



City of Sanibel

800 Dunlop Road
Sanibel, Florida 33957-4096

www.mysanibel.com

AREA CODE - 239

CITY COUNCIL	472-4135
ADMINISTRATION	472-3700
BUILDING	472-4555
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT	472-3111
FINANCE	472-9615
LEGAL	472-4359
NATURAL RESOURCES	472-3700
PARKS & RECREATION	472-9075
PLANNING	472-4136
POLICE	472-3111
PUBLIC WORKS	472-6397

January 20, 2009

Mr. Eric Buermann
South Florida Water Management District Governing Board
3301 Gun Club Rd.
West Palm Beach, FL 33416-4680

Re: Vote regarding U.S. Sugar Lands Acquisition

Dear Mr. Buermann:

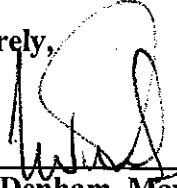
On behalf of the citizens of Sanibel, congratulations on your historic vote as a member of the Governing Board of the South Florida Water Management District on December 16, 2008 to purchase U.S. Sugar Lands for the purposes of Everglades Restoration. We feel that this acquisition demonstrates great leadership and courage by the Governor and the District Board in placing enough land in public ownership to finally address the issues of inadequate water storage and treatment capability south of Lake Okeechobee.

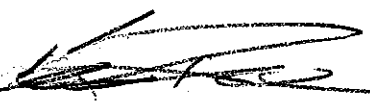
As you are aware, the past excessive releases from the Lake during times of high water and the resultant algal blooms have been terribly destructive to our local waters and our coastal economy.

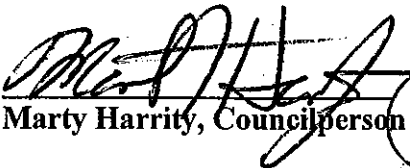
We thank-you for making this courageous decision that will now enable a flow-way south and provide a long-term solution to handling extreme high water events. Since ASR appears to be impractical as a water storage alternative, the River of Grass project may be the only viable option for truly restoring the Everglades and the estuaries.

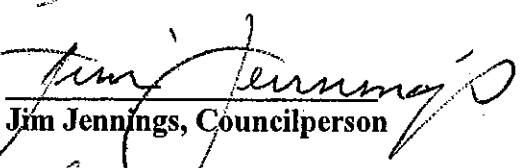
Again, thank you for a great decision which will benefit all future generations of Floridians.

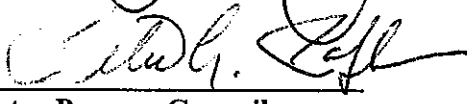
Sincerely,


Mick Denham, Mayor


Kevin Ruane, Vice Mayor


Marty Harrity, Councilperson


Jim Jennings, Councilperson


Peter Pappas, Councilperson

