

**RESOLUTION NO. 02-01-09**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS EXPRESSING THEIR GRATITUDE TO REPRESENTATIVE ROS-LEHTINEN, SENATOR NELSON AND SENATOR MARTINEZ FOR THEIR ASSISTANCE AND LEADERSHIP IN HELPING THE KEYS TO SECURE FEDERAL FUNDING AND REQUESTING THE ACTIVE ASSISTANCE OF TO REPRESENTATIVE ROS-LEHTINEN, SENATOR NELSON AND SENATOR MARTINEZ IN WORKING TO SECURE STIMULUS FUNDING; AND PROVIDING FOR APPLICABILITY AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE**

WHEREAS, the Florida Keys are a world-class destination for tourists who participate in beach activities, swimming, diving, fishing, and boating in nearshore waters, the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary, and the nearby reefs; and

WHEREAS, the tourists visiting the Florida Keys are primarily residents of Florida, Georgia, New York, North Carolina and Ohio, with the largest number of foreign visitors coming from Canada and the United Kingdom; and

WHEREAS, protection and enhancement of the nearshore waters is essential to protecting the Keys, to preserving the Keys as a major tourist destination, and to protecting investment in the Everglades restoration; and

WHEREAS, the Florida Keys face a State and Federal imposed deadline to complete construction for Advanced Wastewater Sewer Treatment by July 1, 2010; and

WHEREAS, these sewers are required to protect the near shore waters of the Florida Keys, over 95% of which are owned by the Federal and State government; and

WHEREAS, the estimated cost of the wastewater infrastructure is \$800,000,000 with the great majority of the costs being borne by the 81,000 residents of the Florida Keys, for an average cost of about \$10,000 per resident; and

WHEREAS, the cost of installing Advanced Wastewater Treatment and the removal of old septic systems pose an added heavy economic burden for Keys residents and businesses, especially in these difficult economic times; and

WHEREAS, residents of the Florida Keys have an average per capita income of only \$40,000, and they already pay the highest cost of living of any county in Florida, with an average cost of living nearly 113% of the Florida statewide average; and

WHEREAS, the Key Largo Wastewater Treatment District has embarked on an ambitious construction program to fully sewer its service area by July, 2010; and

WHEREAS, the Key Largo Wastewater Treatment District currently has shovels in the ground for ongoing sewer construction; and

WHEREAS, the Florida Keys Water Quality Improvement Program was authorized into law by the Federal government in December, 2000 to make the Federal government a funding partner in the construction of sewers; and

WHEREAS, there is approximately \$85,000,000 remaining in this authorization; and

WHEREAS, the Key Largo Wastewater Treatment District has signed a Project Cooperation Agreement with the Corps of Engineers, and has begun to invoice the Corps for sewer construction; and

WHEREAS, the Federal government is preparing to pass Stimulus legislation that will include water resources infrastructure funding for both the Corps of Engineers and the USEPA Clean Water Program; and

WHEREAS, the Key Largo Wastewater Treatment District meets the anticipated requirements to qualify for this Stimulus including “shovel ready,” creating new jobs, completing within two years, and not obligating the Federal government to operations, maintenance, or other continuing expenses, and being environmentally friendly; and

WHEREAS, the Key Largo Wastewater Treatment District is in a position to immediately match and commit stimulus funding:

**Now be it therefore resolved that the Key Largo Wastewater Treatment District Commissioners express their gratitude to Representative Ros-Lehtinen, Senator Nelson and Senator Martinez for their assistance and leadership in helping the Keys to secure Federal funding support for Advanced Wastewater Treatment Construction;**

And

**The Key Largo Wastewater Treatment District request the active assistance of Representative Ros-Lehtinen and Senators Nelson and Martinez in working with the Congress and the Executive Branch of the Federal government, most especially the Corps of Engineers and the USEPA to secure Stimulus funding for the purpose of sewer construction in the Keys as well as through the regular appropriations process.**

This resolution shall take effect upon adoption by the Board of Commissioners.

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RESOLVED AND ADOPTED THIS 6<sup>th</sup> DAY OF JANUARY, 2009


The foregoing RESOLUTION was offered by Commissioner Tobin, who moved its approval. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Brooks, and being put to a vote the result was as follows:

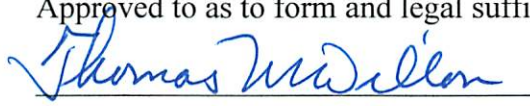
	AYE	NAY
Chairwoman Susan Hammaker	<u>X</u>	_____
Commissioner Charles Brooks	<u>X</u>	_____
Commissioner Robby Majeska	<u>X</u>	_____
Commissioner Andrew Tobin	<u>X</u>	_____
Commissioner Norman Higgins	<u>X</u>	_____

The Chairman thereupon declared Resolution No. 02-01-09 duly passed and adopted the 6<sup>th</sup> day of January, 20089

KEY LARGO WASTEWATER TREATMENT DISTRICT

BY:   
Chairwoman Susan Hammaker

ATTEST:  
  
Carol Walker, District Clerk

Approved to as to form and legal sufficiency  
  
District Counsel, Thomas M. Dillon

SEAL