

RESOLUTION NO. 2016-03

A RESOLUTION OF THE PALM BEACH COUNTY LEAGUE OF CITIES, INC., STRONGLY SUPPORTING AND ENCOURAGING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO PROVIDE THE NECESSARY AND SUSTAINED FUNDING TO COMPLETE THE REHABILITATION OF THE HERBERT HOOVER DIKE; FURTHER STRONGLY SUPPORTING AND ENCOURAGING THE UNITED STATES ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS TO EXPEDITE THE REPAIRS OF THE HERBERT HOOVER DIKE TO PROTECT THE PUBLIC HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELFARE OF THE RESIDENTS OF COMMUNITIES SURROUNDING LAKE OKEECHOBEE INCLUDING THE CITIES OF BELLE GLADE, PAHOKEE AND SOUTH BAY, AND TO MINIMIZE THE ENVIRONMENTAL AND ECONOMIC IMPACTS THAT RESULT FROM LAKE OKEECHOBEE DISCHARGES TO COASTAL ESTUARIES; PROVIDING FOR TRANSMITTAL TO THE REGIONAL MUNICIPAL LEAGUES; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

WHEREAS, three municipalities within Palm Beach County, the City of Belle Glade, the City of Pahokee, and the City of South Bay, as well as other Florida Counties and Municipalities surround Lake Okeechobee and have residents that live adjacent to or near the Lake; and

WHEREAS, these Cities along with the State of Florida, Palm Beach County, and other Florida Counties and Municipalities also have significant public infrastructure located and maintained in areas around the Lake; and

WHEREAS, the El Nino weather pattern dominated South Florida from December through March of 2016, and brought record-breaking dry-season rainfall to many areas and caused the water level in Lake Okeechobee and the Everglades to rise well above the United States Army Corps of Engineers' Regulation Schedules for those areas; and

WHEREAS, as a result of this weather event, the coastal estuaries were forced to endure high releases of water from Lake Okeechobee for several months; and

WHEREAS, the higher Lake stage also impacts the public health, safety and welfare of residents that live near or adjacent to the Lake because of the pressure placed on the Herbert Hoover Dike (the "HHD"); and

WHEREAS, public infrastructure located and maintained in the Lakeside region also is at risk until necessary repairs to the HHD are made; and

WHEREAS, approximately six months ago, the Army Corps of Engineers released its Draft Herbert Hoover Dike Dam Safety Modification Study and Environmental Impact Statement providing the final engineering plan and budget necessary to complete the rehabilitation of the HHD; and

WHEREAS, the draft report presents the engineering design and cost estimate to complete the first major rehabilitation of the HHD in 75 years, which is necessary to bring it to the safety designation appropriate for the protection of the communities surrounding Lake Okeechobee; and

WHEREAS, the Palm Beach County League of Cities, Inc. strongly believes that acceleration of the rehabilitation to the HHD is not only critical for the public health, safety, welfare and economies of the Counties and Municipalities that surround Lake Okeechobee including the Cities of Belle Glade, Pahokee and South Bay, but also will allow more flexible management of high water levels in Lake Okeechobee to reduce the discharges to coastal estuaries; and

WHEREAS, the timely completion of the repairs to the HHD, however, is dependent on continued, uninterrupted funding from Congress.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE PALM BEACH COUNTY LEAGUE OF CITIES, INC., THAT:

SECTION 1: The Board of Directors of the Palm Beach County League of Cities, Inc. strongly urges the United States Congress to provide the necessary and sustained funding to complete the rehabilitation of the HHD.

SECTION 2: The Board of Directors of the Palm Beach County League of Cities, Inc. further strongly urges the United States Army Corps of Engineers to expedite the repairs to the HHD for the public health, safety and welfare of the communities that surround Lake Okeechobee including the Cities of Belle Glade, Pahokee, and South Bay, and to minimize the environmental and economic impacts resulting from the interim operational schedule relating to Lake Okeechobee discharges to coastal estuaries now in place.

SECTION 3: The Executive Director of the Palm Beach County League of Cities, Inc., through his staff, is hereby directed to forward this Resolution to the Alachua County League of Cities, the Bay County League of Cities, the Broward League of Cities, the Southwest Florida League of Cities, the Space Coast League of Cities, the Suncoast League of Cities, the Suwannee River League of Cities, the Treasure Coast Regional League of Cities,

the Tri-County League of Cities, and the Volusia League of Cities, and to request that these Leagues adopt similar resolutions in support of the rehabilitation of the HHD.

SECTION 4: This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon passage.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 22nd day of November, 2016.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF
THE PALM BEACH COUNTY
LEAGUE OF CITIES, INC.



Robert M. W. Shalhoub, President
(SEAL)

ATTEST:



Mo Thornton, Secretary/Treasurer

