Carter, Annette

From: Mielke, Marty [Marty.Mielke@myfloridahouse.gov]
Sent: Friday, December 12, 2008 12:00 PM
To: River of Grass
Subject: Request to Governor Crist to delay vote on US Sugar Purchase

December 6, 2008

Honorable Charlie Crist
Governor of Florida
PL 05 The Capitol
400 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee FL 32399-0001

Dear Governor Crist:

On Monday the South Florida Water Management District Governing Board is expected to vote on the $1.34 billion proposal to purchase 180,000 acres of land owned by United States Sugar Corporation.

When the buyout was announced in late June, I wrote your office concerning the "economic transition plan" you were proposing for the Glades area. At that time government leaders were requesting information on what would be offered to attract new economic development opportunities and provide job creation in the region. On June 27, 2008 I received a letter from Dale Brill, Director, Office of Tourism, Trade and Economic Development, advising his office would be working closely with the "communities, their local governments, state agencies, business and elected leaders to begin charting a transition for the region". A staff person with OTTED visited the region for input from the citizens and now nearly six months later, local elected officials and I are still waiting for a plan.

While we understand 1,700 jobs will not disappear immediately, it is of great concern to the communities that no transition plan has been offered. Just as the public had an opportunity to provide input on the land acquisition proposal, they should also be afforded an opportunity to scrutinize a transition plan.

Without a plan to replace 1,700 jobs I can't in good faith support this proposal; no governmental entity involved has delivered on an economic re-development plan, and furthermore, a replacement on the Governing Board hasn't been filled as well. Another promise not fulfilled.

As leaders of our state we have a moral obligation to ensure citizens are protected from any undue harm from a government entity. I hope you will agree the residents of the Glades have heard enough promises; it is time for solutions. A final vote by the South Florida Water Management Governing Board must be postponed until all promises are fulfilled.

Sincerely,

Denise Grimsley

Denise Grimsley
Representative, District 77

Cc: Honorable Ray Sansom, Speaker
House of Representatives
Honorable Dean Cannon, Chair
Finance & Tax Council
Mike Sole, Secretary
Department of Environmental Protection
Eric Buermann, Chairman
South Florida Water Management District Governing Board
Carol A. Wehle, Executive Director
South Florida Water Management District

Carter, Annette

From: Shinn, Charles [Charles.Shinn@ffbf.org]
Sent: Friday, December 12, 2008 11:19 AM
To: River of Grass
Subject: Florida Farm Bureau Federation Opposes U.S. Sugar Acquistion

At its meeting on Dec. 10, the board of directors of the Florida Farm Bureau Federation (FFBF), the state's largest general interest agricultural organization, declared its opposition to the acquisition of U.S. Sugar Corp. lands by the South Florida Water Management District. The Federation firmly supports the rights of private property owners to acquire, use and sell property but opposes the unnecessary acquisition of more land by government.

The Federation is also concerned that the proposed purchase would drain funding and focus away from implementation of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan and other initiatives in which much time and funding have been invested. The purchase of U.S. Sugar's land would likely cause thousands of acres of productive agricultural land to be removed from local tax rolls, leaving local communities struggling to make up for the loss of ad valorem tax revenues and endangering their future. Further, the plan for the SFWMD to purchase U.S. Sugar's land, then to lease it back to the company over a seven-year period at a bargain rate would create unfair competitive advantages over other South Florida agricultural producers.

The Florida Farm Bureau Federation is the state's largest general-interest agricultural organization with more than 137,000 member-families statewide. There are Farm Bureaus in 61 counties in Florida. Headquartered in Gainesville, the Federation is an independent, non-profit agricultural organization and is not associated with any arm of government.

Charles M. Shinn III, Asst. Director
Government & Community Affairs
Florida Farm Bureau Federation
PO Box 690342
Vero Beach, FL 32969-0342
352-538-0853 Mobile
772-778-0932 Office
772-539-0403 Fax
charles.shinn@ffbf.org

Safe, Affordable and Abundant...

Carter, Annette

From: jennifer hecker [jenniferh@conservancy.org]

Sent: Friday, December 12, 2008 2:33 PM

To: River of Grass; cjdauray@embarqmail.com; Buermann, Eric; Montgomery, Jerry; Meeker, Melissa; Collins, Mike; Rooney, Patrick; Huck Jr., Paul; Estenoz, Shannon

Cc: charlie.crist@myflorida.com; Michael.sole@dep.state.fl.us

Subject: Conservancy of Southwest Florida's comments regarding pending on US Sugar Land Acquisition

Importance: High

Attachments: US Sugar Land Purchase 12_12_08 Ltr to SFWMD.pdf

The Conservancy of Southwest Florida respectfully submits the attached comments in support of the US Sugar lands purchase for your consideration. Please feel free to contact me with any questions you have regarding these comments and thank you for your time and consideration in this matter. Sincerely, Jennifer

Jennifer Hecker
Natural Resource Policy Manager
Conservancy of Southwest Florida
1450 Merrihue Drive
Naples, Florida 34102
(239) 262-0304 x250
FAX 262-5872

Protecting Southwest Florida's unique natural environment and quality of life. . . now and forever.

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CONSERVANCY
Of Southwest Florida

Preserving Southwest Florida's natural environment and quality of life ... now and forever.

December 12, 2008

Chairman Eric Buermann
South Florida Water Management District
P.O. Box 24680
West Palm Beach, FL 33416-4680

RE: SFWMD Consideration of Purchasing 181,000 acres of U.S. Sugar Lands

Chairman Eric Buermann and SFWMD Governing Board Members:

The Conservancy of Southwest Florida, representing our 6,000 members, is writing to express our strong support for the purchase of the US Sugar lands. Our members have suffered greatly from the water quality degradation that has wracked our coastline as a result of the polluted releases from Lake Okeechobee from insufficient water storage and treatment – particularly within the Everglades Agricultural Area. The purchase of these lands represents one of the most significant opportunities ever presented in our lifetime to stemming this degradation, as well as for ensuring South Florida's sustainability and quality of life.

Despite the economic downturn, this is absolutely the right time to buy these lands because this is a narrow window of opportunity for meeting our pressing need for additional water storage and treatment for Everglades restoration and for our growing South Florida population. This is not a corporate bailout. This is an investment into our own ecological infrastructure that provides a basic necessity, clean freshwater. As an organization who has worked on Everglades issues for decades, we can unequivocally say that there is truly no other solution to providing the amount of storage and treatment needed without this land purchase.

We would ask you to approve moving forward with the contract for purchase, with an improvement to adjust the land lease-back rate upward to be more competitive with other what other farming lands ($175 – 225/acre) are being leased for. This is necessary in order to ensure that the lands being purchased are not at a competitive disadvantage for swapping lands with other farmers in potential future efforts to restore flow from Lake Okeechobee to the remaining Everglades.

Truly the future and wellbeing of Southwest Florida's residents, environment, and long-term economy lies in your hands with this momentous decision. On behalf of our 6,000 members, we respectfully ask you to please push forward with supporting this investment to restoring the Everglades and preserving our sustainability.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Hecker

Jennifer Hecker
Natural Resources Policy Manager

cc: Governor Crist
Secretary Sole, FDEP

1450 Merrihue Drive • Naples, Florida 34102 • 239.262.0304 • Fax 239.262.0672 • www.conservancy.org

Walker, Reagan

From: Mark Perry [mperry@fos-cc.org]
Sent: Friday, December 12, 2008 5:13 PM
To: River of Grass
Subject: River of Grass-US Sugar Purchase

Dear SFWMD Governing Board,

The decision before you now as the Governing Board of the South Florida Water Management District to consider the purchase agreement with the U.S. Sugar Corporation presents the greatest opportunity in our history for Everglades restoration. Although it is comprehensive and presents many challenges in the details it is imperative we say "YES" to the purchase of US Sugar farmlands and move forward. In June Governor Charlie Crist recognized this as a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to Revive the River of Grass and make the reconnection between Lake Okeechobee and the Everglades. This transaction will provide the greatest opportunity we have to store and treat water that will benefit America's Everglades, Lake Okeechobee and the St. Lucie River and Caloosahatchee River estuaries. We have supported this position since 2001 and ask you today to say "YES" and truly restore the greater Everglades Ecosystem.

Thank you

Mark Perry
Executive Director
Florida Oceanographic Society

Mark D. Perry
Executive Director
Florida Oceanographic Society
890 NE Ocean Blvd.
Stuart, Florida 34996
772-225-0505 x103
772-225-4725 (Fax)
www.floridaoceanographic.org

Florida Oceanographic's mission is to inspire environmental stewardship of Florida's ocean and coastal ecosystems through education and research.

Please consider the environment before printing this e-mail.

Carter, Annette

From: Bergeron, Christine
Sent: Friday, December 12, 2008 3:26 PM
To: River of Grass
Subject: Phone Message

Received a call from Brian Lamott – 12/12/08 – 3:00 p.m. – 691-9144.

He advised that he was not able to come to the Governing Board Meetings on December 15 and 16 and wanted us to know his feelings.

He feels the purchase of US Sugar has not been thought through and we are wasting the tax payers' money.

Christine

Christine Bergeron
Assistant to the Executive Director
South Florida Water Management District
3301 Gun Club Road, West Palm Beach, FL 33406
Phone -- 561 682-6166
Fax -- 561 682-5166
Cell -- 561 248-0804

Florida enjoys a broad public records law -- any emails sent to or from this address are subject to review by the public at any time.

Carter, Annette

From: Carter, Annette
Sent: Friday, December 12, 2008 4:37 PM
To: River of Grass
Subject: Phone Message

Barbara Noles a life long resident of the Glades urges the Board to vote No on the US Sugar land acquisition.

Annette Carter
Office of Governing Board and Executive Services
(561) 682-6433
ancarter@sfwmd.gov
Florida enjoys a broad public records law - any emails sent to or from this address are subject to review by the public at any time.

Carter, Annette

From: Marilyn McCorvey [mccorvey1953@yahoo.com]
Sent: Friday, December 12, 2008 11:03 AM
To: Michael.Sole@dep.state.fl.us
Cc: River of Grass

Secretary Sole,

Please hear the pleadings of the people of the Glades regarding the purchase of the USSC land by SFWMD. This is a government bail out of a private company that has absolutely no merit. There is no plan, moreover the State of Florida does not have the money to strap the taxpayers of the 16 counties represented by the SFWMD by completing this contract. Please do not sign the contract next week. Please get more information on what the plan might consist of. Hendry County is one of the poorest counties in the State and we cannot afford this monumental debt. Hendry County is looking for ways to continue educating our children, the county and city are searching every avenue to continue giving our citizens quality service. Our budgets have been cut to the bone. Of course, USSC has the right to sell, but we do not think the buyer should be a state agency that is not elected by the people of the State. More research is needed before such a tremendous amount should be paid for the lands of USSC. We appreciate any consideration that might be given to this request.

Marilyn McCorvey

Carter, Annette

From: Jeff Barwick [jeffer77@embarqmail.com]
Sent: Friday, December 12, 2008 12:09 PM
To: River of Grass
Subject: US Sugar Purchase

Dear Board of SFWMD: Glades residents are largely in favor of the US Sugar buyout but not in it's current form. SFWMD should pass on the current offer and re-open negotiations with other parties brought to the table. Negotiations should include Florida Crystals, the Lawrence Group and any others with interests in USSC assets. The District could carve out the land they project needed for their purposes. The final product would solve everyone's needs: US Sugar would sell out all of its assets (as their Board originally indicated their desire to do); SFWMD would have the land they need and likely be able to negotiate with Florida Crystal for additional land needed in return for a land swap or hard assets (or a mixture of both); someone would emerge from the process with the stated goal of owning and operating the railroad, sugar mill/refinery and citrus plant in Clewiston and thereby preserving the Glades economy for the forseeable future. Included in this package could be lease arrangements for land not immediately needed for SFWMD projects. Costs to the taxpayers could be held to an absolute minimum based on true necessity. This would be a win-win-win solution.

