

DRAFT LOCAL GOVERNMENT RESOLUTION

**SUPPORTING INCREASED FUNDING FOR WATER PROJECTS,
ALTERNATIVE WATER SUPPLY, AND WATER
INFRASTRUCTURE**

WHEREAS, the state's water infrastructure systems are significant assets that protect public health and the state's water resources and are integral to the economic vitality and growth of the state; and

WHEREAS, in 2005, as a result of visionary leadership in the Florida Legislature and concerted efforts of allied groups, the Legislature passed, and the Governor signed, SB 444, which provided a dedicated revenue source for water protection and sustainability. That bill provided \$100 million dollars a year on a recurring basis for:

- the State's Total Maximum Daily Load (or TMDL) pollution elimination program;
- the development of new water supply projects;
- the restoration of our wetlands and other water dependent natural areas; and
- the treatment and disposal of wastewater in poor communities.

WHEREAS, despite the significant funding called for in SB 444, the total represented less than 1% of the State's total budget - a small price to pay for the State's water security; and

WHEREAS, as a result of unprecedeted revenue shortfalls the funding for this program has been eliminated, and

WHEREAS, municipal and county utilities face anticipated expenditures to repair and replace aging infrastructure, comply with new Clean Water and Safe Drinking Water Act mandates, as well as new responsibilities and costs relating to water security, source water protection or additional needs for re-use of treated effluent; and

WHEREAS, municipal and county resources dedicated to water infrastructure are being increasingly directed to compliance with new and ever more complex mandates such as numeric nutrient criteria and additional testing requirements, and therefore are unavailable for critical maintenance, repair, and rehabilitation needs without substantial increases in local water, wastewater, and sewer fees; and

WHEREAS, the establishment of a new state water infrastructure funding program would not only provide much-needed assistance to local governments, but also would significantly stimulate a sector of the state economy which supports and provides jobs and services associated with the financing, design and construction of water infrastructure projects;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that (insert local government name) urges the Florida Legislature to enhance Florida's water resources and their development by creating a new statewide program providing substantial and long-term funding to enhance regional and local financial capacity to address water resource and water supply development, provide adequate and reliable long-term funding for municipal water infrastructure needs, and funding alternative water supply development, water quality protection and development, treatment of impaired waters, and comprehensive water supply infrastructure needs.