 21 South, Range 28 East; thence go west on the north line of the southwest ¼ of Section 7, Township 21 South, Range 28 East and the north line of the southeast ¼ of Section 12, Township 21 South, Range 27 East to the southwest corner of the southeast ¼ of the northeast ¼ of Section 12, Township 21 South, Range 27 East; thence go north to the southeast corner of the northeast ¼ of the southwest ¼ of the northeast ¼ of Section 12, Township 21 South, Range 27 East; thence go west to the southwest corner of the northwest ¼ of the southwest ¼ of the northeast ¼ of Section 12, Township 21 South, Range 27 East; thence go north to the northwest corner of the northwest ¼ of the southwest ¼ of Section 12, Township 21 South, Range 27 East; thence go northwest to the northeast ¼ of the northwest ¼ of Section 12, Township 21 South, Range 27 East; thence continue west on the south line of the southeast ¼ of Section 2, Township 21 South, Range 27 East to the centerline of Conrad Road; thence go north on the centerline of Conrad Road to the south line of northeast ¼ of the southeast ¼ of Section 2, Township 21 South, Range 27 East; thence go west to the southwest corner of the northeast ¼ of the southeast ¼ of Section 2, Township 21 South, Range 27 East; thence go north to the northwest corner of the northeast ¼ of the southeast ¼ of Section 2, Township 21 South, Range 27 East; thence
go west to the center of Section 2, Township 21 South, Range 27 East; thence go north to the centerline of Hoggshead Road; thence go west on the centerline of Hoggshead Road to the southerly projection of the west line of the northeast ¼ of the northwest ¼ of Section 2, Township 21 South, Range 27 East; thence go north to the centerline of Fudge Road and the south line of Section 35, Township 20 South, Range 27 East; thence go east on the centerline of Fudge Road to the southeast corner of the southwest ¼ of Section 35, Township 20 South, Range 27 East; thence continue east on the centerline of Fudge Road 132 feet; thence go north 300 feet; thence go east 438 feet; thence go north 330 feet to the north line of the south ¼ of the south ¼ of Section 35, Township 20 South, Range 27 East; thence go north to the northeast corner of the southeast ¼ of the southwest ¼ of Section 35, Township 20 South, Range 27 East; thence go west on the north line of the south ¼ of the southwest ¼ of Section 35, Township 20 South, Range 27 East, 670 feet to the east line of the southwest ¼ of Section 35, Township 20 South, Range 27 East; thence go north to the northeast corner of the southeast ¼ of the southwest ¼ of Section 35, Township 20 South, Range 27 East; thence go west on the north line of the south ¼ of the southwest ¼ of Section 35, Township 20 South, Range 27 East to the west line of the southwest ¼ of Section 35, Township 20 South, Range 27 East; thence go north on the west line of the southwest ¼ of Section 35, Township 20 South, Range 27 East 394 feet; thence go east 845 feet; thence go northerly 285.32 feet to a point 730.25 feet east of the west line of the southwest ¼ of Section 35, Township 20 South, Range 27 East; thence go west 273 feet; thence go northerly 658.75 feet to a point on the north line of the southwest ¼ of Section 35, Township 20 South, Range 27 East that is 330 feet east of the west ¼ corner of Section 35, Township 20 South, Range 27 East; thence go west on the north line of the southwest ¼ of Section 35, Township 20 South, Range 27 East 330 feet to the west ¼ corner of Section 35, Township 20 South, Range 27 East; thence go north on the west line of the northwest ¼ of Section 35, Township 20 South, Range 27 East to the northwest corner of Section 35, Township 20 South, Range 27 East; thence go west on the north line of the north ¼ of the northeast ¼ of Section 34, Township 20 South, Range 27 East to the east line of the west ¼ of Section 34, Township 20 South, Range 27 East; thence go north on the east line of the west ¼ of Section 34, Township 20 South, Range 27 East to the north line of Section 34, Township 20 South, Range 27 East; thence go west on the north line of Section 34, Township 20 South, Range 27 East to the northwest corner of Section 34, Township 20 South, Range 27 East and the southwest corner of Section 27, Township 20 South, Range 27 East; thence go north on the west line of Section 27, Township 20 South, Range 27 East to the northwest corner of Section 27, Township 20 South, Range 27 East and the southeast corner of Section 21, Township 20 South, Range 27 East; thence go west on the south line of Section 21, Township 20 South, Range 27 East to the southwest corner of Section 21, Township 20 South, Range 27 East; thence go north on the west line of Section 21, Township 20 South, Range 27 East to the northwest corner of the southwest ¼ of Section 21, Township 20 South, Range 27 East; thence go west along the north line of the southeast ¼ of Section 20, Township 20 South, Range 27 East 1603.66 feet; thence go south to the centerline of Jones Avenue; thence go west along the centerline of Jones Avenue through Sections 20 and 19 of Township 20 South, Range 27 East to the northerly projection of the west line of the East 2640 feet of the south ¼ of the southeast ¼ of Section 19, Township 20 South, Range 27 East; thence go south on the west line of
Lake Apopka Enterprise Zone Boundary Description

