

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY**

Meeting Date: December 19, 2007 Division: Growth Management
Bulk Item: Yes No Department: Planning & Environmental Resources
Staff Contact: Richard Jones

AGENDA ITEM WORDING:

Approval of a resolution of the Board of County Commissioners supporting the temporary installation by Keys Hydro Power of an experimental hydrokinetic turbine at a specific location in Bahia Honda Channel, which has been determined to be appropriate for the proposed testing and should not pose any significant environmental impacts or navigational hazard.

ITEM BACKGROUND:

At its October 2007 meeting the BOCC heard a presentation by Keys Hydro Power regarding proposed testing of an experimental hydrokinetic turbine in Bahia Channel. Subsequently, seafloor studies have been conducted to find an impact-free location, and a specific site has been chosen for the temporary installation approximately 500' south of the Bahia Honda Bridge.

PREVIOUS RELEVANT BOCC ACTION:

October 2007- the Board passed a Resolution supporting the testing of a hydrokinetic turbine by Keys Hydro Power

CONTRACT/AGREEMENT CHANGES:

N/A

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:

Approval

TOTAL COST: N/A

BUDGETED: Yes No

COST TO COUNTY: N/A

SOURCE OF FUNDS: _____

REVENUE PRODUCING: Yes No

AMOUNT PER MONTH _____ **Year** _____

APPROVED BY: County Atty OMB/Purchasing Risk Management

DOCUMENTATION: Included Not Required

DISPOSITION: _____

AGENDA ITEM # _____

RESOLUTION _____ - 2007

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS SUPPORTING THE TEMPORARY INSTALLATION BY KEYS HYDRO POWER OF AN EXPERIMENTAL HYDROKINETIC TURBINE AT A SPECIFIC LOCATION IN BAHIA HONDA CHANNEL, WHICH HAS BEEN DETERMINED TO BE APPROPRIATE FOR THE PROPOSED TESTING AND SHOULD NOT POSE ANY SIGNIFICANT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS OR NAVIGATIONAL HAZARD.

WHEREAS, Florida Keys Hydropower Research Corporation, an active non-profit Florida corporation doing business as Keys Hydro Power, is proposing to study the feasibility of building tidal current hydro turbine farms in channels of the Florida Keys for the purpose of generating electricity; and

WHEREAS, a successful result of the feasibility study will lead to the design of hydro turbine farms that have the potential of providing electricity at less expense for the citizens, businesses, government and military in the Florida Keys; and

WHEREAS, Keys Energy System, the utility providing electricity for Key West and the Lower Keys to the Seven Mile Bridge, has a contract with the Florida Municipal Power Agency to purchase all its power; and

WHEREAS, the major expense of purchased power is fuel cost; and

WHEREAS, there is no fuel cost to power a tidal turbine; and

WHEREAS, tidal turbines are environmentally friendly alternative sources of energy that do not produce climate change emissions; and

WHEREAS, Keys Hydro Power, Keys Electric System, and the Florida Municipal Power Agency are in mutual cooperation; and

WHEREAS, Keys Hydro Power proposes to eventually generate substantial clean electricity in the Florida Keys and connect it to the existing grid systems; and

WHEREAS, a primary objective of Keys Hydro Power is to promote conversion to renewable, emission-free energy and environmental responsibility in the Florida Keys; and

WHEREAS, the Monroe County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) passed a resolution supporting and encouraging the proposed hydro-power testing at a regular meeting held on October 17, 2007; and

WHEREAS, seafloor studies have determined that a proposed test site in Bahia Honda Channel, approximately five hundred feet south of the Bahia Honda Bridge, located at position 24° 39' 14.6" N 81.° 17' 19.6" W is void of any significant-benthic resources;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Monroe County Board of County Commissioners;

1. The BOCC supports the testing of a hydrokinetic turbine by Keys Hydro Power at the proposed test site in Bahia Honda Channel, located at position 24° 39' 14.6" North and 81° 17' 19.6" West, which should pose no significant environmental impacts or navigational hazard.
2. The County Marine Resources Office shall support the proposed hydro power testing, and will cooperate and coordinate with Keys Hydro Power to assist in expediting the testing.
3. The BOCC encourages all local, state, and federal authorities to support this innovative approach to keeping the Florida Keys, a national treasure, green.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of County Commissioners of Monroe County, Florida, at a meeting of said Board held on the 19th day of December, A.D., 2007.

Mayor Charles "Sonny" McCoy _____
Mayor Pro Tem Mario DiGennaro _____
Commissioner Dixie M. Spehar _____
Commissioner Sylvia Murphy _____
Commissioner George Neugent _____

(SEAL)
Attest: **DANNY L. KOLHAGE**, Clerk

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF MONROE COUNTY, FLORIDA**

By _____
Deputy Clerk

By _____
Mayor/Chairman

