

RESOLUTION NO. 790

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COMMISSION OF THE TOWN OF SEWALL'S POINT, OF MARTIN COUNTY, FLORIDA REQUESTING THE GOVERNOR OF FLORIDA, THROUGH EXECUTIVE ORDER AND/OR OTHER POWERS AVAILABLE UNDER THE LAW, TO ACTIVATE ALL AVAILABLE STATE AND LOCAL EMERGENCY AND RELIEF RESOURCES AND MECHANISMS FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE INDIAN RIVER LAGOON AND THE ST. LUCIE ESTUARY.

WHEREAS, the Indian River Lagoon is a diverse, shallow-water estuary stretching across 40 percent of Florida's east coast; and

WHEREAS, the Lagoon is an important commercial and recreational fishery and economic resource to the state and region. The total estimated annual economic value of the lagoon is \$3.7 billion, supporting 15,000 full and part-time jobs and providing recreational opportunities for 11 million people per year; and

WHEREAS, the St. Lucie River and Estuary is an ecological jewel on Florida's Treasure Coast that is integral to the environmental and economic well-being of Martin and St. Lucie Counties. The St. Lucie River is part of the larger Indian River Lagoon system, the most diverse estuarine environment in North America with more than 4,000 plant and animal species; and

WHEREAS, extensive historical modifications to the St. Lucie River and its watershed have altered the hydrology of the region and, as a result, heavy rainfall can bring large influxes of fresh water into the St. Lucie Estuary from stormwater runoff within the basin, Lake Okeechobee releases, or both. The increased freshwater flows affect salinity levels and water quality in the estuary, causing environmental and economic harm; and

WHEREAS, this runoff is causing a public health threat as *Microcystis aeruginosa*, a single-celled blue green alga, or cyanobacterium, has proliferated in the Lagoon to form dense blooms, which produce multiple toxins, including liver toxins, as well as neurotoxins; and

WHEREAS, 47,000 acres of sea grass have been killed to date in the Indian River Lagoon since 2010, which far exceeds any documented or recalled events in terms of geographical scale, bloom intensity and duration. It is alarming because sea grass is an indicator of the Lagoon's health, a food source for manatees and a nursery, refuge and place of forage for a variety of fish and other marine life; and

WHEREAS, the Lagoon is at a crisis point. The coming months could herald a slow recovery of this unique ecosystem or an imminent collapse of the remaining portion of the estuary that has been sustainable up to this point, requiring both short and long-term solutions; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Sewall's Point supports the long-term solution of completing the Indian River Lagoon South (IRLS) project, a key element of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP); and

WHEREAS, the C-44 Reservoir and Stormwater Treatment Area is the first component of the IRLS project to move to construction and will reduce substantially polluted runoff into the St. Lucie River and the Indian River Lagoon from the St. Lucie Basin; and

WHEREAS, the next contract for the C-44 project has been delayed due to insufficient federal funding, and the timely completion of the C-44 is critically important in reducing polluted runoff into the St. Lucie River and the Indian River Lagoon.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE TOWN OF SEWALL'S POINT, FLORIDA, THAT:

The Sewall's Point Town Commission requests that the Governor declare an emergency so that affected communities may proceed to seek direct assistance with any and all agencies of the State of Florida as needed to meet this emergency in the short and long-term and advocate with the county the needs at the federal level; and that

The Town of Sewall's Point Commission requests that the Governor of the State of Florida issue an Executive Order and/or other powers available under law, to activate all available State and Local emergency and relief resources and mechanisms to protect the Indian River Lagoon and the St. Lucie Estuary.

The Town of Sewall's Point's Town Manager shall forward this Resolution to the Governor of the State of Florida, the County's State and Federal legislative delegations and the St. Lucie County Administrator.

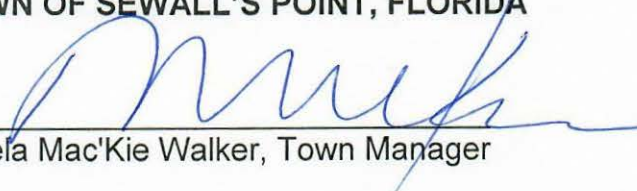
This Resolution shall become effective immediately upon adoption.

The foregoing Resolution was offered by Commissioner Paul Luger, who moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by Comr. Thurlow-Lippisch, and upon being put to a roll call vote, the vote was as follows:


	<u>AYE</u>	<u>NAY</u>
THOMAS P. BAUSCH, Mayor	<u>X</u>	___
PAMELA BUSH, Vice Mayor	<u>X</u>	___
VINCENT BARILE, Commissioner	<u>X</u>	___
PAUL LUGER, Commissioner	<u>X</u>	___
JACQUI THURLOW-LIPPISCH, Commissioner	<u>X</u>	___

The Town Manager thereupon declared this Resolution No.790 approved and adopted by the Town Commission of the Town of Sewall's Point on this 26th day of September, 2013.


TOWN OF SEWALL'S POINT, FLORIDA


Pamela Mac'Kie Walker, Town Manager

ATTEST:


Ann-Marie S. Basler, Town Clerk

(TOWN SEAL)


Glen J. Torcivia, Town Attorney
Florida Bar No. 343374
Approved as to form and legal sufficiency