

SWFRPC RESOLUTION #2010-06

**RESOLUTION REGARDING SOUTHWEST FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING
COUNCIL SUPPORT FOR PUBLIC ACQUISITION OF EDISON
FARMS/AGRIPARTNERS LANDS IN THE FLINT PEN STRAND AREA OF
SOUTHEAST LEE COUNTY**

WHEREAS, Edison Farms has been on the State's Florida Forever conservation land acquisition list for decades as part of the Corkscrew Regional Ecosystem Watershed (CREW);

WHEREAS, Edison Farms consists of six sections of predominantly wetlands with interspersed upland islands, totaling approximately 4,000 acres;

WHEREAS, endangered wood storks and Florida panthers have been documented significantly using this area, and habitat is suitable for many other species of wildlife, imperiled and otherwise;

WHEREAS, Edison Farms has been identified by the state-wide Critical Lands and Waters Identification (CLIP) project to include Strategic Habitat Conservation Area (SHCA), Biodiversity Hotspots, Rare Species Habitat Conservation Priorities, Under-Protected Natural Communities, and Ecological Greenways;

WHEREAS, Edison Farms is located entirely within Lee County's Density Reduction/Groundwater Resource Area because of its importance for water supply, flood protection and groundwater recharge;

WHEREAS, the owners of Edison Farms have applied to Lee County's Conservation 20/20 Program and this application is currently under review, having received very high scores in preliminary staff evaluations;

WHEREAS, these 4,000 acres play a regionally significant ecological role in Southwest Florida for water resources and habitat values;

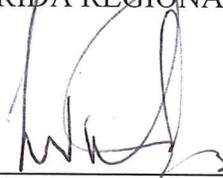
WHEREAS, there are no federal conservation land acquisition programs active in Lee County, unlike in adjacent Western Everglades counties; and

WHEREAS, public acquisition will eliminate land uses such as rock mining and urban development that conflict with important public interests in this location.

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the foregoing facts, the Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council does hereby resolve to support the public acquisition of Edison Farms, with local, state or other funding, for the regional public benefits of protecting and restoring water resource values, regionally significant wetlands and imperiled species habitat, and contributing significantly to the collective public good of the Corkscrew Regional Ecosystem Watershed.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Council this 21st day of October, 2010.

SOUTHWEST FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL



Mick Denham, Chair

ATTEST:



Kenneth Heatherington, Executive Director

