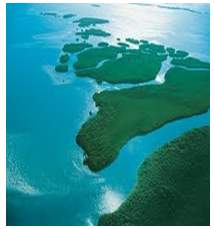
The Environmental and Economic Value of the Florida Keys….

- Monroe County's coast line extends from the Everglades to the Dry Tortugas, and encompasses the **Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary**, **3 National Parks** (Everglades, Dry Tortugas and Biscayne), **4 National Wildlife Refuges**, **5 State Parks**, and **3 State Aquatic Preserves**.
- Monroe County is designated by the State of Florida as an **Area of Critical State Concern.**
- The Florida Keys economy generates over **$4B in gross sales.** (*FDOR, FY 2014*)
- Monroe County's tourism industry alone creates approximately **33,000 jobs and $2.7B in sales.** There were **4 million visits to Monroe County** in 2011. *(Monroe County TDC Report, 2011)*
- Monroe County's marine ecosystem supports over **6,000 species of fish, invertebrates and plants, and critical spawning habitats to over 520 species** of recreational and commercial migratory, endemic, coastal & pelagic finfish and shellfish, providing unparalleled support to fisheries and essential habitats throughout Florida and the Gulf. *(NOAA's Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary Revised Management Plan, 2007.)*



- Monroe County's **nearshore waters alone provide habitat for 80 percent of the fish species in the U.S.** and most commercially valuable fish species depend on Monroe County nearshore waters at some point during their development. *(US Army Corps' Florida Keys Water Quality Improvement Program Management Plan, 2006.)*
- With the highest number of recognized International Game Fish Association (IGFA) "World Record Game Fish" records, and generating **$433M** in direct sales, Monroe County is **the global center of recreational and sport fishing.**
- Monroe County is the only port in the entire State of Florida to rank among the nation's top 50 ports in landings tonnage or landings value. It is the **13th most valuable port in the nation** and **the 5th most valuable port in the Gulf of Mexico**. *(NOAA's Fisheries of the United States, August 2012.)*
- Monroe County is home to **Naval Air Station Key West**, the U.S. Navy's premiere training facility hosts **60,000** training operations a year and generates nearly **$800M in economic activity.**
- Monroe County's population is **76,047** *(EDR, Dec 2016)*; however, the County's functional population is twice that at **157,063** (combined residents and visitors on any given day.)
- Monroe County **generates over $200M in sales tax revenue annually** for the State of Florida.

STATE LEGISLATIVE DISTRICTS

Senate District 39:

Sen. Anitere Flores

House District 120:

Rep. Holly Raschein

MONROE COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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Monroe County

Board of County Commissioners

STATE
LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES
2017

#1 PRIORITY:

FUNDING OF THE FLORIDA KEYS STEWARDSHIP ACT TO PROVIDE:

- **WATER QUALITY INFRASTRUCTURE THAT WILL PROTECT AND PRESERVE THE OUTSTANDING WATER QUALITY OF THE FLORIDA KEYS**
- **LAND ACQUISITION THAT WILL PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT, CRITICAL HABITAT, PROPERTY RIGHTS, PUBLIC SAFETY and MILITARY VALUE OF THE FLORIDA KEYS**

Florida Keys Stewardship Act Funding

invests in critically important

WATER QUALITY PROTECTION

WHY IS INVESTMENT IN WATER QUALITY SO IMPORTANT IN THE FLORIDA KEYS?

- The degradation of water quality threatens the unique, fragile and complex marine ecosystem of the Florida Keys.
- This ecosystem is the lifeblood of a marine-based fisheries and tourism economy that generates over
  - **$4B IN ECONOMIC ACTIVITY A YEAR, and**
  - **$200M IN SALES TAX REVENUE FOR THE STATE.**
- Water quality improvement measures are mandated in the Florida Keys per the **Federal Water Quality Protection Program** that addresses three major water quality areas:
  - **Advanced Wastewater Treatment**;
  - **Storm Water Management**; and
  - **Canal Water Restoration**.
- The State also imposes water quality protection measures via its designation of the Key's nearshore waters as **"Outstanding Florida Waters" (OFW).**
- These Federal and State environmental mandates are designed to protect invaluable natural resources, namely:
  - The Florida Keys **National Marine Sanctuary**;
  - The world's third largest barrier reef, and the **only living coral reef system in the continental U.S.;**
  - The **largest sea grass meadow in the hemisphere**.
- **Restoration of Impaired Canal Waters:** With the near completion of wastewater, we have begun to address another critical component for protecting the waters of the National Marine Sanctuary. **301 canals throughout the Keys fail to meet State water quality standards**. Restoration will bring these waters into compliance, protect health and natural resources, and ensure the continued vibrancy of the Keys' marine-based tourism economy.
- **LOCAL INVESTMENT AND PROGRESS in Canal Restoration: Monroe County has invested $7M** to implement a canal restoration pilot project, restoring 7 canals using various technologies. Monitoring is underway and its too early for results, but we can already see dramatic improvements in water quality.

