RESOLUTION NO. 07- 61

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR A FLORIDA FOREVER SUCCESSOR PROGRAM.

WHEREAS, the Florida Forever program and its predecessor Preservation 2000 program have immeasurably contributed to environmental health, quality of live, recreation, and sustainability in Florida for this and future generations; and

WHEREAS, Florida Forever has acquired over one million acres throughout Florida since 2000 and allocates $300 million annually to purchase and restore environmentally sensitive and outdoor recreation lands, and has done so through numerous successful partnerships with cities, counties, state agencies, water management districts, nonprofit organizations, private landowners, and others in achieving its conservation purposes; and

WHEREAS, Florida Forever, through the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Water Management Districts, Division of Forestry, and others, produces benefits that include clean air and water; healthy fisheries and wildlife habitat; improved water supply protection; and protected open spaces; and

WHEREAS, Florida Forever through the Florida Communities Trust, has assisted Florida's cities and counties in protecting their cultural and historical resources, meeting the challenges of growth management, and providing recreational outdoor experiences in both urban and rural settings; and

WHEREAS, Florida Forever has helped to save many of Florida's beaches, rivers, bays, forests, coral reefs and estuaries that provide the foundation for our tourism industry that attracts more than 80 million visitors each year; and

WHEREAS, thirty Florida local governments have enacted land acquisition financing programs in the past decades, and these conservation programs serve to leverage Florida Forever funding and increase the impact of land conservation funding; and

WHEREAS, research by the Florida Forever Coalition has found that well in excess of $10 billion in State funding is currently needed to purchase wildlife and wilderness areas, parks and open space for our state's ecological sustainability and increasing human population; and

WHEREAS, a 2005 public opinion survey conducted by members of the Florida Forever Coalition found that 78% of Florida's voters approve of the Florida Forever program.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the City Council of Marco Island, Florida, in Council duly assembled that:

1. City Council supports an increase in the funding allocated to Florida Forever.

2. City Council declares its support to the State of Florida Legislature for the creation and funding of a successor program.

3. The Council Chairman is authorized to send letters to the legislative delegation relaying this resolution and advocating additional funding for Florida Forever, as well as the creation and funding of a successor program to Florida Forever.

4. This resolution shall take affect immediately upon adoption.

Passed in open and regular session of the City Council of the City of Marco Island, Florida, this 5th day of November 2007.

Michael F. Minozzi, Jr., Chairman

Attest:

Laura Litzan, City Clerk

Alan L. Gabriel, City Attorney