

June 14, 2012

Colonel Alfred A. Pantano, Jr.  
District Commander, Jacksonville District  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
701 San Marco Boulevard  
Jacksonville, FL 32207-8175

Dear Colonel Pantano:

**Subject: Letter of Support for the Broward County Water Preserve Areas Revised Final Integrated Project Implementation Report and Environmental Impact Statement dated May 2012**

The purpose of this letter is to express the South Florida Water Management District's (SFWMD) support for the Broward County Water Preserve Areas Revised Final Integrated Project Implementation Report and Environmental Impact Statement (PIR/EIS) dated May 2012. The project is intended to address the loss of ecosystem function by reducing damaging discharges of excess runoff and nutrient loading from urban areas into the Everglades, and retaining water within the Everglades by reducing excessive seepage from WCA-3A and 3B in western Broward County.

The authority for preparing the Broward County Water Preserve Areas Revised Final Integrated PIR/EIS is contained in Section 601(d) of the Water Resources Development Act of 2000. We request that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers not begin further detailed design on any component of Broward Water Preserve Areas until this project is authorized by Congress to avoid unnecessary expenditures prior to project construction.

While not legally binding on the SFWMD, this letter voices our support for the Broward County Water Preserve Areas Revised Final Integrated PIR/EIS. In addition, as requested, please find enclosed a certification of financial capability for this project.

We are proud to partner with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers on this important project and look forward to its authorization and implementation.

Sincerely,

Melissa L. Meeker  
Executive Director

MLM/pv

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bc: Ernie Barnett  
Lisa Cannon  
Abe Cooper  
Deena Reppen  
Tom Teets