

Non-Federal Sponsor Letter of Intent

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SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

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CERP PROJ 40/ A8 P506

August 11, 2006

Colonel Paul L. Grosskruger
District Commander, Jacksonville
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
P.O. Box 4970, CESAJ-DE
Jacksonville, FL 32232-0019

Dear Colonel Grosskruger:

**Subject: Letter of Support
Site 1 Impoundment Project Implementation Report**

The purpose of this letter is to express the South Florida Water Management District's (SFWMD) support for the Project Implementation Report for the Site 1 Impoundment Project. This Project Implementation Report is the result of analyses and studies dating back over ten years. Implementation of the Recommended Plan described in this report will improve hydroperiods and hydroperiods in the Everglades natural areas, including the Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge (WCA 1), and will improve estuarine and marine habitats in the Hillsboro Canal and the Intracoastal Waterway between Boca Raton Inlet and Hillsboro Inlet.

The Site 1 Impoundment Project is one of the initial 10 projects authorized for implementation in Section 601(b)(2)(C)(iii) of the Water Resources Development Act of 2000. The Site 1 Project is in Band 1 of the CERP Master Implementation Sequencing Plan, along with other projects scheduled to be completed and operational by 2010. We are pleased to have completed this 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 the skilled and tenacious support of Palm Beach and Broward counties and important contributions from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, as well as numerous other state and federal agencies. Finally, the Recommended Plan received its most valued support from the citizens of Palm Beach and Broward counties, especially through organizations such as the Lake Worth Drainage District, the North Springs Improvement District and the National Audubon Society.

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This letter, while not legally binding on the SFWMD, voices our support for the Site 1 Impoundment Project Implementation Report.

As you know, the SFWMD plans to move forward with detailed design and construction of the Site 1 Impoundment Project under the State of Florida's Acceler8 Program. It is anticipated that some refinements in design and estimated cost will result from value engineering and other efforts to ensure the cost-effectiveness of the final plans and specifications. We fully intend to collaborate with the Army Corps of Engineers throughout the detailed design and engineering efforts.

SFWMD is proud to share a partnership with U. S. Army Corps of Engineers on this vital and exciting project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Carol Ann Wehle", followed by the initials "C.A.W." and a period.

Carol Ann Wehle
Executive Director
South Florida Water Management District

CAW/tcs