

Executive Office
JUN 09 2009

June 2, 2009

Eric Buermann, Governing Board Chair
South Florida Water Management District
3301 Gun Club Road
West Palm Beach, Florida 33406

RE: **Expression of Sanibel City Council's Appreciation and Support
for the SFWMD Governing Board's Acquisition of Lands South of
Lake Okeechobee**

Dear Mr. Buermann:

The Sanibel City Council wishes to go on record in expressing its appreciation and support for your vote of approval of the revised proposal to acquire lands for Everglades restoration. The 73,000 acres of U.S. Sugar Corporation lands, together with the SFWMD's option to purchase the remaining 107,000 acres from U.S. Sugar Corporation during the next 10 years, provides Florida with a once in a lifetime opportunity to restore the Everglades.

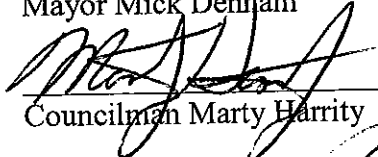
This Everglades restoration project also provides a critical southern flow way for Lake Okeechobee freshwater which, during storm events, is discharged through the Caloosahatchee River to Southwest Florida's estuaries. These discharges of massive amounts of freshwater disrupt estuarine ecology for years at a time and adversely affect everything from fish population to sea grasses to sport fishing and tourism. There is no solution to these harmful freshwater discharges except the course that is now being pursued by the SFWMD Governing Board and the Sanibel City Council expresses its appreciation and full support for the Governing Board's approval of the revised Everglades restoration purchase proposal.

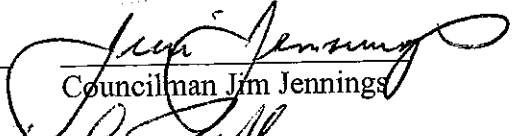
Sincerely,

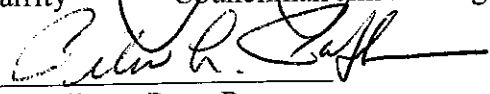
SANIBEL CITY COUNCIL


Mayor Mick Denham


Vice Mayor Kevin Ruane


Councilman Marty Harrity


Councilman Jim Jennings


Councilman Peter Pappas

cc: The Honorable Charlie Crist, Governor
Carol Wehle, Executive Director SFWMD
Sanibel City Council
Judith A. Zimomra, City Manager
Kenneth B. Cuyler, City Attorney
Dr. Rob Loflin, Natural Resources Director



City of Sanibel

800 Dunlop Road
Sanibel, Florida 33957-4096

www.mysanibel.com

AREA CODE - 239

CITY COUNCIL	472-4135
ADMINISTRATIVE	472-3700
BUILDING	472-4555
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT	472-3111
FINANCE	472-9615
LEGAL	472-4359
NATURAL RESOURCES	472-3700
RECREATION	472-0345
PLANNING	472-4136
POLICE	472-3111
PUBLIC WORKS	472-6397

CITY OF SANIBEL

RESOLUTION 09-068

A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE APPRECIATION AND SUPPORT OF THE SANIBEL CITY COUNCIL FOR THE SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT GOVERNING BOARD'S APPROVAL OF THE REVISED PROPOSAL TO ACQUIRE LAND FOR EVERGLADES RESTORATION; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE

WHEREAS, on May 13, 2009, the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) Governing Board approved a revised strategy to acquire approximately 73,000 acres of land south of Lake Okeechobee from the U.S. Sugar Corporation for the purpose of Everglades restoration; and

WHEREAS, the SFWMD Governing Board also negotiated options to purchase another 107,000 acres from U.S. Sugar Corporation during the next 10 years, including an exclusive 3 year option to purchase the remaining property at a fixed price of \$7,400 an acre; and

WHEREAS, the 73,000 acres to be acquired in 2010, within 90 days after court validation of the bonds to finance the acquisition, is critical for increased water storage south of Lake Okeechobee to reduce the devastating freshwater discharges from Lake Okeechobee to Florida's coastal rivers and estuaries; and

WHEREAS, it is critical to the ecological and economic viability of Southwest Florida that the devastating discharges through the Caloosahatchee River to the estuaries surrounding Sanibel Island be eliminated at the earliest possible date; and

WHEREAS, the Sanibel City Council wishes to express its appreciation and support for the SFWMD Governing Board's acquisition of those critical lands south of Lake Okeechobee necessary to restore the Everglades and protect Southwest Florida from harmful freshwater discharges;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by City Council of the City of Sanibel, Florida, that:

SECTION 1. The Sanibel City Council hereby expresses its appreciation to the SFWMD Governing Board for its vote in favor of the acquisition of lands south of Lake Okeechobee for purposes of Everglades restoration and protection of Southwest Florida's estuaries from harmful Lake Okeechobee freshwater discharges.

SECTION 2. Effective date.

This resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption.