2020 FLERA LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

GUIDING PRINCIPLES
FLERA supports legislation that provides flexibility for local control of environmental protection. FLERA opposes legislation that contains unfunded mandates or preemption of home rule authority relating to environmental regulations or programs.

LAND ACQUISITION AND MANAGEMENT
FLERA supports full funding of the Florida Forever program for the acquisition of environmentally sensitive lands. FLERA supports an allocation from the Land Acquisition Trust Fund (LATF) for local government land management activities on environmentally sensitive state lands.

RESELIENCY AND FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT
FLERA supports legislation that would provide funding for local government flood mitigation and resiliency projects including supporting priorities of the existing National Estuary Programs and the creation of Estuary Programs in the Panhandle.

PETROLEUM STORAGE TANKS
FLERA supports full funding for Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) local government cleanup contracting. FLERA also supports full funding of local government storage tank compliance verification programs through contracts that provide commensurate compensation for the increased level of effort and expertise required to evaluate large and complex tank systems.

OFFSHORE DRILLING
FLERA opposes efforts to increase offshore drilling activities in state or federal waters. FLERA supports the federal Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act of 2006 (GOMESA), which bans oil and gas leasing within 125 miles off Florida’s Gulf Coast until 2022. FLERA opposes any federal legislation that moves the ban to an earlier date. FLERA supports keeping Florida’s East Coast free from offshore drilling and maintaining the Department of Interior’s commitment to remove Florida from consideration in the next draft of the proposed leasing plan.

AIR QUALITY
FLERA supports full funding of local air quality programs, as well as full delegation of the ambient air quality monitoring programs and industrial air pollution source permitting and compliance assurance activities from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and DEP.
FLERA also supports local program delegation of open burning authorizations and compliance assurance activities from the Division of Forestry (DOF) and DEP.

**WATER QUALITY**

FLERA supports funding for improvements to wastewater and stormwater infrastructure that encourage the use of regional, nature-based solutions for wastewater and stormwater treatment, as these projects not only provide better treatment, but also increase property values, create habitat and enhances economic growth in the surrounding areas.

FLERA supports legislation to expedite water quality improvements, including ratification of DEP’s biosolids rulemaking to ensure biosolids are only applied to land that is high enough and dry enough to prevent interaction with surface and groundwater; improvements to agricultural best management practices, including improved monitoring and verification; and increased regulatory oversight of onsite wastewater treatment systems and their contribution to nutrient enrichment of surface and groundwater, including restrictions on the placement of new onsite wastewater treatment systems in coastal high hazard areas.

Additionally, FLERA supports a statewide stormwater rule that requires use of the most current precipitation data and sets requirements for nutrient reduction when designing stormwater management systems for both flood control and water quality. FLERA also supports updated numeric nutrient criteria to better protect water quality.

Finally, FLERA supports the reduction of pollution from landscape fertilizers, including the elimination of the preemption of local ordinances that limit the sale of fertilizer products, contained in s. 570.07(41)(a), F.S.