Jeff Barwick, Clewiston
Retired (Former Exec. Dir., Clewiston Chamber of Commerce 1999-2005)

Carter, Annette

From: JamInfo@aol.com

Sent: Friday, December 12, 2008 1:16 PM

To: Buermann, Eric; Collins, Mike; Rooney, Patrick; Meeker, Melissa; Dauray, Charles; Estenoz, Shannon; Huck Jr., Paul; Montgomery, Jerry

Cc: Wehle, Carol; River of Grass; Reppen, Deena

Subject: Ecosystem Services Value of Restoring the Missing Link, availed by land purchase

Attachments: ACES ppt.ppt

Dear Chairman Buermann, Governing Board Members, et al;

Thanks for the previous opportunity to present to the Governing Board, a power point program on the potential cost savings and benefits of restoring flow down the missing link to revitalize the river of grass. Of course the September 12, 2007 presentation preceded the Governor's announcement, June 24, 2008, by some months. Thanks also for a few remarks of encouragement to continue the research and expand on the initial findings. Thanks also for the recent notice sent by Deena Reppen encouraging written inputs.

The "expanded update" has been done, and presented as a paper at "A Conference on Ecosystem Services" - ACES for short. The ACES Conference was (1) a call for "bundling all ecosystem services benefits", i.e., consider all benefits, and (2) to monitize or evaluate the bundled benefits by giving them a dollar value; and (3) using this for a more robust Benefit to Cost analysis for decision-support that can be understood by congress and the public.

A primary purpose of the "update" was to give a first order estimate of the total ecosystem services value (ESV) of the US Sugar Corp deal, given that the nuances can be resolved, and the land purchased. In the attached, all can hopefully see that $1.34 millions is a trivial amount, given the potential of seeing the missing link restored, to an ESV approaching $70 Billion, over the lifetime of CERP (40 years used for the analysis).

The theme of ACES and technical information presented indicates that (1) the approach and methodology in the attached presentation is valid, (2) the approach is what is being sought by govt, industry, and NGO's, and (3) the estimate of the ultimate value of the US Sugar land purchase over 40 years is in the ball park.

Some at the ACES Conference projected that the worth of restoring some 95,000 acres of wetlands/STA's in terms of carbon sequestration and mitigation of sea level rise would be an ESV benefit worth the cost of the project. Attached calculations validate that this is likely true, given that the full potential of the land purchase, in terms of ESV, can be fully realized.

Hopefully this will be useful as decision support in your deliberations on acquiring the land needed to restore the missing link.

From the ACES conference, I went directly to the Task Force meeting, and reported a summary of ACES, and the paper I had presented, including copies of the attached to the Task Force, and then to the Everglades Coalition, as they have similar concerns.

I plan on doing the same at the next governing board meeting, in the usual 3 minutes, or less, as required. Here is a paraphrasing of what went to the Task Force, as an advance copy.

Governing Board members, Thanks for your consideration.

ACES Presentation Title:
On the Value of Ecosystems Services Provided by Restoring Gravity-driven Flow to the Everglades
[From Lake O to WCA-3]

Background: *Deputy Secretary of the Interior Lynn Scarlett gave the keynote address (Dec 10) at A Conference on Ecosystem Services (ACES) in Naples, Florida.* [I gave Sec Scarlett a copy of the attached right after her speech, noting that it does give credibility to her DOI DRAFT Vision Document per the attached]. *ACES 2008 will bring together leaders from government agencies, non-governmental organizations, academia, tribes and the private sector to advance the understanding of "ecosystem services"—services provided to people by natural systems. The interdisciplinary conference, sponsored by more than a dozen agencies and institutions, will cover topics related to ecosystems such as science, conservation, restoration, resource management and development decisions.* More: http://www.doi.gov/news/08_News_Releases/121008.html. (355 Attendees)

Comments to the Task Force, paraphrased, went as follows.

- Ecosystem Services are those services that benefit people in an economic way
- This appears to be a new way of doing business arising out of the reality that the planet is in serious trouble. [this has the ESV concept gaining momentum fast]
- Virtually all of you [Govt folks] had representatives of your agencies participating, including a few govt folks in the audience [Fred Sklar, SFWMD; Barry Rosen and Ronnie Best, USGS, USACE Reps, DOI reps, et al]
- Attention getter: Deputy Sec Lynn Scarlett gave serious endorsement of the proceedings in a plenary speech, as noted in background.
- Two buzz words were introduced: *Monitizing*, and *Bundling*.
    - Bundling is used in a slightly different context than bundling projects. Bundling here means considering all possible benefits resulting from restoration, enhancement and protection.
    - Monitizing means converting the bundle into ESV = $$$
- ArtMarshall.org contribution was to bundle and monitize all the benefits of restoration in the EAA per the attached using literature standards.
- The ACES conference provided direct and indirect peer review that confirmed the validity of the attached presentation.
- Ecosystem Value will always be in the mega-billions, and exceed cost by nearly a factor of ten (10).
- This provides a better approach [full value benefit accounting as well as full cost accounting] to the traditional [and less seen] Benefit:Cost Study.
- Rather than go into further detail, I will let the hand-out speak for itself.
- QED.

Over all the first order estimate of ESV benefit is based on a lot of research, and a three page spread-sheet model. Per what was outlined as a need at ACES, the attached presentation appears literally and figuratively on the money in order of magnitude. It needs more tweaking, which ought to be an innovation of CERP implementing agencies. From what was gleaned at the ACES conference the worth of the calculated benefits are likely to increase.

Of course this also validates what Art Marshall new intuitively as well. For the Art Marshall approach, ***Semper If!***

John Arthur Marshall
www.ArtMarshall.org

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CITY OF CLEWISTON

115 WEST VENTURA AVENUE

CLEWISTON, FL 33440

TELEPHONE 983-1484
AREA CODE 863

FAX 983-4055
AREA CODE 863

December 12, 2008

The Honorable Charlie Crist
Governor, State of Florida
The Capitol
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0001

Dear Governor Crist:

As the deadline for the vote on the United States Sugar Corporation land purchase rapidly approaches, I stand in awe that the possibility of this deal as proposed is still a reality. It is a firm belief by so many that if the purchase is approved as structured, it will cause the economic demise of our community and result in severe economic consequences to the surrounding Glades region.

I sincerely share and support every vision for Everglades restoration which could result from this initiative - *but not at the sacrifice of the homes and livelihoods of thousands of Florida residents!* Over the last several months it has been clearly dictated through "public opinion" that there are too many uncertainties and unanswered questions to agree on this deal by the USSC imposed deadline. Undeniable evidence exists to justify a delay of action on this matter until all potential benefits and consequences are assessed.

Oddly, "due diligence" has been carefully executed in all areas of this deal except one most critical area - ECONOMIC IMPACT. In these austere economic times, many of our residents are barely surviving now. Our schools are suffering funding cutbacks and laying off teachers. Our city and county leaders are now turning stones in search of revenues just to provide for continuation of the essential services to our residents.

Governor Crist, thousands of people of the Glades are relying on you. On their behalf, you are respectfully requested to direct delaying the vote on the USSC land deal and to direct an evaluation of this matter by the Florida Legislature.

Sincerely,

CITY OF CLEWISTON

Mali Chamness
Mayor

-----Original Message-----
From: DMandCH@aol.com [mailto:DMandCH@aol.com]
Sent: Fri 12/12/2008 1:54 PM
To: Estenoz, Shannon
Subject: Sierra Club Supports U.S. Sugar Land Purchase

Dear Vice-Chair Estenoz:

The Sierra Club encourages the SFWMD Board to move forward on the U.S. Land Purchase. We know that there are many defects in the deal and we would ideally like to see it improved, however, if the choice comes down to an up or down vote we recommend a yes vote.

The Everglades needs the purchase of land for storage. The purchase has the potential to provide the necessary storage and clean up to protect the Everglades.

Please vote to protect the Everglades Ecosystem.

Regards,
Drew Martin
Chair, Everglades Committee
Florida Sierra Club
500 Lake Ave. #102
Lake Worth, Fl 33460

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DEXTER W. LEHTINEN

December 12, 2008

Hon. Patrick Rooney, Member
Governing Board
South Florida Water Management District
3301 Gun Club Road
West Palm Beach, Florida 33406

Re: Purchase of US Sugar Corporation Lands

Dear Mr. Rooney:

As the Governing Board considers the proposed US Sugar Corporation land purchase contract, I appreciate the opportunity to share my thoughts on the matter. In sum, I urge Board Members to reject the proposal for several reasons. I believe the "sugar buyout" is bad planning, bad financial practice, and bad restoration. The reasons are summarized below:

1. No Restoration Plan

Mere acquisition of land is inadequate and even counter-productive; there is no plan for utilization of the land in any rational way (e.g., no studies of the size or magnitude or location of needed stormwater treatment areas or storage reservoirs); and no demonstration that 180,000 acres is needed at the locations being purchased

2. No Money

The cost of land acquisition alone ($1.37 billion) would be less than 25% of final costs after engineering and construction of facilities; there is no plan for raising $4 billion or more additional money (note that approximately 15,000 acre EAA Storage Reservoir cost $750 million, so just 105,000 acres of construction would cost $5 billion); the bonds for purchase alone will constrain future funding of other projects, and there is no way to raise another $5 billion

3. Delaying Existing and Future Restoration Efforts

Present restoration projects are being stopped to divert funds to this future proposal (e.g., EAA storage reservoir, necessary to maximize existing STA efficiency and for which SFWMD Acceler8 bonds were issued); the proposal is at least ten years away from any restoration effect on the ground; ten years is a death warrant for the Everglades

6005 S.W. 102 Street Miami, Florida 33156 Telephone (305) 665-0476 Fax (305) 667-2645

4. Abuse of Financing Mechanisms and Sweetheart Deal

The funds raised through COPs will not accomplish any restoration activities on the land, so the projections of STAs and reservoirs are illicit as COPs; the future financial condition of the SFWMD will be wrecked; too much is paid for the land and too little charged for the leases to sugar; due to leases, bonds will not be tax-exempt and rates charged will be excessive; ad valorem taxes are in effect being pledged in violation of state law

Thank you for your consideration of this matter in general and your consideration of the numerous expressions of opinion which you have received in particular.

Sincerely,

Dexter Lehtinen

Walker, Reagan

From: Barbara Glasgow [barbaraglasgow@embarqmail.com]
Sent: Friday, December 12, 2008 9:42 PM
To: River of Grass
Subject: Help Restore the River of Grass

Barbara Glasgow
155 Vintage Circle #203
Naples, FL 34119-4763

December 12, 2008

River of Grass Campaign
FL

Dear River of Grass Campaign:

Dear SFWMD Governing Board Members:

I am writing to express my strong support for the purchase of the US Sugar lands. I have been affected by the water quality degradation as a result of the polluted from Lake Okeechobee releases from insufficient water storage and treatment. The purchase of these lands represents one of the most significant opportunities to preventing further degradation, as well as for ensuring South Floridaï¿½s sustainability and quality of life.

Despite the economic downturn, this is the right time to buy these lands because this is a rare opportunity to meet our pressing need for additional water storage and treatment for Everglades restoration and for our growing South Florida population. This is an investment into our own ecological infrastructure that provides a basic necessity, clean freshwater.

Truly the future and wellbeing of Southwest Floridaï¿½s residents, environment, and long-term economy lies in your hands with this momentous decision. Therefore, I respectfully ask you to approve the acquisition of the US Sugar lands as a critical investment to restoring the Everglades and preserving our sustainability.

Sincerely,

Barbara Glasgow
239-354-3476

Walker, Reagan

From: Art Ritas [aritas540@aol.com]
Sent: Friday, December 12, 2008 9:10 PM
To: River of Grass
Subject: Help Restore the River of Grass

Art Ritas
740 High pines Dr
Naples, FL 34103-2819

December 12, 2008

River of Grass Campaign
FL

Dear River of Grass Campaign:

Dear SFWMD Governing Board Members:

I am a retired English teacher from Michigan who has found a new vocation in Florida as a volunteer nature guide (after being certified as a Florida Master Naturalist through the wonderful U. of Fl. extension program). Water is a major topic in my lectures and boat tours. In fact, I am active in stormwater education in Naples. Clean water is our most indespensible resource.

I am writing to express my strong support for the purchase of the US Sugar lands. I have been affected by the water quality degradation as a result of the polluted from Lake Okeechobee releases from insufficient water storage and treatment. The purchase of these lands represents one of the most significant opportunities to preventing further degradation.

Despite the economic downturn, this is the right time to buy these lands because this is a rare opportunity to meet our pressing need for additional water storage and treatment for Everglades restoration and for our growing South Florida population.

Truly the future and wellbeing of Southwest Florida's residents, environment, and long-term economy lies in your hands with this momentous decision.

