

Resolution

A RESOLUTION OF THE ORANGE AUDUBON SOCIETY, MAITLAND, FLORIDA, OPPOSING ANY EXPANSION OF THE EXISTING RUNWAY LOCATED AT THE PROPOSED CENTRAL FLORIDA BUSINESS AND AVIATION CENTER; REQUESTING THE GOVERNING BOARD OF THE ST. JOHN'S RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT TO DENY APPROVALS THAT WILL ALLOW FOR EXPANSION OF THE EXISTING RUNWAY.

WHEREAS, the Orange Audubon Society membership of 2,000⁺ households includes members in the area that encompasses the southeastern and eastern shores of Lake Apopka, as well as in Clermont and other areas in South Lake County on the western shore of Lake Apopka, and has recreational ties to the lake, and

WHEREAS, the St. John's River Water Management District and the State of Florida have invested an amount in excess of \$150 million of public funds and over a decade of effort in the restoration of Lake Apopka and the associated marshlands of the North Shore Restoration Area, and

WHEREAS, the uplands portion of the North Shore Restoration Area administered by the St. Johns River Water Management District is not only a vital part of the restoration habitat, but also serves as a much needed water-recharge area for Lake Apopka, a watershed with a very limited basin, and, therefore, should not be considered to be surplus land, but an integral part of the entire restoration area, and

WHEREAS, the Lake Apopka Basin has been the subject of several planning efforts, including the Lake Apopka Basin Planning Initiative, the Lake Apopka Greenways and Trails Master Plan, and the Green Mountain Scenic Byway Corridor Master Plan, all of which recommend and encourage the development of the Lake Apopka Basin for nature-based tourism and recreation, and

WHEREAS, due to the restoration efforts of the St. John's River Water Management District, the marshlands of the North Shore Restoration Area have become a world renowned birding destination, with a growing species list that is now number one inland in the State of Florida, and

WHEREAS, over \$1 million of public funds have been committed to the development of the infrastructure to provide public access to the North Shore Restoration Area for nature-based tourism and recreation, and

WHEREAS, aircraft collisions with birds are a serious economic and public safety problem, as well as a disruption to nesting birds and their habitats, and

WHEREAS, the West Orange Airport Authority is proposing the expansion of an existing 2,600-foot runway in an area adjacent to the North Shore Restoration Area in order to service turbine-powered aircraft, and

WHEREAS, the development of an airport capable of serving turbine-powered aircraft adjacent to the marshlands of the North Shore Restoration Area and the application of Federal Aviation Administration regulations pertaining to the mitigation of aircraft collisions with birds can only have a pernicious effect on the restoration of Lake Apopka and the development of nature-based tourism and recreation within the Lake Apopka Basin.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ORANGE AUDUBON SOCIETY BOARD OF DIRECTORS ON BEHALF OF THE ORANGE AUDUBON SOCIETY, MAITLAND, FLORIDA, P.O. BOX 941142, MAITLAND, FLORIDA, WWW.ORANGEAUDUBONFL.ORG, 407-637-2525, THAT:

SECTION 1: The Board of Directors of the Orange Audubon Society opposes any efforts to expand the existing runway located at the proposed Central Florida Business and Aviation Center.

SECTION 2: The Board of Directors of the Orange Audubon Society hereby requests the Governing Board of the St. John's River Water Management District to DENY any and all approvals that will allow for expansion of the existing runway.

SECTION 3: The Board of Directors of the Orange Audubon Society also hereby requests that the Governing Board of the St. John's River Water Management District not surplus any of the District-managed water-recharging upland properties around Lake Apopka.

SECTION 4: This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon its passage and adoption.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 17th DAY OF May, 2012



Deborah Green, President
Orange Audubon Society

ATTEST:



Mary Keim, Secretary
Orange Audubon Society