XII. Consistency of the City of Clewiston Comprehensive Plan with the Southwest Florida Regional Comprehensive Policy Plan

The Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council revised the Strategic Regional Policy Plan for Southwest Florida in 2002. That document sets forth the means for achieving State goals and also establishes regional goals and policies to guide the preparation and review of local comprehensive plans.

The City of Clewiston, being located a considerable distance from other urban areas, and having a relatively compact development pattern allows the City to fulfill many of the goals and policies of the Regional Comprehensive Policy Plan.

Clewiston contains much of the housing for workers employed in the areas agricultural industry. A wide range of economic groups are represented by these workers with a significant number in lower to middle income groups with a corresponding demand for housing in the lower cost ranges. The City has established many objectives and policies providing for rehabilitation, stabilization, and provision of affordable housing. The City has also joined the newly-created Hendry County Housing Authority and will thus facilitate a coordinated approach to meeting the area's needs for housing in the lower cost categories.

The land use goal of the Regional Comprehensive Plan will be achieved through implementation of several goals, objectives, and policies within the City's plan. Adequate lands have been provided within the City to meet future demand for residential development along with provisions that adequate potable water, wastewater, and drainage facilities be provided.

The Transportation Element of the City's Comprehensive Plan contains several objectives and policies directly related to the Regional Plan. Coordinated efforts with Hendry County and the FDOT in the establishment of transportation programs and traffic circulation is a key objective of the plan. The City will also assist with transportation improvements and services including review of design standards which impact traffic circulation and safety. An improvement program will be undertaken in conjunction with the requirement that acceptable levels of service be maintained as the impacts resulting from new development are experienced.

The City has committed to improving and expanding its sewage transportation and treatment facilities to provide service to areas of the City presently utilizing septic tanks, as well as upgrading the existing system. The City will also coordinate with U.S. Sugar Corporation in order to maintain an adequate and safe water supply for the City.

Policies protecting native upland communities have been adopted. Preserving and re-establishment of native habitats along with elimination of prohibited plant species are elements of the Plan.

Recreation opportunities are one of the City's strongest attributes in enhancing the livability of the City and the health of its citizens. Standards for public recreation facilities have

been established and a commitment to maintain these levels of service standards has been made. Coordination and sharing of recreation facilities with Hendry County, surrounding local governments, and private interests, are also ensured through policies of the Plan.

The Clewiston Comprehensive Plan establishes goals, objectives, and policies which will assure that essential public services are provided within the City.

Taken "as a whole" rather than on a goal by goal or policy by policy basis, this aggregation of goals and policies has been determined by the City to provide consistency of the City's Comprehensive Plan with the goals and policies of the Regional Comprehensive Policy Plan.