Sincerely,

Walker, Reagan

From: dorothy hirsch [dorothyhirsch@embarqmail.com]
Sent: Friday, December 12, 2008 8:59 PM
To: River of Grass
Subject: Help Restore the River of Grass

dorothy hirsch
626 Regatta Rd
Naples, FL 34103-4195

December 12, 2008

River of Grass Campaign
FL

Dear River of Grass Campaign:

Dear SFWMD Governing Board Members:

I am writing to express my strong support for the purchase of the US Sugar lands. I have been affected by the water quality degradation as a result of the polluted water from Lake Okeechobee releases from insufficient water storage and treatment. The purchase of these lands represents one of the most significant opportunities to preventing further degradation, as well as for ensuring South Floridaï¿½s sustainability and quality of life.

Despite the economic downturn, this is the right time to buy these lands because this is a rare opportunity to meet our pressing need for additional water storage and treatment for Everglades restoration and for our growing South Florida population. This is an investment into our own ecological infrastructure that provides a basic necessity, clean freshwater.

Truly the future and wellbeing of Southwest Floridaï¿½s residents, environment, and long-term economy lies in your hands with this momentous decision. Therefore, as a taxpaper I am asking you to approve the acquisition of the US Sugar lands as a critical investment to restoring the Everglades and preserving our sustainability.

The decision was made.

Sincerely,

Walker, Reagan

From: Pete Quasius [pquasius@msn.com]
Sent: Friday, December 12, 2008 8:14 PM
To: River of Grass
Subject: Help Restore the River of Grass

Pete Quasius
4523 East Riverside Dr.
Ft. Myers, FL 33905-3013

December 12, 2008

River of Grass Campaign
FL

Dear River of Grass Campaign:

Dear SFWMD Governing Board Members:

I am writing to express my strong support for the purchase of the US Sugar lands by the public. I personally have been affected by the water quality degradation in Southwest Florida as a result of the Lake Okeechobee releases from insufficient water storage and treatment both north and south of the Lake. The purchase of these lands represents one of the most significant opportunities to preventing further degradation, as well as for ensuring South Floridaï¿½s sustainability and quality of life.

Despite the economic downturn, this is the right time to buy these lands because this is a rare opportunity to meet our pressing need for additional water storage and treatment for Everglades restoration and for our growing South Florida population. This is an investment into our own ecological infrastructure that provides a basic necessity, clean freshwater .

Truly the future and well being of Southwest Floridaï¿½s residents, environment, and long-term economy lies in your hands with this momentous decision. Therefore, I respectfully ask you to approve the acquisition of the US Sugar lands as a critical investment to restoring the Everglades and preserving our sustainability.

Sincerely,

Pete Quasius

Walker, Reagan

From: Jessica Smith-Geraghty [jsgeraghtyart@aol.com]
Sent: Friday, December 12, 2008 7:29 PM
To: River of Grass
Subject: Help Restore the River of Grass

Jessica Smith-Geraghty
2424 harbor Rd.
Naples, FL 34104-4291

December 12, 2008

River of Grass Campaign
FL

Dear River of Grass Campaign:

Dear SFWMD Governing Board Members:

I am writing to express my strong support for the purchase of the US Sugar lands. I have been affected by the water quality degradation as a result of the polluted from Lake Okeechobee releases from insufficient water storage and treatment. The purchase of these lands represents one of the most significant opportunities to preventing further degradation, as well as for ensuring South Florida?s sustainability and quality of life.

Despite the economic downturn, this is the right time to buy these lands because this is a rare opportunity to meet our pressing need for additional water storage and treatment for Everglades restoration and for our growing South Florida population. This is an investment into our own ecological infrastructure that provides a basic necessity, clean freshwater.

Truly the future and wellbeing of Southwest Florida?s residents, environment, and long-term economy lies in your hands with this momentous decision. Therefore, I respectfully ask you to approve the acquisition of the US Sugar lands as a critical investment to restoring the Everglades and preserving our sustainability.

Sincerely,

Jessica Smith-Geraghty

Walker, Reagan

From: Barbara Jean Wilson [barbaraw@conservancy.org]
Sent: Friday, December 12, 2008 6:46 PM
To: River of Grass
Subject: Help Restore the River of Grass

Barbara Jean Wilson
8067 Sorrento Lane
Naples, FL 34114-2616

December 12, 2008

River of Grass Campaign
FL

Dear River of Grass Campaign:

Dear SFWMD Governing Board Members:

I am writing to express my strong support for the purchase of the US Sugar lands. I have been affected by the water quality degradation as a result of the polluted from Lake Okeechobee releases from insufficient water storage and treatment. The purchase of these lands represents one of the most significant opportunities to preventing further degradation, as well as for ensuring South Floridaï¿½s sustainability and quality of life.

Despite the economic downturn, this is the right time to buy these lands because this is a rare opportunity to meet our pressing need for additional water storage and treatment for Everglades restoration and for our growing South Florida population. This is an investment into our own ecological infrastructure that provides a basic necessity, clean freshwater.

Truly the future and wellbeing of Southwest Floridaï¿½s residents, environment, and long-term economy lies in your hands with this momentous decision. Therefore, I respectfully ask you to approve the acquisition of the US Sugar lands as a critical investment to restoring the Everglades and preserving our sustainability.

Sincerely,

Barbara Jean Wilson
2393480004

Walker, Reagan

From: Vicky Smith [smithvgc@yahoo.com]
Sent: Friday, December 12, 2008 6:43 PM
To: River of Grass
Subject: Help Restore the River of Grass

Vicky Smith
225 Gulf Shore Blvd. N.
Naples, FL 34102-8449

December 12, 2008

River of Grass Campaign
FL

Dear River of Grass Campaign:

Dear SFWMD Governing Board Members:

I am writing to express my strong support for the purchase of the US Sugar lands. I have been affected by the water quality degradation as a result of the polluted from Lake Okeechobee releases from insufficient water storage and treatment. The purchase of these lands represents one of the most significant opportunities to preventing further degradation, as well as for ensuring South Floridaï¿½s sustainability and quality of life.

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Truly the future and wellbeing of Southwest Floridaï¿½s residents, environment, and long-term economy lies in your hands with this momentous decision. Therefore, I respectfully ask you to approve the acquisition of the US Sugar lands as a critical investment to restoring the Everglades and preserving our sustainability.

Sincerely,

Vicky Smith
239-262-1476

Walker, Reagan

From: Dona Erkenbeck [doba123@aol.com]
Sent: Saturday, December 13, 2008 8:08 AM
To: River of Grass
Subject: Help Restore the River of Grass

Dona Erkenbeck
450 Bayfront Place #4504
Naples, FL 34102-6476

December 13, 2008

River of Grass Campaign
FL

Dear River of Grass Campaign:

Dear SFWMD Governing Board Members:

I am writing to express my strong support for the purchase of the US Sugar lands. I have been affected by the water quality degradation as a result of the polluted from Lake Okeechobee releases from insufficient water storage and treatment. The purchase of these lands represents one of the most significant opportunities to preventing further degradation, as well as for ensuring South Floridaï¿½s sustainability and quality of life.

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Truly the future and wellbeing of Southwest Floridaï¿½s residents, environment, and long-term economy lies in your hands with this momentous decision. Therefore, I respectfully ask you to approve the acquisition of the US Sugar lands as a critical investment to restoring the Everglades and preserving our sustainability.

Sincerely,

Dona Erkenbeck
2394348871

Walker, Reagan

From: Lois Kelley [lek@kelnaples.com]
Sent: Saturday, December 13, 2008 8:42 AM
To: River of Grass
Subject: Help Restore the River of Grass

Lois Kelley
2800 Gordon Drive
Naples, FL 34102-7854

December 13, 2008

River of Grass Campaign
FL

Dear River of Grass Campaign:

Dear SFWMD Governing Board Members:

I am writing to express my strong support for the purchase of the US Sugar lands. I have been affected by the water quality degradation as a result of the polluted from Lake Okeechobee releases from insufficient water storage and treatment. The purchase of these lands represents one of the most significant opportunities to preventing further degradation, as well as for ensuring South Floridaï¿½s sustainability and quality of life.

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Truly the future and wellbeing of Southwest Floridaï¿½s residents, environment, and long-term economy lies in your hands with this momentous decision. Therefore, I respectfully ask you to approve the acquisition of the US Sugar lands as a critical investment to restoring the Everglades and preserving our sustainability.

Sincerely,

Lois Kelley

Walker, Reagan

From: Sonja Cookson [scooksn@aol.com]
Sent: Saturday, December 13, 2008 8:56 AM
To: River of Grass
Subject: Help Restore the River of Grass

Sonja Cookson
2882 CASTILLO cOURT #103
NAPLES, FL 34109-3668

December 13, 2008

River of Grass Campaign
FL

Dear River of Grass Campaign:

Dear SFWMD Governing Board Members:

I am writing to express my strong support for the purchase of the US Sugar lands. I have been affected by the water quality degradation as a result of the polluted from Lake Okeechobee releases from insufficient water storage and treatment. The purchase of these lands represents one of the most significant opportunities to preventing further degradation, as well as for ensuring South Floridaï¿½s sustainability and quality of life.

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Truly the future and wellbeing of Southwest Floridaï¿½s residents, environment, and long-term economy lies in your hands with this momentous decision. Therefore, I respectfully ask you to approve the acquisition of the US Sugar lands as a critical investment to restoring the Everglades and preserving our sustainability.

Sincerely,

Sonja Cookson
239-834-7750

Walker, Reagan

From: billdwhit@aol.com
Sent: Saturday, December 13, 2008 10:14 AM
To: River of Grass
Subject: Florida Renovation

Please vote yes in developing Florida's only viable answer to saving the Everglades AND resolving the devastation of the two major outflows from Lake O via the Gulf and Atlantic waterways. I am an avid boater on the St. Lucie and feel this is a once in a lifetime opportunity to dramatically change Florida's environment for the better.

Bill Whittaker
12783 Mariner Court
Palm City, FL. 34990
772 336-9601

Listen to 350+ music, sports, & news radio stations – including songs for the holidays – FREE while you browse.
Start Listening Now!

Walker, Reagan

From: Jennnifer Thomas [savetheplanet2@gmail.com]
Sent: Saturday, December 13, 2008 1:55 PM
To: River of Grass
Subject: Help Restore the River of Grass

Jennnifer Thomas
819 108th Ave N
Naples, FL 34108-1873

December 13, 2008

River of Grass Campaign
FL

Dear River of Grass Campaign:

Dear SFWMD Governing Board Members:

I am writing to express my strong support for the purchase of the US Sugar lands. I am not sure what opposition you are facing right now, but this is a vital acquisition for the future of Southwest Florida. How can we continue to depend on the tourism that makes our state run and enjoy great wealth, if our waters are so degraded, or non-existant. Please approve the acquisition of the US sugar lands and promote our future sustainablility and health of our state.

Sincerely,

Jennnifer Thomas

Walker, Reagan

From: Maureen Armour [mwarmour@naples.net]
Sent: Saturday, December 13, 2008 2:56 PM
To: River of Grass
Subject: Help Restore the River of Grass

Maureen Armour
454 Flamingo Ave.
NAPLES, FL 34108-2111

December 13, 2008

River of Grass Campaign
FL

Dear River of Grass Campaign:

Dear SFWMD Governing Board Members:

I am writing to express my strong support for the purchase of the US Sugar lands. I have been affected by the water quality degradation as a result of the polluted from Lake Okeechobee releases from insufficient water storage and treatment. The purchase of these lands represents one of the most significant opportunities to preventing further degradation, as well as for ensuring South Floridaï¿½s sustainability and quality of life.

Despite the economic downturn, this is the right time to buy these lands because this is a rare opportunity to meet our pressing need for additional water storage and treatment for Everglades restoration and for our growing South Florida population. This is an investment into our own ecological infrastructure that provides a basic necessity, clean freshwater.

Truly the future and wellbeing of Southwest Floridaï¿½s residents, environment, and long-term economy lies in your hands with this momentous decision. Therefore, I respectfully ask you to approve the acquisition of the US Sugar lands as a critical investment to restoring the Everglades and preserving our sustainability.

Sincerely,

Maureen Armour
239-591-0767

Walker, Reagan

From: Philip Hatzitheodorou [pahatzitheodorou@gmail.com]
Sent: Saturday, December 13, 2008 4:26 PM
To: River of Grass
Subject: Help Restore the River of Grass

Philip Hatzitheodorou
5260 23RD PL S.W.
Naples, FL 34116-6802

December 13, 2008

River of Grass Campaign
FL

Dear River of Grass Campaign:

Dear SFWMD Governing Board Members:

I am writing to express my strong support for the purchase of the US Sugar lands. I have been affected by the water quality degradation as a result of the polluted from Lake Okeechobee releases from insufficient water storage and treatment. The purchase of these lands represents one of the most significant opportunities to preventing further degradation, as well as for ensuring South Floridaï¿½s sustainability and quality of life.

