



Collier County Government

Public Services Division
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

COUNTY PURCHASES MARINA TO PROVIDE BOAT ACCESS

The Board of County Commissioners is proving that more public water access is a top priority for Collier County. At their Tuesday, Dec. 16 Commission meeting, the board approved a \$5,488,000 purchase agreement for the Port of the Islands Marina located along U.S. 41 East of 951.

Staff from the Public Services Division's Coastal Zone Management Department have been meeting with the property's sellers, the Islands Marina, LLC and Port of the Islands Properties, LLC, over the last few months. The purchase agreement includes a charitable donation by the seller for a final purchase price to the county of \$4,845,800. The seller is donating funds for the property, environmental site assessments, appraisals, and inventory.

"This is the perfect opportunity for the county to move forward in addressing one of its top priorities, water access," Public Services Division Administrator Marla Ramsey said. "This marina offers much needed access and a beautiful eco-park for the future."

The Port of the Islands Marina is just more than five acres of commercially zoned waterfront and upland property currently used for boat trailer and car parking as well as storage. The site already includes a 94 space parking facility. Additionally, there is one oversized single boat launch ramp and approximately 15,400 square feet of submerged land to expand the existing boat launch area. Future site plans include adding additional boat ramp facilities.

The marina includes a fueling facility, which the county will replace by Dec. 31, 2009 as part of the purchase agreement. The sellers will pay for any soil or water remediation that might be necessary.

The seller will maintain offices in the site's 7,400 square foot marina building for a period of nine years with renewal opportunity. The marina building houses a ship store, bathrooms, offices and a Manatee and 10,000 Islands Education Center. Future plans for the marina building include a permanent Ochopee Fire Station with future Emergency Medical Services capabilities.

Funding for the purchase will be shared among the Parks and Recreation Department Capital Improvement Fund 306, Marina Operations General Fund 001 and Ochopee Fire control District Operating funds 146 and 372.

The Port of the Islands Marina purchase closing will take place by Dec. 31, 2008 as authorized by the Board of County Commissioners.

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