

1 MAYORS' CLIMATE ACTION PLEDGE

2 A PLEDGE OF THE MUNICIPALITIES OF PALM BEACH
3 COUNTY ENDORSING THE MAYORS' CLIMATE ACTION
4 PLEDGE, AFFIRMING SUPPORT FOR THE SOUTHEAST
5 FLORIDA REGIONAL CLIMATE CHANGE COMPACT,
6 AGREEING TO CONSIDER IMPLEMENTING THE
7 REGIONAL CLIMATE ACTION PLAN IN WHOLE OR IN
8 PART AS APPROPRIATE FOR EACH MUNICIPALITY, AND
9 URGING ALL MAYORS OF PALM BEACH COUNTY TO
10 SUPPORT THE MAYORS' CLIMATE ACTION PLEDGE.

11 **WHEREAS**, Florida is considered one of the most vulnerable areas of the country to the
12 consequences of global climate change with Southeast Florida being at the frontline to
13 experience the impacts of a changing climate, especially sea level rise; and

14 **WHEREAS**, in recognition of the need for immediate, coordinated and visionary action
15 to address the impacts of a changing climate and provide for economic and environmental
16 resilience in Southeast Florida, in 2010 the counties of Palm Beach, Broward, Miami-Dade and
17 Monroe ("Compact Partners") entered into the Southeast Florida Regional Climate Change
18 Compact ("Compact"); and

19 **WHEREAS**, further recognizing the role of State water managers and local governments
20 in this regional initiative, the South Florida Water Management District and one municipal
21 representative from each participating county were invited to participate in this early phase; and

22 **WHEREAS**, in accordance with the Compact commitment and through a two year
23 collaborative process involving nearly 100 subject matter experts representing public and private
24 sectors, universities, and not-for-profit organizations, the Compact Partners developed the
Regional Climate Action Plan ("RCAP"); and

WHEREAS, on April 15, 2014, the Palm Beach County Board of County
Commissioners adopted the RCAP; and

1 **WHEREAS**, the RCAP offers recommendations that provide the common integrated
2 framework for a stronger and more resilient Southeast Florida, including:

- 3 • Providing the common framework for Sustainable Communities and
4 Transportation Planning to be aligned across the region;
- 5 • Recognizing the need to protect and address vulnerable Water Supply,
6 Management and Infrastructure and preserve fragile Natural Systems and
7 Agricultural resources;
- 8 • Providing steps to move towards resilience and reducing emissions through
9 exploring alternatives and decreasing the use of Energy and Fuel;
- 10 • Building upon strength as effective emergency responders and integrating climate
11 change hazards in Risk Reduction and Emergency Management Planning; and
- 12 • Providing for effective Public Outreach initiatives to educate the public on the
13 consequences of climate change and providing guidance for developing and
14 influencing Public Policies related to climate change; and

15 **WHEREAS**, recognizing that there are more than 100 municipalities within the region
16 that will play an important role in the implementation of the RCAP, the Compact Partners
17 included municipalities in the development of the RCAP; and

18 **WHEREAS**, municipalities individually have been working to achieve sustainability,
19 and the RCAP presents an opportunity to align these individual local efforts with the regional
20 framework and vision; and

21 **WHEREAS**, municipalities and Leagues of Cities played a key role in the annual
22 Regional Climate Leadership Summits, participated in RCAP Working Groups and now is the
23 time to solidify local government support to advance the RCAP; and

1 **WHEREAS**, the RCAP does not provide a mandate but rather serves as a living
2 document (guidance) with options that each regional and local government may align to their
3 own plans and adopt and utilize based on their interests and vision for the future; and

4 **WHEREAS**, the willingness of counties and municipalities to jointly develop and
5 advocate for mutually beneficial agreements, policies and strategies intended to influence
6 regional, state and national resilience efforts advances “Good Neighbor” relationships; and

7 **WHEREAS**, in 2005 the U.S. Conference of Mayors adopted the U.S. Mayors’ Climate
8 Protection Agreement (U.S. Mayors’ Agreement) that became a national model for effective
9 collaboration and the framework for more than 1,000 municipalities throughout the nation to take
10 actions to reduce global warming and address the impacts of a changing climate (climate
11 disruption); and

12 **WHEREAS**, beginning in 2012 the need existed for Mayors within the region of
13 Southeast Florida to collaborate on a renewed agreement to advance regional climate action
14 planning within Southeast Florida efforts while continuing to advance the national goals of the
15 U.S. Mayors’ Agreement; and

16 **WHEREAS**, in 2014 the U.S. Global Change Research Program released the third
17 National Climate Assessment which confirmed the need for climate action at the local level to
18 improve public health, economic development, ecosystem protection and quality of life; and

19 **WHEREAS**, utilizing the U.S. Mayors’ Agreement as a model for influencing regional
20 climate policies and effective public outreach, all municipalities throughout the Southeast Florida
21 region are invited to sign on to the Southeast Florida Mayor’s Climate Action Pledge and to
22 collaborate on implementation of the RCAP starting today and for tomorrow;

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