

TREASURE COAST REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

MEMORANDUM

To: Council Members

AGENDA ITEM 11

From: Staff

Date: June 17, 2016 Council Meeting

Subject: Resolution in Support of the Water Resources Development Act 2016

Background

The Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 2016 signals Congress's return to the regular, biannual process of authorizing projects and activities related to key missions of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), including developing and maintaining the Nation's waterway infrastructure and supporting effective and targeted flood protection and environmental restoration needs.

Returning to the two-year cycle of considering WRDA legislation will help ensure proper Congressional oversight of the Corps and enables Congress to address the Nation's water resource development needs. It also saves money by allowing needed water resource infrastructure improvements and project modifications to move forward, preventing the unnecessary increases in project costs that occur when authorizations are stalled or delayed.

WRDA 2016 authorizes 28 Army Corps of Engineers Chief's Reports submitted to Congress since the enactment of WRDA 2014. Chief's Reports are the final recommendation to Congress by the Corps for water resources infrastructure priority projects and programs. These infrastructure improvements have been proposed at the local level, in cooperation and consultation with the Corps, and provide national economic and environmental benefits. All Chief's Reports included in WRDA 2016 were subject to approval by the Assistant Secretary of the Army and congressional committee hearings this year. WRDA 2016 authorizes \$5 billion in federal funding for Corps activities in the following primary areas:

- Port and Inland Waterway Improvements;
- Flood Protection and Safety for Communities;
- Ecosystem Restoration and Public Access;
- Drought and Water Supply; and
- Drinking Water and Wastewater Infrastructure.

Of particular interest to the Treasure Coast Region in WRDA 2016 is the authorization of the Comprehensive Everglades Planning Project (CEPP) and Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP) projects (\$1.95 billion); rehabilitation of high-hazard dams/levees, including the Herbert Hoover Dike (\$135 million); and the deepening of Port Everglades (\$323 million).

### Conclusion

WRDA 2016 addresses the authorization of various projects in support of Council's top 2016 legislative priorities which are to **Restore the Everglades and Eliminate Harmful Freshwater Discharges into the St. Lucie River Estuary and Indian River and Lake Worth Lagoons**, including restoration of historic flows into Everglades National Park. Council should approve attached Resolution 16-07 and authorize its transmittal to Congress and other appropriate parties.

### Recommendation

Council should adopt Resolution 16-07 and authorize its transmittal to the U.S. Secretary of the Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Secretary of the Department of Interior, the U.S. Congress, and President of the United States.

Attachment

**RESOLUTION #16-07**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE TREASURE COAST REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL REPRESENTING THE 54 LOCAL GOVERNMENTS OF INDIAN RIVER, MARTIN, PALM BEACH, AND ST. LUCIE COUNTIES, FLORIDA, SUPPORTING THE PASSAGE OF THE WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT ACT (WRDA) 2016**

**WHEREAS**, the Everglades, Lake Okeechobee, St. Lucie and Caloosahatchee River estuaries, and Indian River and Lake Worth lagoons are imperiled ecosystems and waters of the state; and

**WHEREAS**, the Herbert Hoover Dike is considered a high-hazard dam for public safety in need of strengthening and repair; and

**WHEREAS**, the health of these ecosystems and the dike are critical to the economy, public safety, and quality of life of the Treasure Coast Region and all of southern Florida; and

**WHEREAS**, WRDA 2016 should result in actions to restore the integrity of Herbert Hoover Dike and complete Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan and Comprehensive Everglades Planning Project projects to restore the long-term health and ecological and economic productivity of these ecosystems of statewide and national importance; and

**WHEREAS**, WRDA 2016 is in support of and consistent with the Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council’s 2016 legislative priorities.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT TREASURE COAST REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL FULLY SUPPORTS THE REPAIR AND STRENGTHENING OF THE HERBERT HOOVER DIKE AND RESTORATION OF THE EVERGLADES ECOSYSTEM AND ELIMINATION OF HARMFUL FRESHWATER DISCHARGES TO THE ST. LUCIE AND CALOOSAHATCHEE RIVER ESTUARIES AND THE INDIAN RIVER AND LAKE WORTH LAGOONS.**

**DULY ADOPTED** by the Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council this 17th day of June 2016.

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Michael Davis  
Chairman

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Michael J. Busha  
Executive Director