BEFORE THE CITY COMMISSION
CITY OF STUART, FLORIDA

RESOLUTION NUMBER 37-2020

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF STUART, FLORIDA, ADOPTING A SAINT LUCIE ESTUARY LAKE DISCHARGE ELIMINATION VISION STATEMENT FOR THE PURPOSE OF DEFINING A FOCUSED VISION FOR THE CITY IN ALL FUTURE CORRESPONDENCE WITH THE UNITED STATES ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT, AND OTHER LOCAL, STATE, AND FEDERAL AGENCIES CONCERNING THE MANAGEMENT OF LAKE OKEECHOBEE; REQUESTING THE UNITED STATES ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS ADOPT AN OPERATIONAL GOAL TARGETING AN 11 FOOT LAKE OKEECHOBEE ELEVATION (NGVD) BY JUNE 1ST EACH YEAR; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

* * * * *

WHEREAS, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers have conveyed destructive freshwater discharges from Lake Okeechobee into the Saint Lucie Estuary since 1923; and

WHEREAS, the City of Stuart was the epicenter of the 2013, 2016, and 2018 algae crises, harmful algal bloom events spurred by decades of manmade conditioning, and proliferated by freshwater discharges from Lake Okeechobee; and

WHEREAS, it is the sense of the City of Stuart that these man-made disasters could have been avoided with a reformed approach to Lake Okeechobee management in which the health and

safety of the people, and the preservation of the natural environment, are paramount to maintaining an overabundance of water supply for agriculture and commercial users; and

WHEREAS, the United States Army Corps of Engineers have the opportunity to undo decades of catastrophic damage to the Saint Lucie Estuary, and to the communities it effects by modifying all future Lake Okeechobee System operations in a way that will allow for the natural ecosystem within the St. Lucie Estuary to reestablish biodiversity and resiliency, a primary objective within the Lake Okeechobee Regulation Schedule; and

WHEREAS, the City of Stuart requests the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers target level of 11 foot elevation (NGVD) of the Lake by June 1st each year as its operational goal, while maximizing beneficial flows west and south of the Lake throughout the dry season, thereby providing the Saint Lucie Estuary, its natural environment and ecology, and the residents of the City of Stuart the critical relief that is so urgently needed.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF STUART, FLORIDA, THAT:

SECTION 1: The foregoing precatory language is adopted as being true and correct and is incorporated herein.

SECTION 2: The City Commission of the City of Stuart, Florida adopts the enclosed vision statement for the purpose of identifying a focus for all future correspondence with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, South Florida Water Management District, and other local, state, and federal agencies concerning the management of Lake Okeechobee.

SECTION 3: The City Commission requests the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers adopt an operational goal targeting an 11 foot Lake Okeechobee elevation (NGVD) by June 1st each year, while providing maximum beneficial flows both south and west of the Lake in order to eliminate the need to discharge water to the Saint Lucie Estuary and to provide time for this ecosystem to recover and rebuild its resiliency.

SECTION 4: This Resolution shall become effective upon its adoption.

Resolution No. 37-2020
Resolution adopting a St. Lucie Estuary Lake Discharge Elimination Vision Statement

Commissioner _____ offered the foregoing resolution and moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by Commissioner _____ and upon being put to a roll call vote, the vote was as follows:

	YES	NO	ABSENT	ABSTAIN
MICHAEL J. MEIER, MAYOR				
EULA R. CLARKE, VICE MAYOR				
BECKY BRUNER, COMMISSIONER				
KELLI GLASS LEIGHTON, COMMISSIONER				
MERRITT MATHESON, COMMISSIONER				

ADOPTED this ___ day of _____, 2020.

ATTEST:

_____
MARY R. KINDEL
CITY CLERK

_____
MICHAEL J. MEIER
MAYOR

APPROVED AS TO FORM
AND CORRECTNESS:

_____
MICHAEL J. MORTELL
CITY ATTORNEY