



RICK SCOTT
GOVERNOR

September 12, 2013

Mr. Daniel O'Keefe
Chair, Governing Board
South Florida Water Management District
3301 Gun Club Road
West Palm Beach, Florida 33406

Dear Mr. O'Keefe:

In accordance with Section 373.536, Florida Statutes, I have reviewed the South Florida Water Management District's Tentative Budget for Fiscal Year 2013-14. I want to applaud the district for working cooperatively with the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to focus on the core missions of water supply, flood protection, water quality, and the protection of our natural systems, all while holding the ad valorem tax rate at the same rate as last year.

I also want to extend my appreciation to you and the rest of the Governing Board and its staff for your continued work on reducing the administrative overhead of the district and dedicating more of your budget to protecting and restoring Florida's water resources. I specifically commend you for adjusting your budget to increase funding for water restoration and public works projects by 23.7 percent from last year. As you know well, our water resources and environment are a key part of the foundation for Florida's growing economy. For example, the continued cost sharing assistance for alternative water supply development and regional water system interconnections will ensure the region's water supply will meet the future demands of our economy and environment.

I would like to personally commend you and the rest of the Governing Board for your efforts to simultaneously complete the Restoration Strategies for clean water in the Everglades, protect our estuaries, and expeditiously move forward with the Central Everglades Planning Process. Your efforts are making a historic difference in restoring one of America's most precious resources and preserving an ecosystem that is part of this state's identity. With the fiscal expertise of your new executive director, Blake

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Guillory, I am confident that you will continue to make great progress and that Florida's families will enjoy the benefits of your work for generations to come.

Lastly, I want to commend all the districts for continuing to work with the department to ensure consistency across district boundaries while providing the most effective and efficient use of taxpayer dollars. Moving forward, I encourage you and your fellow Governing Board Members to continue your focus on restoration and public works projects, and look for efficiencies that reduce operational expenses. It is critical that we carefully oversee the citizens' precious tax dollars and maximize their use to best position our state for the future.

Pursuant to Chapter 2012-126, Laws of Florida, I am approving the district's Fiscal Year 2013-14 Tentative Budget. I want to thank you and your fellow Governing Board Members for your commitment to serving Floridians and I look forward to working with you during the coming year as we continue to strive for the most efficient and effective manner to protect Florida's water resources together.

Sincerely,



Rick Scott
Governor

cc: Blake Guillory, Executive Director, South Florida Water Management District
Herschel T. Vinyard, Jr., Secretary, Department of Environmental Protection
Noah D. Valenstein, Policy Coordinator, Office of Policy and Budget