



# Department of Environmental Protection

Jeb Bush  
Governor

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3900 Commonwealth Boulevard  
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-3000

Colleen M. Castille  
Secretary

June 15, 2006

Ms. Carol Ann Wehle  
Executive Director  
South Florida Water Management District  
3301 Gun Club Road  
West Palm Beach, Florida 33416-4680

Dear Ms. Wehle,

Thank you for your March 16, 2006, request for revisions to the *Everglades Protection Area Tributary Basins Long-Term Plan for Achieving Water Quality Goals* (Long-Term Plan) and your May 17, 2006, submittal of additional supporting information. The Department of Environmental Protection believes that this Long-Term Plan revision, in concert with the projects being implemented through the State's *Acceler8* Program, will significantly enhance Florida's efforts to restore and protect the Everglades ecosystem. The Department looks forward to working with the District to expedite and ensure successful implementation of the project described within this revision.

The proposed revision diverts the Acme Basin discharge from the Loxahatchee Wildlife Refuge to STA-1E for treatment. The proposed revision will allow project completion by December 31, 2006, will provide a dedicated funding source, and is consistent with the adaptive management process envisioned under the Everglades Forever Act (Section 373.4592, Florida Statutes). We are aware that the proposed revision was discussed at the February 2006 Long-Term Plan Communications Meeting and approved by the Governing Board at the March 2006 meeting. The Department also issued a permit for construction of the Acme Basin B C-1 Canal Improvements and Pump Station. Currently the Department is reviewing a request for modification of this permit to include operations and the use of temporary pumps to move water from the C-1 Canal to the C-51 Canal until the pump station has been constructed. In addition, the District has submitted an additional application for construction of Acme Basin B Section 24 to the Department.

The Department hereby approves the District's proposed revision to the Long-Term Plan. A description of this revision must be included in the 2007 South Florida Environmental Report in lieu of the Everglades Consolidated Report, as required by Section 1.10.4 of the Long-Term Plan.

If you or your staff has questions regarding this approval, please contact Frank Nearhoof at 850-245-8420 or [Frank.Nearhoof@dep.state.fl.us](mailto:Frank.Nearhoof@dep.state.fl.us).

Sincerely,

Colleen M. Castille  
Secretary

"More Protection, Less Process"

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