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Truly the future and wellbeing of Southwest Floridaï¿½s residents, environment, and long-term economy lies in your hands with this momentous decision. Therefore, I respectfully ask you to approve the acquisition of the US Sugar lands as a critical investment to restoring the Everglades and preserving our sustainability.

Sincerely,

Philip Hatzitheodorou

Walker, Reagan

From: Michael Seef [mdslogistics@aol.com]
Sent: Saturday, December 13, 2008 6:10 PM
To: River of Grass
Subject: Help Restore the River of Grass

Michael Seef
592 Breachwalk
Naples, FL 34108-7735

December 13, 2008

River of Grass Campaign
FL

Dear River of Grass Campaign:

Dear SFWMD Governing Board Members:

Despite the economic downturn, this is the right time to buy these lands because this is the opportunity for additional water storage and restoration.

I respectfully ask you to approve the acquisition of the US Sugar lands as a critical investment to restoring the Everglades and preserving our sustainability.

sincerely,
Michael Seef
Naples, FL 34108

Sincerely,

Michael Seef

Walker, Reagan

From: Ted Guy [guywe@gate.net]
Sent: Saturday, December 13, 2008 6:43 PM
To: River of Grass
Subject: FW: U.S. Sugar Purchase

For the record.

W.E. "Ted" Guy, Jr.
Stuart, FL 34997

From: Ted Guy [mailto:guywe@gate.net]
Sent: Saturday, December 13, 2008 6:32 PM
To: Ammon Ken Ammon (kammon@sfwmd.gov); 'Charles Dauray'; Chip Merriam (cmerriam@sfwmd.gov); cwehle@sfwmd.gov; 'Eric Buermann'; 'Harclerode, Kurt'; Jerry Montgomery (jmontgom@sfwmd.gov); 'karl wickstrom'; 'Melissa Meeker'; 'mike collins'; 'Patrick Rooney'; Paul C. Huck Jr. (phuck@sfwmd.gov); 'shannon estenoz'; 'william.snyder@myfloridahouse.gov'
Subject: U.S. Sugar Purchase

For the Governing Board

Dear Mr. Chairman and Governing Board Members:

On Tuesday, December 16th, you have a chance to take a giant step forward towards reviving the "River of Grass", saving the Everglades, and saving our estuaries. If you can negotiate a fairer lease back price than $50.00 per acre, which is ridiculously and unfairly low, I urge you to vote "Yes". We don't want to waste this once in a lifetime opportunity.

W.E. "Ted" Guy, Jr.
643 SW Fuge Road
Stuart, FL 34997

Walker, Reagan

From: Chuck Locke [chucklocke@bellsouth.net]
Sent: Saturday, December 13, 2008 8:57 PM
To: River of Grass; Estenoz, Shannon; Collins, Mike; Dauray, Charles; Huck Jr., Paul; Meeker, Melissa; Montgomery, Jerry; Rooney, Patrick
Subject: Fw: December 15 and 16 SFWMD Governing Board Meeting
Importance: High

Dear Mr. Chairman and Governing Board Members:)

On Tuesday, you are scheduled to vote to acquire a vast amount of acreage in the Everglades Agricultural Area. This acquisition has the potential to significantly improve our chances of restoring the Everglades.

We recognize that the proposal before you does have room for improvement. Were each of us given the opportunity to make changes, we would surely find ways to make the transaction more favorable in our view. However, the time for action is upon us, and the question you face is whether to buy land in an area that is critical for Everglades restoration.

If the purchase of this land is not approved, there is no assurance we will ever again have this opportunity.

We respectfully ask you to support the purchase of this acreage without additional delay.

Sincerely

Chuck Locke

779 SW 31 Street
Palm City, FL 34990;

Eric Buermann
Contact Phone: (561) 682-6433
Email: ebuermann@sfwmd.gov

☐ Shannon A. Estenoz
Contact Phone: (954) 205-1132
Email:

☐ Michael Collins
Contact Phone: (561) 236-5304
Email:

- ☐ Charles J. Dauray
  Contact Phone: (239) 992-2184
  Email:
- ☐ Paul C. Huck, Jr.
  Contact Phone: (561) 682-6433
  Email:
- ☐ Melissa L. Meeker
  Contact Phone: (772) 323-6468
  Email:
- ☐ Jerry Montgomery
  Contact Phone: (561) 682-6433
  Email:
- ☐ Patrick J. Rooney, Jr., Esq.
  Contact Phone: (561) 714-3065
  Email: prooney@sfwmd.gov

From: Ted Guy [mailto:guywe@gate.net]
Sent: Friday, December 12, 2008 11:30 AM
To: anniemac@bellsouth.net; bepare@earthlink.net; 'Bill Addeo'; 'Bob Baratta'; 'Bob Voisinet'; bob_lv@bellsouth.net; briansch@bellsouth.net; 'Bud Jordan'; 'Charles Crispin'; 'Chuck Locke'; 'Cloud Doyle Cloud'; egreeneng@bellsouth.net; hotel@caribbeanshores.com; 'Jessica Briske'; 'Jim Harter'; 'John Mildenberger'; 'karl wickstrom'; 'Mark Beatty'; 'Mark Connell'; pattesonj@bellsouth.net; paulpare@bellsouth.net; 'Phil & Gerry Tafoya'; richzambo@aol.com; rivpalm@aol.com; 'Ted Guy'; eciampi@martin.fl.us; captpeteq@comcast.net; suronstreet@aol.com; ackeller298@comcast.net; Ashley Foster Pinnock; 'Barbara Joy Cooley'; capece@southerndatastream.com; captcdeg@bellsouth.net; 'Carla Brooks Johnston'; Charles Dauray; 'Cheryl Heeke Giattini'; 'Conser Sharon Kuchinskas'; Daniel T. Magidson; 'Douglas'; elindblad@sccf.org; 'Emilie Alfino'; 'England'; Engstrom Dave Engstrom; 'Gail Byrd'; 'Greg Rawl'; 'Gregg Burdick'; happyoldfogey@aol.com; 'harralson helen harralson'; 'Hayes Patrick Hayes'; humsure@aol.com; JamInfo@aol.com; jody51@bellsouth.net; 'John Cassani'; johnyudin@guyyudinlaw.com; karl@floridasportsman.com; 'Ken Mazur'; LEC@crarybuchanan.com; 'Leon Abood'; Mark Perry; 'Marti Daltry'; 'Mary Rawl'; maryann3151@yahoo.com; 'Mathew Spielman'; mia_tc@bellsouth.net; Mike Diterlizzi; 'Mike Valiquette'; 'Newton Cook'; rawessel@sccf.org; 'Tyler Compton'; wardgm@gate.net; wilcompton@earthlink.net; Dan Sullivan; henry@snooknook.net
Subject: FW: December 15 and 16 SFWMD Governing Board Meeting

FYI--very important meeting

W.E. "Ted" Guy, Jr.
Stuart, FL 34997

From: Reppen, Deena [mailto:dreppen@sfwmd.gov]
Sent: Friday, December 12, 2008 10:47 AM
To: Reppen, Deena
Subject: December 15 and 16 SFWMD Governing Board Meeting

DATE: December 12, 2008

TO: Interested Parties

FROM: Deena Reppen, Deputy Executive Director of Government and Public Affairs, South

Florida Water Management District

RE: December 15 and 16 Governing Board Meeting

Next week, the South Florida Water Management District's Governing Board will continue its review of the sale and purchase agreement, lease agreement and due diligence results regarding the acquisition of lands from the U.S. Sugar Corporation.

Presentations and discussion concerning the proposed *River of Grass* acquisition are scheduled to begin at approximately 1 p.m., Monday, December 15 following the District's regular business agenda, and continue into Tuesday, December 16.

The meetings will be held in the B-1 Auditorium at the District's offices in West Palm Beach and Web cast at www.sfwmd.gov.

Public comment periods are scheduled for both days. Since the time available during the meeting's formal public comment period is limited, and to ensure that your full comments on the proposed acquisition are included in the record, the District is encouraging you to submit your comments in writing to the District at riverofgrass@sfwmd.gov. The Board will receive a copy of all comments submitted.

To facilitate the meeting's proceedings and ensure there is time available for all points of view to be heard by the Governing Board, speakers will have the opportunity to provide verbal comment once on either Monday or Tuesday. The District is encouraging interest groups, where appropriate, to consolidate its comments and designate a representative to speak on behalf of the group. A list of the persons whom the designated speaker is representing may be provided to the District Clerk at the meeting.

Written comments are also invited from those who are unable to attend the meeting.

For more information or to review the documents offered by the U.S. Sugar Corporation and to be considered by the District's Governing Board, visit www.sfwmd.gov/riverofgrass.

# # #

Walker, Reagan

From: Reppen, Deena
Sent: Saturday, December 13, 2008 10:07 PM
To: River of Grass
Subject: Fw: US Sugar SF Water MD DEAL
Importance: High

Sent from my BlackBerry Wireless Handheld

SFWMD Wireless Email Solutions

From: Donna Storter Long
To: Buermann, Eric; Dauray, Charles; Montgomery, Jerry; Estenoz, Shannon; Collins, Mike; Huck Jr., Paul; Meeker, Melissa; Rooney, Patrick
Cc: Charlie.Crist@myflorida.com ; Jeff.Kottkamp@myflorida.com ; Michael.Sole@dep.state.fl.us ; Kelly.Layman@dep.state.fl.us ; commissioner@doacs.state.fl.us ; alex.sink@myfloridacfo.com ; pruitt.ken.web@flsenate.gov ; blanton.faye@flsenate.gov ; rubio.marco@myfloridahouse.com ; Tzaicel_Hernandez@martinez.senate.gov ; denise.grimsley@myfloridahouse.gov ; bullard.larcenia.web@flsenate.gov ; Sen. Dave Aronberg ; info@tomrooney.com ; Wehle, Carol; Strowd, Tommy; Sen. J.D. Alexander
Sent: Sat Dec 13 21:12:24 2008
Subject: US Sugar SF Water MD DEAL

Dear Chairman Ebuermann and Governing Board Members,

An old cliché could not be more apropos re the Sugar-Water deal:

WHEN IN DOUBT, DON'T.

You have heard multiple arguments and appeals on both sides of this issue so I won't waste I time here with redundancy.

However, if the deal merits your endorsement, it still will after all the options and aspects have been completely explored. But to date, they have NOT, especially in light of the potential savings with the Lawrence Group offer and the potential lawsuit with Florida Crystals.

It seems Crist has placed us all in an unfair quandary, and without our replacement for Wade's seat on your Board.

Please, I urge you to defer or deny the current US Sugar proposal as outlined by Tommy Strowd and Carol Wehle et al at the Clewiston meeting December 10.

Sincerely,

Donna Storter Long
Glades County Commissioner District 2

"When we pay an ounce of principle
for a pound of acceptance,

we get badly cheated."

Donna Storter Long (R)
Glades County Commissioner
863.673.2661-Cell 158*17*36430-Nextel

Think Green & please,
print this e-mail only if necessary. *Please note:*
Florida has a broad public records law and all correspondence relating to Glades County business, including email addresses, may be subject to disclosure.

Walker, Reagan

From: info@purre.org
Sent: Sunday, December 14, 2008 8:33 AM
To: River of Grass
Subject: Vote YES on U.S. Sugar Purchase

Dear SFWMD Governing Board:

I am writing as Chairman of the PURRE Water Coalition (People United to Restore our Rivers and Estuaries). Located in Southwest Florida, our mission is to promote programs and policies that will improve water quality in South Florida. Over the last three years, more than 2,000 of our residents have joined our cause.

The decision before you this week, the approval of the purchase agreement with the U.S. Sugar Corporation, represents the greatest opportunity in our history for Everglades restoration. Although it is comprehensive and presents some challenges in our future, it is imperative we say YES to the purchase of U.S. Sugar farmlands and move forward.

In June Gov. Charlie Crist recognized this as a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to revive the River of Grass and complete the reconnection between Lake Okeechobee and the Everglades. This transaction will provide the greatest opportunity we have to store and treat water that will benefit America's Everglades, Lake Okeechobee and the Caloosahatchee River and St. Lucie River estuaries. We have supported this position since the forming of PURRE and ask you today to say YES and truly restore the greater Everglades Ecosystem.

