



Jeb Bush
Governor

Department of Environmental Protection

Douglas Building
3900 Commonwealth Blvd.
Tallahassee, Florida 32399

Colleen M. Castille
Secretary

December 3, 2004



Henry Dean
Executive Director
South Florida Water Management District
3301 Gun club Road
West Palm Beach, Florida 33416-4680

Dear Mr. Dean:

Thank you for your November 15, 2004 notification of proposed revisions to the October 2003 *Everglades Protection Area Tributary Basins Long-Term Plan for Achieving Water Quality Goals* and associated permit modifications. These revisions to include more than 18,000 acres of treatment marsh and better move water across the Everglades Agricultural Area further strengthen our efforts to restore and protect America's Everglades.

Florida is making significant progress improving the quality of water flowing into the *River of Grass*. In just the last year, we began operating the largest constructed wetland in the world, which is today approaching the department's phosphorus criterion of 10 parts per billion. Optimizing the performance of STA 3-4 and installing 5,400 acres of advanced 'green technology' two years ahead of schedule is expected to achieve even better results.

Completing critical Everglades restoration projects more than a decade ahead of schedule through *Acceler8* simply expands our efforts to reduce pollution and improve water quality by treating more urban and agricultural runoff.

The Department hereby approves the District's proposed revisions, consistent with the adaptive implementation process envisioned under the Everglades Forever Act (Section 373.4592, Florida Statutes) that requires the use of best available phosphorus reduction technology.

Please note that a revision description must be included in the 2006 South Florida Environmental Report in lieu of the Everglades Consolidated Report, as required by the Long-Term Plan. If you have questions regarding this approval, please contact Frank Nearhoof at Suncom 205-8420.

Sincerely,

Colleen M. Castille
Secretary

Cc: Frank Nearhoof