Before and After

Florida Keys Stewardship Funding

invests in critically important

LAND ACQUISITION

WHY IS INVESTMENT IN LAND ACQUISITION SO IMPORTANT IN THE FLORIDA KEYS?

- The State of Florida's designation of the Florida Keys as an **Area of Critical State Concern** and State hurricane evacuation rules severely restrict development potential by limiting the County's total number of building permits to 3,350 over the next 10 years.
- When that limit is reached there will still be approximately **7,800 privately-owned, undeveloped parcels without the ability to develop.**
- Almost half of these privately-owned parcels **are in the Keys' approved Florida Forever project boundaries.**
- Another **500 parcels lie within NASKW military buffer area.**
- **Gradual acquisition** of these parcels, thru a partnership of the County and the State achieves **multiple State goals:**
  - Protecting the environment and critical species habitat;
  - Curtailing costly potential future takings judgments;
  - Protecting property rights;
  - Strengthening military base buffer areas.

# Privately-Owned, Vacant Parcels after "Build-Out" (Keys-Wide)	Avg Parcel Value	Apprx Total Land Value of Those Parcels
7,814	$ 40,664	$ 318M

- **Florida Forever/ARC list:** The Keys have two prioritized Florida Forever projects. **Of the 7,800 privately-owned, undeveloped properties that could be left without permits 3,400 lie within these Florida Forever projects**. Therefore, purchase of land within the FF projects advances not only conservation and habitat protection, it also simultaneously mitigates potential future (and much more costly) property takings lawsuits.

Florida Forever Projects in Keys	Remaining Acres	# Privately Owned, Vacant Parcels within	Apprx. Land Value of Remaining Acreage (Per DEP 2012 WkPlan)
TOTAL	9,349	3,470	$ 47M

- **LOCAL INVESTMENT AND PROGRESS:**
  - Monroe County BOCC has set aside **$10M** for land purchase.
  - Monroe County Land Authority has set aside **$6M** for land purchase.
  - Monroe County Land Authority has **purchased 140 parcels and expending $4.3M** so far.
  - Utilizing annual Stewardship Act funding thru Florida Forever, Monroe County and DEP are working together to identify properties for acquisition that meet Florida Forever's mission while also addressing takings liability.

Additional Priorities:

- ***PREVENTION OF DERELICT VESSELS AND ILLEGAL VESSEL DISCHARGE***
- ***AFFORDABLE WIND and FLOOD INSURANCE***
- ***EVERGLADES RESTORATION FUNDING***
- ***MAINTAIN STATE FUNDING LEVELS***
- ***PRESERVATION OF HOME RULE POWERS OF LOCAL GOVERNMENTS — LIMIT PRE-EMPTIONS, COST SHIFTS, AND UNFUNDED MANDATES***

- **SUPPORT** legislation to authorize Monroe to continue to provide its **vessel pump-out program** to protect water quality in the National Marine Sanctuary, funding to support this critical water protection program. (**HB 7043/SB1338**).
- **SUPPORT** state funding to augment costs of Monroe's vessel pump-out program.
- **SUPPORT** state legislative efforts that recognize the importance of **affordable wind and flood insurance** to homeowners, local businesses and local economies; support a roll-back of this year's 8.9% wind insurance increase for Monroe County.
- **SUPPORT** funding for **Everglades Restoration**, particularly for storage facilities that will reduce damaging Lake O discharges and increase flows to **Florida Bay.**
- **SUPPORT HB 1295,** a local bill to permit local advisory committees to meet telephonically.
- **SUPPORT** adequate and fair **funding for Clerks'** offices.
- **SUPPORT** current number of **county court judgeships** and county court budgets.
- **SUPPORT** efforts to allow local coastal communities to ban the use of **single use plastic bags.** (**HB93/SB162)**
- **SUPPORT** state funding for **affordable housing, mental health, libraries, roads, social services, and veterans' services.**
- **OPPOSE pre-emptions that reduce local control and local revenue sources, including:**
  - **HB 17:** Local Government Regulations
  - **SB596:** Cell Tower/Telecom Companies
  - **SB 188/HB 425**: Vacation Rentals