de the east 2640 feet of the south ¼ of the southeast ¼ of Section 19, Township 20 South, Range 27 East to the south line of Section 19, Township 20 South, Range 27 East; thence continue south along the west line of the northwest ¼ of Section 30, Township 20 South, Range 27 East to the southeast corner of the northwest ¼ of Section 30, Township 20 South, Range 27 East; thence go west on the south line of the northwest ¼ of Section 30, Township 20 South, Range 27 East to the southwest corner of the northwest ¼ of Section 30, Township 20 South, Range 27 East; thence north on the west line of Section 30, Township 20 South, Range 27 East and the west line of Section 19, Township 20 South, Range 27 East to the northwest corner of Section 19, Township 20 South, Range 27 East; thence go north on the west line of Trimble Reassembly as recorded in Plat Book H page 55 of the Public Records of Orange County, Florida; thence go north on the east line and a projection of the east line of Trimble Reassembly to the centerline of Sadler Road; thence go northeast and east on the centerline of Sadler Road through Sections 18, 17, 16 and 15, Township 20 South, Range 27 East to the centerline of Round Lake Road and the Point of Beginning.
LAKE APOPKA ENTERPRISE ZONE

STRATEGIC PLAN

submitted by

ORANGE COUNTY PLANNING DEPARTMENT

in cooperation with the

CITY OF APOPKA COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

DECEMBER 1998
Background and Purpose

There was nothing like a weekend vacation at Lake Apopka. As the fourth largest lake in Florida, Lake Apopka was well known for its 30,671 acres of clear water, mucky banks and abundant game fish. According to the 1996 Lake Apopka Economic Analysis produced by Apogee Research, Inc., sport and commercial fisheries thrived on the lake. The fishing on Lake Apopka was so popular that by the 1950s, fishermen came from all parts of the state to cast a reel and have a good time. Sometimes camps would house nearly three hundred overnight visitors. Visitors could rent any of the nearly 200 fishing boats available for hire.

By the 1960s, the days of game and sun were long gone for Lake Apopka. A combination of increased pollution and poor management resulted in a rapid decline in Lake Apopka's water quality during the 1950s and 1960s. Lake Apopka remains among the most polluted large lakes in Florida, primarily because of high nutrient levels in the water. While there may have been many causes for the demise of Lake Apopka, vegetable farms operating on the northern flat muck lands have been faulted as the largest external source of nutrients. Agricultural uses often deposit high concentrations of nutrient enriched water into lakes. Pesticides and insecticides also cause pollution. These deposits cause an imbalance in the natural conditions of the lake.

In the 1980s, the concern for Florida's environmentally sensitive areas brought both local and statewide attention to Lake Apopka. By 1992, the St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD) created the Lake Apopka Surface Water Improvement and Management (SWIM) plan. The plan was designed to restore Lake Apopka and surrounding marshes.

Beginning in 1996, the SJRWMD acquired over 12,914 acres of land in Orange County originally occupied by the Lake Apopka vegetable farms. While the acquisition would possibly restore the environmental conditions of Lake Apopka, the vegetable muck farm closings have severely impacted the economic conditions in surrounding communities. The purpose of the Lake Apopka Enterprise Zone Strategic Plan is to provide a coordinated method for developing alternative markets and industries in the northwest communities of Orange County that have suffered economic decline as a result of the farm closings.