Thank you,
Michael J. Valiquette, Chairman
PURRE Water Coalition
13300-56 So. Cleveland Ave., Suite 256
Ft. Myers, FL 33907
239-274-7873
info@purre.org ... www.purre.org

Walker, Reagan

From: Linda Keene [ahsealinda@live.com]
Sent: Sunday, December 14, 2008 9:05 AM
To: River of Grass
Subject: Help Restore the River of Grass

Linda Keene
PO Box 61636
Fort Myers, FL 33906-1636

December 14, 2008

River of Grass Campaign
FL

Dear River of Grass Campaign:

Dear SFWMD Governing Board Members:

I am writing to express my strong support for the purchase of the US Sugar lands. I have been affected by the water quality degradation as a result of the polluted from Lake Okeechobee releases from insufficient water storage and treatment. The purchase of these lands represents one of the most significant opportunities to preventing further degradation, as well as for ensuring South Floridaï¿½s sustainability and quality of life.

Despite the economic downturn, this is the right time to buy these lands because this is a rare opportunity to meet our pressing need for additional water storage and treatment for Everglades restoration and for our growing South Florida population. This is an investment into our own ecological infrastructure that provides a basic necessity, clean freshwater.

Truly the future and wellbeing of Southwest Floridaï¿½s residents, environment, and long-term economy lies in your hands with this momentous decision. Therefore, I respectfully ask you to approve the acquisition of the US Sugar lands as a critical investment to restoring the Everglades and preserving our sustainability.

Sincerely,

Linda Keene
239-994-1838

Walker, Reagan

From: Chris Boland [saltwatersports@gmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, December 14, 2008 10:06 AM
To: River of Grass
Subject: Help Restore the River of Grass

Chris Boland
11369 East Tamiami Trail
Naples, FL 34113-7703

December 14, 2008

River of Grass Campaign
FL

Dear River of Grass Campaign:

Dear SFWMD Governing Board Members:

I am writing to express my strong support for the purchase of the US Sugar lands. I have been affected by the water quality degradation as a result of the polluted from Lake Okeechobee releases from insufficient water storage and treatment. The purchase of these lands represents one of the most significant opportunities to preventing further degradation, as well as for ensuring South Floridaï¿½s sustainability and quality of life.

Despite the economic downturn, this is the right time to buy these lands because this is a rare opportunity to meet our pressing need for additional water storage and treatment for Everglades restoration and for our growing South Florida population. This is an investment into our own ecological infrastructure that provides a basic necessity, clean freshwater.

Truly the future and wellbeing of Southwest Floridaï¿½s residents, environment, and long-term economy lies in your hands with this momentous decision. Therefore, I respectfully ask you to approve the acquisition of the US Sugar lands as a critical investment to restoring the Everglades and preserving our sustainability.

Sincerely,

Chris Boland
239 298 0810

Walker, Reagan

From: Shirley Bohnert [wergypsies@aol.com]
Sent: Sunday, December 14, 2008 10:18 AM
To: River of Grass
Subject: Everglades Agricultural Area

Dear Mr. Chairman and Governing Board Members:

On Tuesday, you are scheduled to vote to acquire a vast amount of acreage in the Everglades Agricultural Area. This acquisition willsignificantly improve our chances of restoring the Everglades to its original condition while improving the water quality of Lake Okeechobee, and of the Caloosahatchee and St. Lucie Rivers' estuaries as well. Although we recognize that the proposal before you has challenges, the time for action is now, and the question you face is whether or not to buy land in an area that is critical for Everglades restoration. If the purchase of this land is not approved, there is no assurance we will ever regain this opportunity. We respectfully ask you to support the purchase of this land without additional delay. Thank you for all your hard work.
Sincerely, Shirley Bohnert
=

Walker, Reagan

From: CCHMCH@aol.com
Sent: Sunday, December 14, 2008 10:51 AM
To: River of Grass
Subject: Vote Yes to US Sugar Purchase

Dear Mr. Chairman and Governing Board Members:

On Tuesday, you are scheduled to vote to acquire a vast amount of acreage in the Everglades Agricultural Area. This acquisition will significantly improve our chances of restoring the Everglades to its original condition while improving the water quality of Lake Okeechobee, and of the Caloosahatchee and St. Lucie Rivers' estuaries as well. Although we recognize that the proposal before you has challenges, the time for action is now, and the question you face is whether or not to buy land in an area that is critical for Everglades restoration. If the purchase of this land is not approved, there is no assurance we will ever regain this opportunity. We respectfully ask you to support the purchase of this land without additional delay. Thank you for all your hard work.
Sincerely,

Charles Hart
Sanibel, FL

Make your life easier with all your friends, email, and favorite sites in one place. Try it now.

Walker, Reagan

From: Bill Moynihan [billmoy1@yahoo.com]

Sent: Sunday, December 14, 2008 10:57 AM

To: Buermann, Eric

Cc: Estenoz, Shannon; Collins, Mike; Dauray, Charles; Huck Jr., Paul; Meeker, Melissa; Montgomery, Jerry; Rooney, Patrick; River of Grass

Subject: U. S. Sugar Purchase

Dear Mr. Chairman and Governing Board Members:

On Tuesday, you are scheduled to vote to acquire a vast amount of acreage in the Everglades Agricultural Area. This acquisition will significantly improve our chances of restoring the Everglades to its original condition while improving the water quality of Lake Okeechobee, and of the Caloosahatchee and St. Lucie Rivers□ estuaries as well. Although we recognize that the proposal before you has challenges, the time for action is now, and the question you face is whether or not to buy land in an area that is critical for Everglades restoration. If the purchase of this land is not approved, there is no assurance we will ever regain this opportunity. We respectfully ask you to support the purchase of this land without additional delay. Thank you for all your hard work.
Sincerely,

William S. Moynihan
Fort Myers, FL

Walker, Reagan

From: Diane Stocks [dianestocks@comcast.net]
Sent: Sunday, December 14, 2008 10:59 AM
To: River of Grass
Subject: Everglades Agricultural Purchase

On Tuesday, please support the purchase of the vast amount of acreage in the Everglades Agricultural Area. This acquisition will improve our chances of restoring the Everglades to its original condition, while improving the water quality of Lake Okeechobee and of the Caloosahatchee and St. Lucie Rivers estuaries as well.

If the purchase of this land is not approved, there is no assurance we will ever regain this opportunity.

Thank you.

Diane Stocks
8751 Lateen Lane #103
Fort Myers, Florida 33919

(239) 292-7804

Walker, Reagan

From: harris gilbert [hargil@comcast.net]
Sent: Sunday, December 14, 2008 11:41 AM
To: Buermann, Eric; Montgomery, Jerry; Estenoz, Shannon; Dauray, Charles; Meeker, Melissa; Rooney, Patrick; Huck Jr., Paul; Collins, Mike
Cc: River of Grass
Subject: Purchase of U.S. Sugar Lands

It is our understanding that you are about to vote on the acquisition of the sugar properties in the Everglades Agricultural Area. Because that land is of paramount importance to the overall Everglades restoration, we strongly recommend that you vote for its acquisition at the earliest possible time. Your
favorable consideration of our request will be greatly appreciated.

Respectfully yours,

Harris and Sondra Gilbert
1032 Lindgren Blvd
Sanibel, FL 33957

Walker, Reagan

From: Carl Veaux [cveaux@aol.com]
Sent: Sunday, December 14, 2008 11:52 AM
To: River of Grass
Subject: Help Restore the River of Grass

Carl Veaux
3705 SE 3 rd Place
Cape C0oal, FL 33904-4853

December 14, 2008

River of Grass Campaign
FL

Dear River of Grass Campaign:

Dear SFWMD Governing Board Members:

I am writing to express my strong support for the purchase of the US Sugar lands. I have been affected by the water quality degradation as a result of the polluted from Lake Okeechobee releases from insufficient water storage and treatment. The purchase of these lands represents one of the most significant opportunities to preventing further degradation, as well as for ensuring South Floridaï¿½s sustainability and quality of life.

Despite the economic downturn, this is the right time to buy these lands because this is a rare opportunity to meet our pressing need for additional water storage and treatment for Everglades restoration and for our growing South Florida population. This is an investment into our own ecological infrastructure that provides a basic necessity, clean freshwater.

Truly the future and wellbeing of Southwest Floridaï¿½s residents, environment, and long-term economy lies in your hands with this momentous decision. Therefore, I respectfully ask you to approve the acquisition of the US Sugar lands as a critical investment to restoring the Everglades and preserving our sustainability.

Sincerely,

Carl Veaux
239-549-7265

Walker, Reagan

From: Nancy [nancyhand@metrocast.net]
Sent: Sunday, December 14, 2008 12:02 PM
To: River of Grass
Subject: **SPAM-->Purchase agreement with the U.S. Sugar Corporation

Attachments: Purchase agreement with the U.S. Sugar Corporation

Purchase
reement with the U.

Spam detection software, running on the system "mx3.sfwmd.gov", has identified this incoming email as possible spam. The original message has been attached to this so you can view it (if it isn't spam) or label similar future email. If you have any questions, see itsecurity@sfwmd.gov for details.

Content preview: I strong urge the approval of the Purchase Agreement with the U.S. sugar Corporation. It is not perfect, but the time is now. Nancy Hand nancyhand@metrocast.net C33 Pointe Santo de Sanibel 2445 West Gulf Drive Sanibel, FL 33957 [...]

Content analysis details: (7.0 points, 5.0 required)

```
 pts rule name          description
---- ---------------------- --------------------------------------------------
 1.1 SPF_NEUTRAL          SPF: sender does not match SPF record (neutral)
[SPF failed: Please see http://www.openspf.org/why.html?sender=nancyhand%
40metrocast.net&ip=216.32.181.113&receiver=mx3.sfwmd.gov]
 0.0 HTML_MESSAGE         BODY: HTML included in message
 0.2 DNS_FROM_RFC_ABUSE    RBL: Envelope sender in abuse.rfc-ignorant.org
 1.7 DNS_FROM_RFC_POST     RBL: Envelope sender in
                           postmaster.rfc-ignorant.org
 4.1 FORGED_MUA_OUTLOOK    Forged mail pretending to be from MS Outlook
```

Walker, Reagan

From: Bob and Anita [smiths194@verizon.net]
Sent: Sunday, December 14, 2008 12:10 PM
To: River of Grass
Subject: US Sugar Property Purchase

PLEASE SEE THAT THE US SUGAR PROPERTY IS PURCHASED.

My wife and I are among many ordinary Florida citizens who believe the Tuesday vote to acquire a vast amount of acreage in the Everglades Agricultural Area is one of the most important step since the descecration of The Everglades early in the 1900's. We believe this is such an important step that the future of SW Florida's tourist economy is at risk if the purchase is no successful

This acquisition will significantly improve our chances of restoring the Everglades to its original condition while improving the water quality of Lake Okeechobee , and of the Caloosahatchee and St. Lucie Rivers and estuaries as well. It will help assure the SW coast of Floria can regain its choice of other Americans as a good place to vacation. I recognize that the proposal before will require political courage but our trust is in you.

If the purchase of this land is not approved, there is no assurance we will ever regain this opportunity. We respectfully ask you to support the purchase of this land without additional delay. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Robert and Anita Smith
Sanibel Florida
Members of PURE

Walker, Reagan

From: Charles Ritchie [ritchiepop@gmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, December 14, 2008 12:30 PM
To: River of Grass
Subject: Fwd: Everglades/USSUGAR lands purchase

Begin forwarded message:

From: Charles Ritchie <ritchie1@adelphia.net>
Date: December 14, 2008 12:28:44 PM EST
To: sestenoz@sfwmd.gov, cdauray@sfwmd.gov, mmeeker@sfwmd.gov, prooney@sfwmd.gov, phuck@sfwmd.gov, jmontgom@sfwmd.gov
Subject: Fwd: Everglades/USSUGAR lands purchase

Begin forwarded message:

From: Charles Ritchie <ritchie1@adelphia.net>
Date: December 14, 2008 12:15:20 PM EST
To: ebuermann@sfwmd.gov
Subject: Everglades/USSUGAR lands purchase

Dear Sir,

Please do not lose this opportunity to make the essential step forward in addressing the water pollution problem for all of central and south Florida and the critical Everglades situation.
We who care so much appreciate your work and give full support to aggressive action to improve the shameful pollution of our waters. Nothing is more valuable to us than good water!

