

SWFRPC Resolution #2009-01

**A RESOLUTION OF THE SOUTHWEST FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR AN INLAND PORT SITE SELECTION PROCESS FOCUSED CENTRALLY WITHIN THE BOUNDARIES OF THE SOUTH CENTRAL RURAL AREA OF CRITICAL CONCERN**

**WHEREAS**, the Counties of DeSoto, Glades, Hardee, Hendry, Highlands and Okeechobee, the Cities of Belle Glade, Pahokee and South Bay and the community of Immokalee have been designated by the State of Florida to be the South Central Rural Area of Critical Economic Concern; and

**WHEREAS**, there exists a public/private interest in developing Multi-Modal Logistics Complexes (more commonly referred to as an "inland port") to serve the freight handling and distribution needs of Florida's port system; and

**WHEREAS**, an inland port can assist Florida in maintaining global competitiveness and gaining the economic benefits of an expanded and more energy efficient transportation and logistics industry; and

**WHEREAS**, establishing a centrally located site within the South Central Rural Area of Critical Economic Concern will provide the most noticeable economic benefit to the South Central Rural Area of Critical Economic Concern; and

**WHEREAS**, establishing a site that avoids impacts to designated Panther Merit Zones, the Everglades Agricultural Area, major drainage basins, conservation areas, and significant Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI) habitats will provide for a most environmentally sustainable location.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council that:

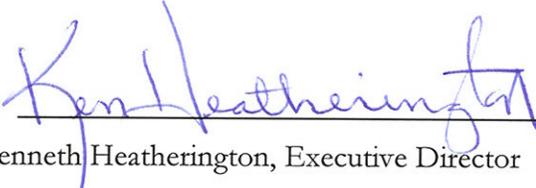
1. The Council supports pursuing inland port sites centrally within the South Central Rural Area of Critical Economic Concern that will result in the least amount of adverse environmental impact and will create the greatest measurable positive economic impact, and
2. The Council requests that key legislative leadership within the State of Florida support an inland port site centrally located within the South Central Rural Area of Critical Economic Concern that is economically and environmentally feasible for an inland port development and to proactively support the implementation of this development plan through the comprehensive planning and development of regional impact review process, and
3. The Council further requests that the State of Florida provide appropriate financial incentives to attract private sector involvement and to support the permitting process associated with this development in order to expedite this opportunity.

Approved and duly adopted by the Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council this 19<sup>th</sup> day of February 2009.

SOUTHWEST FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL



  
James Humphrey, Chairman

  
Kenneth Heatherington, Executive Director