Description of the Targeted Area

Because of its size, Lake Apopka is an important natural resource on which many industries in northwest Orange County have become dependent. In particular, the communities north of the lake; Zellwood and Plymouth, These communities absorbed the greatest impact from the farm closings.
The Enterprise Zone boundary captures areas that are most likely to sustain future business development. The targeted area can be generally defined as the portion of land lying between Sadler Road and the County-line to the north, Plymouth-Sorrento Road to the east, N. Orange Blossom Trail to the south and the western boundary line of Section 18, Township 20S, Range 27E. The area is comprised of census block groups 179.001, 179.002, 179.004, 179.005, 179.007, 179.008, and 179.009.

Portions of block groups 179.005 and 179.008 were omitted. The omitted portions are those properties to be assumed by the St. Johns Water Management District as part of their acquisition plan. The area included in the Enterprise Zone captures the industrial and commercial land uses that will foster future business development. The total area measures about twenty square miles.

**Future Land Use**

Orange County and the City of Apopka have adopted local comprehensive plans that determine the level and type of development suitable to the area around Lake Apopka. The land use designations adopted by both jurisdictions have a direct bearing on the future development in the Lake Apopka Enterprise Zone.

Residential and agricultural future land use designations dominate the targeted area. These areas are expected to develop as rural/agricultural communities (1 unit per 10 acres) and single family communities (4 units per acre). Businesses will receive tax credits for hiring residents of the communities within the Lake Apopka Enterprise Zone. Plant nurseries and greenhouses are also allowed under this future land use as agricultural zoning. Business owners would be eligible for tax benefits, reducing the operation costs.

The second common future land use designation in the Lake Apopka Enterprise Zone is industrial. These industrial uses reflect traditional support industries for agricultural activity in the area. Plant nurseries and greenhouses may also reside in industrial areas. There are areas slated as industrial on the Future Land Use Map that are currently residential communities. The Enterprise Zone program will not abandon or demolish the residential communities.

A few commercial future land use designations are in the targeted area. The commercial land uses are mostly businesses that serve the surrounding communities. The commercial uses are primarily lined along Orange Blossom Trail (US 441). Retail nurseries and garden suppliers may also develop under commercial future land use. The Enterprise Zone will encourage these businesses to expand, hire local residents and make needed repairs on facilities.
Enterprise Zone Goals

The Enterprise Zone program is designed to provide stimulus for business development, expansion and retention in targeted areas by providing state tax credits and refunds on sales taxes and corporate income taxes. However, the tax credits and refunds must fit into a much larger effort to improve the economic conditions of the Lake Apopka communities. Listed below are the five primary goals of the Lake Apopka Enterprise Zone.

Goals
1. To encourage the development and expansion of new commercial and industrial industries in the designated areas;
2. To provide displaced workers with opportunities to retrain for alternative employment;
3. To coordinate the marketing of economic opportunities in the Enterprise Zone;
4. Encourage the expansion of nursery industries; and
5. Review regulatory barriers to economic development.

Goal 1: To encourage the development and expansion of new commercial and industrial industries in the designated areas

The farm closings reduced the available jobs in northwest Orange County. To offset the farm closings, it is necessary to provide additional employment opportunities. Well above 200 industrial and commercial businesses currently exist in the Enterprise Zone. Some of these businesses will have opportunity to expand. However, there is also a need for new businesses to develop. The Enterprise Zone will seek to encourage business development by aiding these new and existing businesses in qualifying for state tax credits and refunds.

New uses and industries provide opportunity for diversifying the economy of northwest Orange County. In some cases, uses that have exhausted market availability in other parts of Orange County, may be induced to examine the northwest. However, new industries should not be ignored. Potential new economic sectors may develop from the following industries:

Agricultural Production
Ornamental and Nursery Products (SIC 0181)

Light Assembly Manufacturing
Public Building and related Furniture Manufacturing (SIC 2531)
Wood Office and Store Fixtures, Partitions, Shelving and Lockers (SIC 2542)
Fabricated Rubber Products (SIC 3069)
Plastic Bottle Manufacturing (SIC 3085)
Plastic Foam Products Manufacturing (SIC 3086 and 3089)
Farm Machinery and Equipment Manufacturing (SIC 3523)
Lawn and Garden Tractors and Equipment Manufacturing (SIC 3524)
Boat Building and Repairing (SIC 3732)
Railroad Equipment Manufacturing (SIC 3743)