Mary Anne and Charlie Ritchie
2321 W Gulf Drive 1E
Sanibel FL 33957

Walker, Reagan

From: Michael Baldwin [drmikeb@comcast.net]
Sent: Sunday, December 14, 2008 2:14 PM
To: River of Grass
Subject: Purchase of Land in the Everglades Agricultural Area

To: Members of the Governing Board of the South Florida Water Management District

As you are aware, Sanibel Island has historically been recognized as one of our finest national examples of how man and nature can live harmoniously together with minimal human impact on a natural, unspoiled environment. Its beaches, extensive protected wildlife habitats, location as a prime resting place for migratory birds and carefully managed commercial development have made it a showcase for ecological harmony. Thanks to the past decisions and actions of the Army Corps of Engineers and the South Florida Water Management District that harmony has been eroded and is in the process of being destroyed.

We have owned property on Sanibel Island for 21 years and have been year-round residents of the island for the past eleven. In that time we have seen the water in San Carlos Bay and on the Gulf shore of Sanibel go from an appealing almost year-round crystal-clear turquoise color to what, in the Summer and Fall, is now all too often a dark brown. The corresponding decrease in salinity which, along with the color change, results from the routine discharge of large quantities of contaminated fresh water from Lake Okeechobee through the Caloosahatchee River, is causing significant, unacceptable and damaging changes in the aquatic ecology of the region.

For many years the level of Lake Okeechobee was controlled with no or minimal fresh water discharges down the Caloosahatchee. We find the current practice of discharges totally unacceptable. On Tuesday, you are scheduled to vote to purchase very significant acreage in the Everglades Agricultural Area. This acquisition will significantly improve our chances of not only restoring the Everglades to its original condition but also of improving the water quality of Lake Okeechobee, of the Caloosahatchee and St. Lucie Rivers' estuaries and, as a result, of the waters surrounding Sanibel Island. If the purchase of this land is not approved, there is no assurance the opportunity will ever be regained. We sincerely ask for your immediate support for the acquisition of this land.

Michael J. Baldwin, PhD; Theresa T. Baldwin, EdD

Walker, Reagan

From: Hetmanek [hetmanek@hetmanek.com]

Sent: Sunday, December 14, 2008 2:19 PM

To: Buermann, Eric; Estenoz, Shannon; Collins, Mike; Dauray, Charles; Huck Jr., Paul; Meeker, Melissa; Montgomery, Jerry; Rooney, Patrick

Cc: River of Grass; PURRE Water Coalition

Dear Mr. Chairman and Board Members:

Please vote on Tuesday to approve the acquisition of acreage in the Everglades Agricultural Area. It will significantly improve our chances of rejuvenating the Everglades. It will also be beneficial to the water quality of Lake Okeechobee, as well as, the Caloosahatchee and St. Lucie Rivers estuaries. The time for action is now! The question you face is whether or not to buy land in an area that is critical for Everglades restoration. If the purchase of this land is not approved, we may never regain this opportunity. We respectfully ask you to support the purchase of this land without additional delay. Thank you for all of your efforts.

Sincerely,

James Hetmanek

James Hetmanek, Broker Associate, GRI, CRS
Penny Hetmanek, Realtor, ABR, SCIS
James F. Hetmanek, P.A.
VIP Realty Group, Inc.,
1560 Periwinkle Way, Sanibel, FL 33957

(239) 472-5187 ext 219 for James ext 202 for Penny
(800) 553-7338

www.IslandCoastExperts.com

Hetmanek@Hetmanek.com

Walker, Reagan

From: mharrity@aol.com
Sent: Sunday, December 14, 2008 3:37 PM
To: River of Grass
Subject: U.S.Sugar land purchase

As a resident, business owner, and City Council member, I support the acquisition of the U.S. Sugar lands. Any opportunity we get to restore our environment should not be passed over. The time and opportunity is now. Please vote YES to acquire these lands.
Marty Harrity
Sanibel City Council

Listen to 350+ music, sports, & news radio stations – including songs for the holidays – FREE while you browse.
Start Listening Now!

Walker, Reagan

From: Judith Tryka [judithtryka@comcast.net]
Sent: Sunday, December 14, 2008 4:29 PM
To: River of Grass
Subject: Help Restore the River of Grass

Judith Tryka
350 Robin Hood Circle #102
Naples, FL 34104-9522

December 14, 2008

River of Grass Campaign
FL

Dear River of Grass Campaign:

Dear SFWMD Governing Board Members:

I am writing to express my strong support for the purchase of the US Sugar lands. I have been affected by the water quality degradation as a result of the polluted from Lake Okeechobee releases from insufficient water storage and treatment. The purchase of these lands represents one of the most significant opportunities to preventing further degradation, as well as for ensuring South Floridaï¿½s sustainability and quality of life.

Despite the economic downturn, this is the right time to buy these lands because this is a rare opportunity to meet our pressing need for additional water storage and treatment for Everglades restoration and for our growing South Florida population. This is an investment into our own ecological infrastructure that provides a basic necessity, clean freshwater.

Truly the future and wellbeing of Southwest Floridaï¿½s residents, environment, and long-term economy lies in your hands with this momentous decision. Therefore, I respectfully ask you to approve the acquisition of the US Sugar lands as a critical investment to restoring the Everglades and preserving our sustainability.

Sincerely,

Judith Tryka
239 384 9224

Widness, Cathy

From: Susan Calkins [calkritas@aol.com]
Sent: Sunday, December 14, 2008 5:45 PM
To: River of Grass
Subject: Help Restore the River of Grass

Susan Calkins
740 High Pines Dr.
Naples, FL 34103-2819

December 14, 2008

River of Grass Campaign
FL

Dear River of Grass Campaign:

Dear SFWMD Governing Board Members:

I am writing to express my strong support for the purchase of the US Sugar lands. . The purchase of these lands represents one of the most important opportunities to come before us! .

This IS the right time to buy these lands because this is a rare opportunity to meet our pressing need for additional water storage and treatment for Everglades restoration and for our growing South Florida population. The future and wellbeing of Southwest Florida?s residents, environment, and long-term economy lies in your hands with this momentous decision. Therefore, I respectfully ask you to approve the acquisition of the US Sugar lands as a critical investment to restoring the Everglades and preserving our sustainability.

Sincerely,

Susan Calkins
239-434-8095

Widness, Cathy

From: mvaliquette@comcast.net
Sent: Sunday, December 14, 2008 5:27 PM
To: River of Grass
Subject: US Sugar deal

Dear SFWMD Governing Board:

I am writing as Chairman of the PURRE Water Coalition (People United to Restore our Rivers and Estuaries). Located in Southwest Florida, our mission is to promote programs and policies that will improve water quality in South Florida. Over the last three years, more than 2,000 of our residents have joined our cause.

The decision before you this week, the approval of the purchase agreement with the U.S. Sugar Corporation, represents the greatest opportunity in our history for Everglades restoration. Although it is comprehensive and presents some challenges in our future, it is imperative we say YES to the purchase of U.S. Sugar farmlands and move forward.

In June Gov. Charlie Crist recognized this as a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to revive the River of Grass and complete the reconnection between Lake Okeechobee and the Everglades. This transaction will provide the greatest opportunity we have to store and treat water that will benefit America's Everglades, Lake Okeechobee and the Caloosahatchee River and St. Lucie River estuaries. We have supported this position since the forming of PURRE and ask you today to say YES and truly restore the greater Everglades Ecosystem.

Thank you,
Michael J. Valiquette, Chairman
PURRE Water Coalition
13300-56 So. Cleveland Ave., Suite 256
Ft. Myers, FL 33907
239-274-7873
info@purre.org
www.purre.org

Widness, Cathy

From: Sandy Teger [sandy@bb-home.com]
Sent: Sunday, December 14, 2008 11:54 PM
To: River of Grass
Cc: dave@bb-home.com; rentals@sanibeldreams.com
Subject: vote yes--Improved water quality is directly correlated with and critical to the economic future of this region

Dear Mr. Chairman and Governing Board Members:

I am writing to urge you to vote in favor of the acquisition of land in the Everglades Agricultural area. Although the proposed deal has some significant room for improvement, we cannot afford to let this opportunity pass without action. The acquisition will significantly improve our chances of restoring the Everglades to its original condition while improving the water quality of Lake Okeechobee, and of the Caloosahatchee and St. Lucie Rivers' estuaries as well. Improved water quality is directly correlated with and critical to the economic future of this region. We must improve the water quality as fast as possible. Algae blooms like the ones we had a couple of years ago are devastating to the future of tourism and all the economic benefits that accrue from it. As the owner of a gulf front condominium, I understand the direct economic consequences.

Although I recognize that the proposal before you has challenges, the time for action is now, and the question you face is whether or not to buy land in an area that is critical for Everglades restoration. If the purchase of this land is not approved, there is no assurance we will ever regain this opportunity. I respectfully ask you to support the purchase of this land.

If possible, I would like to see some improvements to the deal, particularly in the area of the price for leasing back the lands and the conditions for environmental improvements. However, we cannot sacrifice the good for the sake of the perfect.

Thank you for all your hard work.

Sincerely yours,

Sandra Teger
2445 West Gulf Drive, E2
Sanibel, Fl 33957

Widness, Cathy

From: Dulcie Neiman Musial [dulcie1@embarqmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, December 14, 2008 7:30 PM
To: River of Grass
Subject: Help Restore the River of Grass

Dulcie Neiman Musial
1113 Frank Whiteman Blvd.
Naples, FL 34103-3871

December 14, 2008

River of Grass Campaign
FL

Dear River of Grass Campaign:

Dear SFWMD Governing Board Members:

I am writing to express my strong support for the purchase of the US Sugar lands. I have been affected by the water quality degradation as a result of the polluted from Lake Okeechobee releases from insufficient water storage and treatment. The purchase of these lands represents one of the most significant opportunities to preventing further degradation, as well as for ensuring South Floridaï¿½s sustainability and quality of life.

Despite the economic downturn, this is the right time to buy these lands because this is a rare opportunity to meet our pressing need for additional water storage and treatment for Everglades restoration and for our growing South Florida population. This is an investment into our own ecological infrastructure that provides a basic necessity, clean freshwater.

Truly the future and wellbeing of Southwest Florida residents, environment, and long-term economy lies in your hands with this momentous decision. Therefore, I respectfully ask you to approve the acquisition of the US Sugar lands as a critical investment to restoring the Everglades and preserving our sustainability.

Sincerely,

Dulcie Neiman Musial
2339-262-8075

Widness, Cathy

From: Reppen, Deena
Sent: Monday, December 15, 2008 6:16 AM
To: Carter, Annette; River of Grass
Subject: Fw: Abort The U.S. Sugar Deal

Sent from my BlackBerry Wireless Handheld

SFWMD Wireless Email Solutions

From: Williams, Carolyn
To: District Leadership Team
Sent: Mon Dec 15 05:29:52 2008
Subject: Fw: Abort The U.S. Sugar Deal

Good morning. FYI

Sent from my BlackBerry Wireless Handheld

SFWMD Wireless Email Solutions

From: Fred Lehrer
To: Williams, Carolyn
Sent: Sun Dec 14 08:23:49 2008
Subject: Abort The U.S. Sugar Deal

Please, please share with the District leadership this request that the proposed project will be aborted. Please don't leave as your legacy a deal that:

places a huge burden on State taxpayers;

overpays for assets purchased;

contains "sweetheart" provisions that smell;

commits the District to future expenditures of dubious value;

has the known result of causing economic dislocation for thousands;

and risks all sorts of unknown and unintended consequences.

Please don't allow a small number of vocal environmental activists to skew our State's agenda.

Sincerely,

Frederick A. Lehrer

12/15/2008

Frederick A. Lehrer
2020 Mainsail Circle
Jupiter, FL 33477
(561) 748-2813
FredLehrer@comcast.net

Widness, Cathy

From: martha musgrove [malmusgrove@yahoo.com]

Sent: Monday, December 15, 2008 1:43 AM

To: Buermann, Eric; Collins, Mike; Dauray, Charles; Estenoz, Shannon; Meeker, Melissa; Montgomery, Jerry; Rooney, Patrick; Wehle, Carol; Bergeron, Christine

Cc: Reppen, Deena

Subject: Support for Sugar purchase agreement and a suggestion for renegotiating leases

Dec. 15, 2008
To: Governing Board of South Florida Water Management District and Carol Wehle, Executive Director
From: Martha Musgrove, President, Decision Makers Forum
Pursuant to emailed suggestion that comments be submitted by e-mail:

Despite some concerns, this is to urge the governing board to support the pending purchase agreement to acquire U.S. Sugar lands. I acknowledge that the price is significantly greater than any farmer in the area would pay, but I would also point out that you are **not** buying the land **to farm it.**

What you're buying is **an opportunity** that attaches to the land precisely because of and only because of its location. The opportunity you are buying is to restore the Everglades, a unique and vast natural resource storing water, moderating our climate and vital to sustaining South Florida as a region. Government always pays a premium for land located exactly where needed for a particular purpose and opportunity.

