



SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

September 16, 2008

Glades County Board of County Commissioners
P.O. Box 1018
Moore Haven, FL 33471

Dear Commissioners:

Subject: An amendment to the SFWMD 2008 Florida Forever Work Plan, contained in Chapter 6A, Volume II of the South Florida Environmental Report, to add the River of Grass Everglades Land Acquisition Project; located in Gilchrist, Glades, Hendry, and Palm Beach Counties.

The South Florida Water Management District (District) Governing Board will conduct a public hearing to consider adopting an amendment to add the "River of Grass" Everglades Land Acquisition" Project (Project) to the District's 2008 Florida Forever Work Plan list of eligible projects.

The Project will provide the ability to reestablish a part of the historic connection between Lake Okeechobee and America's Everglades through a managed system of storage and treatment; and, at the same time, safeguard the St. Lucie and Caloosahatchee rivers and estuaries.

The Project is anticipated to require the acquisition of as much as 187,000 acres of agricultural land owned by the United States Sugar Corporation. Benefits from the land acquisition would include:

- Increases in water storage to reduce harmful freshwater discharges from Lake Okeechobee to Florida's coastal rivers and estuaries.
- Improvements in the delivery of cleaner water to the Everglades.
- Preventing thousands of tons of phosphorus from entering the Everglades.
- Eliminating the need for "back-pumping" water into Lake Okeechobee.
- Sustainability of agriculture and green energy production.

The matter will be presented for adoption by the District's Governing Board at the Governing Board meeting on October 9, 2008. The meeting will be held at the South Florida Water Management District Headquarters, B-1 Building Auditorium, 3301 Gun Club Road, West Palm Beach, Florida 33406 starting at 9:00 a.m.

Please contact Wanda Caffie-Simpson in the Land Acquisition and Land Management Department, 3301 Gun Club Road, West Palm Beach, FL 33406, (561) 682-6445, with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Carol Ann Wehle".

Carol Ann Wehle
Executive Director

CAW/wcs

c: Wanda Caffie-Simpson - SFWMD