Public Warehousing/Storage
Farm Products (SIC 4221)
Refrigerated Warehousing (SIC 4222)
General Warehousing (SIC 4225)

Wholesale Trade
Lumber and other Construction Materials (SIC 5031, 5032, 5033)
Distribution of Miscellaneous Durable Goods (farm supplies, nursery stock, books, periodical newspapers) (SIC 5191, 5192, 5193)

Goal 2: To provide displaced workers with opportunities to retrain for alternative employment

The employees of the vegetable muck farms were general farm workers who typically have relatively low employment skill levels. The Vision Northwest Economic Initiative Study states that “over 90 percent of the farm workers put out of work by the buyout are classified as unskilled. These workers have minimal job and communication skills which will require additional job training.” Estimating the needs of these employees will be difficult. Little information is available regarding the education, age and skills of the farm workers. However, programs have already been established to address some of the needs of the unskilled laborers in the area. Where possible, the enterprise zone program will be used to supplement the benefits available through established programs.

Displaced employees from the management levels may be less difficult to place. Employees with management experience are usually knowledgeable about the job search process and may find jobs on their own. Nonetheless, services will be developed to aid these displaced workers as appropriate.

Regardless of the education and skill levels of the displaced employees, training and education programs are needed. The Legislature has linked the Enterprise Zone program with various programs that provide training programs. For instance, the Job Training Partnership Act (JTPA) programs are available to residents in the Enterprise Zone areas. Also, Orange County and the City of Apopka will receive funds from the sale of farm equipment. These funds may be used for job retraining. Further research will be conducted to identify additional resources for training and placement programs.
Goal 3: To coordinate the marketing of economic opportunities in the Enterprise Zone

Since 1995, Orange County has administered an Enterprise Zone that serves the areas of South Apopka, Eatonville and the southwest portions of downtown Orlando. Through the experience of its first Enterprise Zone, Orange County has learned the value of marketing the program. In the first two program years, minimal marketing efforts were made. Because of marketing, the number of applications received increased from seven in 1996-97 to fifty-four in 1997-98. The 1997-98 applications created forty-four new jobs with combined annual incomes totaling some $880,000.

In establishing the Lake Apopka Enterprise Zone, the Enterprise Zone Development Agency will develop marketing strategies. The marketing strategies will include brochures, workshops, internet access, press releases and public appearances. These are some of the activities utilized in the Orange County Enterprise Zone.

Goal 4: Encourage expansion of nursery industries

The various nurseries in northwest Orange County have increased in importance in light of the loss of the vegetable farms. The industry is diverse with both large and small owners. The nursery businesses are usually small proprietors who may come in and out of the market. Nonetheless, these businesses may have opportunities to expand with the enterprise zone benefits. In addition, many of the workers displaced from the farm closings can be absorbed by the nursery industry.

Expansion of nurseries may occur in many ways. The enterprise zone would encourage nurseries to make capital expansions to their facilities. Nurseries may take advantage of sales tax refunds by purchasing additional business equipment. Expansion may also mean that the businesses may increase the number of employees hired. New hires from residents with the enterprise zones bring additional support and tax credits.

Goal 5: Review regulatory barriers to economic development

Orange County and the City of Apopka have in place land development rules and regulations that govern the growth of the jurisdictions. However, some land development codes may impede the redevelopment of the Lake Apopka area. The mitigation of these regulatory barriers may prove critical to increasing opportunities for business development.

Permitting processes may also present barriers to small business, particularly commercial proprietors. Where possible, the enterprise zone program will
explore the possibility of a fast track permitting process for the enterprise zone businesses.

It is expected that some of the displaced farm workers may have opportunities to create small businesses (for example, childcare services). Should workers take advantage of the opportunity for business, business resources will be made available through coordination with established organizations such as the Hispanic Business Initiative Fund (HBIF), the Small Business Administration and the post-secondary schools in the Central Florida area.