Without the land that U.S. Sugar owns south of Lake Okeechobee, the heart of restoration will be lost. Without the land, it becomes impossible to construct a broad flowway to reestablish the historic connection between Lake Okeechobee, the Everglades and Florida Bay. There can be no restoration either of Lake Okeechobee and the estuaries. Equally important the land U.S. Sugar now owns south of the lake is not enough, some of the land owned by Florida Crystals and several other sugar growers is also needed.

What concerns me today -- given that the intent has always been to swap land that is acquired outside the restoration footprint for additional land needed within the footprint -- is that these tandem swap-agreements are not now before you. I am one of those Everglades Restoration supporters that believe simultaneous land swaps should take place when finally closing the deal.

The big questions to be asked are: Why don't you have these tandem agreements before you? Why didn't negotiations with Florida Crystals rise to the level of Gov. Charles Crist and gain equal attention and commitment?

In view of the appraisals and price being paid for U.S. Sugar land, I find it difficult to believe that "price" was the issue that thwarted agreements with Florida Crystals. And when I look at a map of the various landholdings, I know that it will be only with additional costs that you will be able to construct a flowway without acquiring this additional land.

I urge you -- upon approval of the purchase agreement -- to utilize the time between this vote, the required validation (acknowledged in the contract) and actual closing to negotiate a deal with Florida Crystals. I do so, notwithstanding, reports that Florida Crystals has or will file objections to the validation proceedings in order to protect its interests.

The lease agreement setting a $50 per acre lease rate for six to seven years is the most troubling document before you. Plainly stated, no sugar grower is going to swap productive land for land encumbered by leases, yet only 30,000 acres will be subject to "early termination." That amount is insufficient to complete the proposed flowway. It has been suggested that the district won't be ready to build a flowway in seven years, but no one can even design a flowway without knowing what land will be available.

The two agreements are being presented to you as if they were one document and as if only one vote is needed. Yet they do not read as if they are contingent on each other. The purchase agreement may be a non-negotiable, "take it or leave" it agreement, but I do not read the lease agreement that way nor does the letter from U.S. Sugar transmitting the purchase agreement state that the vote by its board

was contingent on the simultaneous acceptance of the lease agreement. I suggest an attempt to modify the troubling items of the lease agreement would win greater public acceptance of the deal and that you are free to vote separately on the lease agreement.

Lastly I want assure you, I have no financial interests in the Everglades Agricultural Area or any companies doing business there. I am interested only in seeing Everglades Restoration expeditiously implemented. MLM

Ms. Martha Musgrove
2432 Edgewater Dr.
West Palm Beach, FL 33406
561-965-9409

Widness, Cathy

From: JamInfo@aol.com

Sent: Monday, December 15, 2008 7:00 AM

To: Aronberg.Dave.web@flsenate.gov

Cc: Oelrich.Steve.web@flsenate.gov; Siplin.Gary.web@flsenate.gov; Richtner.Garrett.web@flsenate.gov; Atwater.Jeff.web@flsenate.gov; Constantine.Lee.web@flsenate.gov; Deutch.Ted.web@FL.Senate.Gov; Pruitt.Ken.web@flsenate.gov; Mary.Brandenburg@MyFloridaHouse.gov; Priscilla.Taylor@MyFloridaHouse.gov; William.Snyder@MyFloridaHouse.gov; Matt.Hudson@MyFloridaHouse.gov; Maria.Sachs@MyFloridaHouse.gov; Eric.Eikenberg@MyFlorida.com; Mike.Sole@DEP.State.FL.US; River of Grass

Subject: Ecosystem Services Value of restoring the Missing Link, availed by land purchase

Attachments: ACES ppt.ppt

Dear Senator Aronberg, et al;

In all the posturing over the potential U.S. Sugar land purchase, there is one thing that has not been done, until this week. That would be projecting future ecosystem services value [ESV], i.e., economic dollar value, of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP) implementation, given optimal use of the land purchased to restore the missing link and revitalize the River of Grass, as Governor Crist has called for.

The National Academy of Sciences National Research Council reports: *Until the economic value of ecosystem goods and services is acknowledged in environmental decision-making, they* [ESV] *will implicitly be assigned a value of zero in cost-benefit analysis, and policy choices will be biased against conservation. ... When faced with environmental policy decisions that seek to balance human activity and conservation, the process of valuing ecosystem services can inform the policy debate and lead to better decision making. ....to date, that value has not been well quantified.* For more info, see http://dels.nas.edu/dels/rpt_briefs/valuing_services_final.pdf.

Using ecosystem services standards that consider all economic value, over a CERP life cycle of 40 years, a first order calculation reveals that the worth of ecosystem services potentially accruing from restoration of the missing link, is on the order of $69.156 billion dollars.

Estimating the cost of the land purchase and CERP implementation to restore the missing link through the Everglades Agricultural Area (EAA) at $7.6 Billion dollars, the Benefit to Cost ratio = 9.10.

These calculations were presented last week at "A Conference on Ecosystem Services" - ACES for short -per the attached power point presentation.

The underlying ACES theme was to bundle all possible benefits and monitize same, as amplified in the National Academy report. There are no major case studies that go in this direction that I can find, thus far. Richard Weisskoff's book on "Economics of Everglades Restoration" comes closest. Otherwise nothing has been done to make CERP a case study in how to translate ecosystems services into economic dollar value.

The forwarded message provides additional background, emphasizing the need to *use science for decision making in dynamic systems*, the overarching theme of the ACES conference.

As the means to balance all the Everglades politics with science, thanks for consideration of an analysis estimating the real value of the US Sugar Land Purchase to the State of Florida.

Hopefully this will provide the decision support to resolve the nuances, and get on with the purchase.

Respectfully submitted,

John Arthur Marshall
www.ArtMarshall.org

Forwarded Message:

Subj: **Ecosystem Services Value of Restoring the Missing Link, availed by land purchase**
Date: 12/12/2008 1:15:32 P.M. Eastern Standard Time
From: JamInfo
To: EBuermann@sfwmd.gov, MCollins@SFWMD.gov, PRooney@sfwmd.gov, MMeeker@sfwmd.gov, CDauray@sfwmd.gov, SEstenoz@sfwmd.gov, PHuck@sfwmd.gov, JMontgom@sfwmd.gov
CC: CWehle@SFWMD.gov, riverofgrass@sfwmd.gov, dreppen@sfwmd.gov
BCC: JAMinfo

Dear Chairman Buermann, Governing Board Members, et al;

Thanks for the previous opportunity to present to the Governing Board, a power point program on the potential cost savings and benefits of restoring flow down the missing link to revitalize the river of grass. Of course the September 12, 2007 presentation preceded the Governor's announcement, June 24, 2008, by some months. Thanks also for a few remarks of encouragement to continue the research and expand on the initial findings. Thanks also for the recent notice sent by Deena Reppen encouraging written inputs.

The "expanded update" has been done, and presented as a paper at "A Conference on Ecosystem Services" - ACES for short. The ACES Conference was (1) a call for "bundling all ecosystem services benefits", i.e., consider all benefits, and (2) to monitize or evaluate the bundled benefits by giving them a dollar value; and (3) using this for a more robust Benefit to Cost analysis for decision-support that can be understood by congress and the public.

A primary purpose of the "update" was to give a first order estimate of the total ecosystem services value (ESV) of the US Sugar Corp deal, given that the nuances can be resolved, and the land purchased. In the attached, all can hopefully see that $1.34 millions is a trivial amount, given the potential of seeing the missing link restored, to an ESV approaching $70 Billion, over the lifetime of CERP (40 years used for the analysis).

The theme of ACES and technical information presented indicates that (1) the approach and methodology in the attached presentation is valid, (2) the approach is what is being sought by govt, industry, and NGO's, and (3) the estimate of the ultimate value of the US Sugar land purchase over 40 years is in the ball park.

Some at the ACES Conference projected that the worth of restoring some 95,000 acres of wetlands/STA's in terms of carbon sequestration and mitigation of sea level rise would be an ESV benefit worth the cost of the project. Attached calculations validate that this is likely true, given that the full potential of the land purchase, in terms of ESV, can be fully realized.

Hopefully this will be useful as decision support in your deliberations on acquiring the land needed to restore the missing link.

From the ACES conference, I went directly to the Task Force meeting, and reported a summary of ACES, and the paper I had presented, including copies of the attached to the Task Force, and then to the Everglades Coalition, as they have similar concerns.

I plan on doing the same at the next governing board meeting, in the usual 3 minutes, or less, as required. Here is a paraphrasing of what went to the Task Force, as an advance copy.

Governing Board members, Thanks for your consideration.

ACES Presentation Title:
On the Value of Ecosystems Services Provided by Restoring Gravity-driven Flow to the Everglades
[From Lake O to WCA-3]

Background: *Deputy Secretary of the Interior Lynn Scarlett gave the keynote address (Dec 10) at A Conference on Ecosystem Services (ACES) in Naples, Florida.* [I gave Sec Scarlett a copy of the attached right after her speech, noting that it does give credibility to her DOI DRAFT Vision Document per the attached]. *ACES 2008 will bring together leaders from government agencies, non-governmental organizations, academia, tribes and the private sector to advance the understanding of "ecosystem services"—services provided to people by natural systems. The interdisciplinary conference, sponsored by more than a dozen agencies and institutions, will cover topics related to ecosystems such as science, conservation, restoration, resource management and development decisions.* More: http://www.doi.gov/news/08_News_Releases/121008.html. (355 Attendees)

Comments to the Task Force, paraphrased, went as follows.

- Ecosystem Services are those services that benefit people in an economic way
- This appears to be a new way of doing business arising out of the reality that the planet is in serious trouble. [this has the ESV concept gaining momentum fast]
- Virtually all of you [Govt folks] had representatives of your agencies participating, including a few govt folks in the audience [Fred Sklar, SFWMD; Barry Rosen and Ronnie Best, USGS, USACE Reps, DOI reps, et al]
- Attention getter: Deputy Sec Lynn Scarlett gave serious endorsement of the proceedings in a plenary speech, as noted in background.
- Two buzz words were introduced: *Monitizing*, and *Bundling*.
    - Bundling is used in a slightly different context than bundling projects. Bundling here means considering all possible benefits resulting from restoration, enhancement and protection.
    - Monitizing means converting the bundle into ESV = $$$
- ArtMarshall.org contribution was to bundle and monitize all the benefits of restoration in the EAA per the attached using literature standards.
- The ACES conference provided direct and indirect peer review that confirmed the validity of the attached presentation.
- Ecosystem Value will always be in the mega-billions, and exceed cost by nearly a factor of ten (10).
- This provides a better approach [full value benefit accounting as well as full cost accounting] to the traditional [and less seen] Benefit:Cost Study.
- Rather than go into further detail, I will let the hand-out [attached] speak for itself.
- QED.

Over all the first order estimate of ESV benefit is based on a lot of research, and a three page spread-sheet model. Per what was outlined as a need at ACES, the attached presentation appears literally and figuratively on the money in order of magnitude. It needs more tweaking, which ought to be an innovation of CERP implementing agencies. From what was gleaned at the ACES conference the worth of the calculated benefits are likely to increase.

Of course this also validates what Art Marshall new intuitively as well. For the Art Marshall approach,
Semper If!

John Arthur Marshall
www.ArtMarshall.org

Make your life easier with all your friends, email, and favorite sites in one place. Try it now.

Walker, Reagan

From: Jim Beauchamp [JimBeauchamp8@aol.com]
Sent: Monday, December 15, 2008 10:43 AM
To: River of Grass
Subject: Support Purchase of US Sugar Everglades Land

We support the purchase of US Sugar everglades land by the State of Florida.

James L. Beauchamp & Terry D. Beauchamp
JimBeauchamp8@aol.com
720 Elinor Way Sanibel, FL 33957

Walker, Reagan

From: Jerry Churchill [3djerry@comcast.net]
Sent: Monday, December 15, 2008 11:07 AM
To: River of Grass
Cc: Rooney, Patrick
Subject: Everglades Agricultural Area acquisition

Dear Mr. Chairman and Governing Board Members:

On Tuesday December 16, you are voting wether or not to acquire a large area of the EAA. This is a very important component of restoring the Everglades. This purchase will also improve the water quality of Lake Okeechobee, and the Caloosahatchee and St Lucie Rivers. If the purchase of this land does not go forward at this time, there is no assurance we will ever regain this opportunity. We ask you to support the purchase of this land now. Thank you for all your hard work.

