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Colonel Alfred A. Pantano, Jr.
District Commander
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
P.O. Box 4970
Jacksonville, FL 32232-0019

**Subject: Letter of Support for the C-111 Spreader Canal Western
Project Final Integrated Project Implementation Report and
Environmental Impact Statement**

Dear Colonel Pantano:

The purpose of this letter is to express the South Florida Water Management District's support for the Final Integrated Project Implementation Report (PIR) and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the C-111 Spreader Canal Western Project, dated November 2009. Implementation of the Recommended Plan described in the Report will improve the quantity, timing, and distribution of water delivered to Florida Bay, via Taylor Slough. Additionally, implementation is intended to improve hydroperiods within the wetlands of the Southern Glades and Model Lands, and provide more natural sheet flow to Florida Bay, without adversely impacting the level of flood protection provided to existing agricultural and urban lands.

The C-111 Spreader Canal Western Project is one of the initial 10 projects conditionally authorized for implementation in Section 601(b)(2)(C)(iii) of the Water Resources Development Act of 2000. This project was in Band 1 of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP) Master Implementation Sequencing Plan, and was originally intended to have been completed and operational by 2010. We are pleased to have completed the PIR phase of the project and look forward to implementation of the project and achieving the ecological benefits.

The successful development of the Recommended Plan outlined in this Project Implementation Report was dependent upon its many contributors. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the South Florida Water Management District played key leadership roles. However, the Recommended Plan was significantly enhanced through contributions from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, as well as numerous other state, federal and local agencies.

This letter, while not legally binding on the South Florida Water Management District, voices our support for the C-111 Spreader Canal Western Project Final Integrated Project Implementation Report and EIS, and affirms our financial capability to satisfy the obligations of the Non-Federal Sponsor described in the Project Implementation Report, should a Project Partnership Agreement be executed by the Parties.

As you know, the South Florida Water Management District plans to move forward with the detailed design and construction of specific features recommended within the C-111 Spreader Canal Western Project Final Integrated Project Implementation Report and EIS. It is anticipated that some refinements in design may result from value engineering and other efforts to ensure the technical performance and cost-effectiveness of the final plans and specifications. We fully intend to continue to collaborate with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers during detailed design and engineering.

The South Florida Water Management District is proud to share a partnership with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers on this vital and exciting project.

Sincerely,

Carol Wehle
Executive Director
South Florida Water Management District