**Coordination**

Orange County and the City of Apopka seek to jointly nominate the Lake Apopka Enterprise Zone. Both jurisdictions have vested interests in the economic redevelopment of the Lake Apopka area. This strategic plan encourages cooperative programs, activities and resources. Orange County and the City of Apopka have established an interlocal agreement solidifying the joint redevelopment effort. In addition to the City of Apopka, other organizations will be asked to collaborate with the Enterprise Zone program and the Enterprise Zone Development Agency.

**Poverty, Unemployment and General Distress**

According to the 1990 Census of the Population, 4,457 individuals resided in the census block groups that comprise the Lake Apopka targeted area. The census identified an estimated 1,085 (24 percent) of these individuals as having incomes below the poverty level. The number of unemployed persons in 1990 totals 158 or 3.5 percent of the population. The unemployed persons make up 7.6 percent of the labor force which totals 1,509 civilians. Shown in the table below is poverty and unemployment information for each census block group.

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<th>Table 1: 1990 Population, Poverty and Unemployment</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Census Block Group</strong></td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
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The poverty and unemployment information contained in the census does not adequately reflect the current conditions in the Lake Apopka area. The farm closings did not begin until 1996. However, anticipating and demonstrating the market consequences of the farm closings and acquisition is difficult because there has been no precedent for such activity. Nonetheless Apogee Research, Inc. attempted to quantify and qualify the economic impact.

The 1996 Lake Apopka Economic Analysis provided estimates of the potential impact of the farm closings. In summary, the report states that the closings will result in a loss in direct economic output nearly equal to $52 million for Orange County. The earnings loss would total about $15.5 million. The farm closings would cause the loss of an estimated 974 full-time equivalent jobs, leaving many residents without an income.

In addition to economic losses, the closing of the muck farms will cause a loss in property tax revenues. The 142 parcels that make up the 12,914 acres acquired by SJRWMD had a 1995 market value totaling slightly less than $50.8 million with an assessed value of $46.8 million. Most of these parcels had agricultural exemptions, leaving a total taxable value of more than $14.6 million. In 1995, property owners paid $872,078 in property taxes.

**Resources**

Several programs and services are in place that serve the Lake Apopka area. However, these services have not been specifically directed to the Enterprise Zone targeted area. Although additional research is required, there has been no evidence that any federal or state funding has been requested specifically for the Enterprise Zone area. Listed below are some of the programs and services that may provide opportunities for collaborative efforts.

- Vision Northwest Redevelopment Initiative
- Community Development Block Grant Program
- Lake Apopka Re-Employment Program
- Orange County Business Development Division
- Chambers of Commerce
- Florida Jobs and Benefits Center
- Healthy Community Initiative
- Various Orange County Community Service Centers

**Program Evaluation and Benchmarking**

Although studies confirm the need for new business development and employee training, there is no exact measure of the total service needs. Without this critical
information, program evaluation and benchmarking is difficult. However, as part of the goals identified earlier, the following may be used as benchmarks in the first year of the program:

- A study will be completed identifying areas within the Lake Apopka Enterprise Zone that are available for development. This study will be used to market the Lake Apopka area and provide benefits to eligible businesses.
- Using the Vision Northwest Economic Initiative study, specific programs for training and placement will be outlined and implementation strategies will be developed.
- Orange County and the City of Apopka will work with the Enterprise Zone Development Agency to establish marketing strategies for the program.

As additional information is collected regarding the needs of businesses and employees in the Lake Apopka Enterprise Zone, the benchmarks may become more specific and will increase in number.

**Implementation**

The implementation of the Lake Apopka Enterprise Zone will be outlined in an interlocal agreement between Orange County and the City of Apopka. The interlocal agreement will be an appendix to the nominating.

**Summary**

The targeted Lake Apopka Enterprise Zone has changed from one of Florida's most attractive vacation spots to an area devastated by economic transition. The restoration of the Lake Apopka Enterprise Zone depends heavily on business development and employee training. The tax credits and refunds that accompany an Enterprise Zone will provide needed stimulus for business development. In addition, residents of the Lake Apopka Enterprise Zone will benefit from training opportunities provided by various programs. The Lake Apopka Enterprise Zone will reverse economic decline and improve the quality of life in west Orange County.
Ordinance

Creating the Lake Apopka Enterprise Zone Development Agency