Sincerely,

Jerry R. Churchill (a year around resident of Sanibel FL)

Walker, Reagan

From: Jim Beauchamp [JimBeauchamp8@aol.com]
Sent: Monday, December 15, 2008 11:10 AM
To: River of Grass
Subject: Support Purchase of US Sugar Everglades Land

The email message below was sent by James & Terese Beauchamp to:

Eric Buermann; Chairman **Email:** ebuermann@sfwmd.gov

Shannon A. Estenoz **Email:** sestenoz@sfwmd.gov

Michael Collins **Email:** mcollins@sfwmd.gov

Charles J. Dauray **Email:** cdauray@sfwmd.gov

Paul C. Huck, Jr. **Email:** phuck@sfwmd.gov

Melissa L. Meeker **Email:** mmeeker@sfwmd.gov

Jerry Montgomery **Email:** jmontgom@sfwmd.gov

Patrick J. Rooney, Jr., Esq. **Email:** prooney@sfwmd.gov

Dear SFWMD Governing Board:

We support the purchase of US Sugar everglades land by the State of Florida. We are citizens of Sanibel, Florida. We have come to Sanibel for over 35 years. We have watched the water quality and environment decline over those 35 years. While there are many factors causing this decline in the quality of life and the economic potential of the southwest region of Florida, fixing the US Sugar's huge negative contribution to the environment is critical to successful restoration.

The decision before you this week, the approval of the purchase agreement with the U.S. Sugar Corporation, represents the greatest opportunity in our history for Everglades restoration. Although it is comprehensive and presents some challenges in our future, it is imperative we say "YES" to the purchase of U.S. Sugar farmlands and move forward.

In June Gov. Charlie Crist recognized this as an once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to revive the River of Grass and complete the reconnection between Lake Okeechobee and the Everglades. This transaction will provide the greatest opportunity we have to store and treat water that will benefit America's Everglades, Lake Okeechobee and the Caloosahatchee River and St. Lucie River estuaries. We have support the Governor's position and ask you today to say "Yes" and truly restore the greater Everglades Ecosystem.

We support the purchase of US Sugar everglades land by the State of Florida. Please accelerate this process if at all possible!

Thank you,

James L. Beauchamp
Terese D. Beauchamp
720 Elinor Way
Sanibel, FL 33957

Walker, Reagan

From: Shepard, Donald C. [DShepard@faegre.com]

Sent: Monday, December 15, 2008 11:33 AM

To: Buermann, Eric; Estenoz, Shannon; Collins, Mike; Dauray, Charles; Huck Jr., Paul; Meeker, Melissa; Montgomery, Jerry; Rooney, Patrick; River of Grass

Subject: US Sugar Land Acquisition

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I understand that a vote on the purchase of property by the State of Florida from U.S. Sugar is scheduled for this Tuesday. I can't imagine a more important vote to save our water in the Caloosahatchee and St. Lucie Rivers. Those of us in the Ft. Meyers area have seen first hand what happens when too much water is flooded down those rivers. The beaches in and around the river are just now recovering from the disastrous results of the 2005 and 2006 storms.

I know there are others in opposition, as there always would be. But if action is not taken now, it is unlikely that there will be another opportunity like this one for many years. And that will be too late.

I respectfully request that you support this purchase at the earliest possible date. It has to be the right thing to do for all of Florida.

Thank you for your consideration.

Best regards,

Donald C. Shepard

Donald C. Shepard
Faegre & Benson LLP
2200 Wells Fargo Center
90 South Seventh Street
Minneapolis, MN 55402-3901
612-766-6826 / FAX 612-766-1600
DShepard@faegre.com
http://www.faegre.com

Walker, Reagan

From: emiliealfino@comcast.net

Sent: Monday, December 15, 2008 11:41 AM

To: ebeurmann@sfwmd.gov; Estenoz, Shannon; Collins, Mike; Dauray, Charles; Huck Jr., Paul; Meeker, Melissa; Montgomery, Jerry; Rooney, Patrick

Cc: River of Grass

Subject: FW: US Sugar Land Purchaes

---------- Forwarded Message: ----------
From: "Bob" <fishingbob@comcast.net>
To: "Alfino, Emilie" <emiliealfino@comcast.net>
Subject: US Sugar Land Purchaes
Date: Mon, 15 Dec 2008 16:20:08 +0000
Dear Mr. Chairman And Governing Board Members of SFWMD

It is imperative that you vote to go forward with the purchase of the US Sugar property, especially now that the cost per acre is greatly reduced without the hard assets being included.

The combination all of the "Northern Everglades and Estuaries Protection Plan" in conjunction with "Water Flows South" now puts a viable solution in slight.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Captain Bob Pascale

Walker, Reagan

From: Reppen, Deena
Sent: Monday, December 15, 2008 11:45 AM
To: River of Grass; Carter, Annette; Kivett, Marcia; Walker, Reagan; Widness, Cathy
Subject: FW: US Sugar SF Water MD DEAL

Please add to GB book and count.

From: Wehle, Carol
Sent: Monday, December 15, 2008 11:33 AM
To: Reppen, Deena
Subject: Fw: US Sugar SF Water MD DEAL

Carol Ann Wehle
Executive Director
South Florida Water Management District

Sent from my BlackBerry Wireless Handheld

SFWMD Wireless Email Solutions

From: John O'neill
To: Donna Storter Long ; Buermann, Eric; Dauray, Charles; Montgomery, Jerry; Estenoz, Shannon; Collins, Mike; Huck Jr., Paul; Meeker, Melissa; Rooney, Patrick; Ritter, Gary
Cc: Charlie.Crist@myflorida.com ; Jeff.Kottkamp@myflorida.com ; Michael.Sole@dep.state.fl.us ; Kelly.Layman@dep.state.fl.us ; commissioner@doacs.state.fl.us ; alex.sink@myfloridacfo.com ; pruitt.ken.web@flsenate.gov ; blanton.faye@flsenate.gov ; rubio.marco@myfloridahouse.com ; Tzaicel_Hernandez@martinez.senate.gov ; denise.grimsley@myfloridahouse.gov ; bullard.larcenia.web@flsenate.gov ; Sen. Dave Aronberg ; info@tomrooney.com ; Wehle, Carol; Strowd, Tommy; Sen. J.D. Alexander
Sent: Mon Dec 15 11:16:52 2008
Subject: Re: US Sugar SF Water MD DEAL
Ditto Donna's remarks/statement below:
and these are my thoughts.
The economy around this lake has been destroyed by the pollution allowed to pour in for 50 yrs.
Volentary BMPs will not work, plus the state has cut that funding. The pollution coming into the lake and the cleanup of the lake has to happen first!
Agri-jobs are being replaced by automation and other countries. The counties around the lake cannot plan on Agri
jobs as a future or the state to help. History does not make futures! The US Sugar and their jobs are history, irreguardless
of the buying/selling of land south of the lake. The lake is dead and the economies with it and they will be untill the pollution pouring into the lake is fixed/lake cleaned out.
The politicians/gov. in this state has given SFWMD the money and power to do whatever they want with your/our tax
dollars. Ditto re fed. gov./COEs. Taxation without representation!!!

John O'Neill
Resident BHR

----- Original Message -----
From: Donna Storter Long
To: ebuermann@sfwmd.gov ; Charles Dauray ; jmontgom@sfwmd.gov ; sestenoz@sfwmd.gov ; mcollins@sfwmd.gov ; phuck@sfwmd.gov ; mmeeker@sfwmd.gov ; prooney@sfwmd.gov
Cc: Charlie.Crist@myflorida.com ; Jeff.Kottkamp@myflorida.com ; Michael.Sole@dep.state.fl.us ; Kelly.Layman@dep.state.fl.us ; commissioner@doacs.state.fl.us ; alex.sink@myfloridacfo.com ; pruitt.ken.web@flsenate.gov ; blanton.faye@flsenate.gov ; rubio.marco@myfloridahouse.com ; Tzaicel_Hernandez@martinez.senate.gov ; denise.grimsley@myfloridahouse.gov ; bullard.larcenia.web@flsenate.gov ; Sen. Dave Aronberg ; info@tomrooney.com ; 'CAROL ANN WEHLE' ; tstrowd@sfwmd.gov ; Sen. J.D. Alexander
Sent: Saturday, December 13, 2008 9:12 PM
Subject: US Sugar SF Water MD DEAL

Dear Chairman Ebuermann and Governing Board Members,

An old cliché could not be more apropos re the Sugar-Water deal:

WHEN IN DOUBT, DON'T.

You have heard multiple arguments and appeals on both sides of this issue so I won't waste I time here with redundancy.

However, if the deal merits your endorsement, it still will after all the options and aspects have been completely explored. But to date, they have NOT, especially in light of the potential savings with the Lawrence Group offer and the potential lawsuit with Florida Crystals.

It seems Crist has placed us all in an unfair quandary, and without our replacement for Wade's seat on your Board.

Please, I urge you to defer or deny the current US Sugar proposal as outlined by Tommy Strowd and Carol Wehle et al at the Clewiston meeting December 10.

Sincerely,

Donna Storter Long
Glades County Commissioner District 2

"When we pay an ounce of principle
for a pound of acceptance,
we get badly cheated."

Donna Storter Long (R)
Glades County Commissioner
863.673.2661-Cell 158*17*36430-Nextel

Think Green & please,
print this e-mail only if necessary. *Please note:*
Florida has a broad public records law and all correspondence relating to Glades County business, including email addresses, may be subject to disclosure.

Rivers Coalition
Save Our River! Stop the Discharges!
P.O. Box 2627, Stuart, FL 34995 772-225-6849

December 15, 2008

Dear Governor Crist:

The Rivers Coalition unanimously voted to reaffirm our support for the acquisition of U.S. Sugar lands. We fully support the modified acquisition proposal.

Attached please find our resolution dated June 26, 2008.

Very sincerely,

Leon Abood, Chairman
Rivers Coalition

C.C.:
U.S. Sen. Bill Nelson
U.S. Sen. Mel Martinez
FL Rep. William Snyder
U.S. Congressman Tim Mahoney
U.S. Congressman Elect Candidate Tom Rooney
Colonel Paul Grosskruger
South Florida Water Management District Board
Martin County Commissioners
City of Stuart Commissioners
Sewall's Point Commissioners
St. Lucie County Commissioners

Resolution of the Rivers Coalition June 26, 2008

Whereas, the Rivers Coalition is a 50 member organization of business, environmental and civic groups that represent more than 250,000 citizens from Florida and beyond,

Whereas, the Rivers Coalition formed in 1998 as a result of huge damaging freshwater discharges from Lake Okeechobee that polluted the St. Lucie Estuary and crippled the local economy,

Whereas, the mission of the Rivers Coalition is, "**To fight for a safe, healthy and ecologically balanced St. Lucie River Estuary and Indian River Lagoon, natural resources that are vital to the economy and quality of life of Martin County and the Treasure Coast.**

Whereas, Rivers Coalition has consistently supported sending excess Lake Okeechobee waters away from the estuaries where it tends to do harm and towards the Everglades where more water is needed; and

Whereas, CERP and the Northern Everglades initiatives as currently proposed will not accomplish this to the extent necessary for true environmental restoration; and

Whereas, the proposed public purchase of US Sugar would make enough land available to create the necessary water storage, cleansing and flow capacity south from Lake O to the Everglades; and

Whereas, public ownership of these lands would substantially reduce the need for irrigation storage in Lake O and drainage water quality treatment associated with sugar production on these lands; and

Whereas, the overall potential benefits to the Lake, Estuaries and Everglades are much greater if the US Sugar lands are purchased and converted to public restoration purposes,

Whereas, Governor Crist has reached a landmark agreement in principle to acquire the holdings of US Sugar Corporation by the state of Florida,

Now Therefore Be It Resolved:

The Rivers Coalition strongly supports purchase of US Sugar and conversion of its 187,000 acres of farmland to environmental restoration projects that will restore wetlands, increase the water supply for the Everglades, improve safety for residents of the EAA by enabling a substantial southern outlet between Lake and Everglades, improve Lake health, and better protect the Estuaries from damaging Lake releases.

Be It Further Resolved, The Rivers Coalition urges all the agencies to promptly and effectively collaborate with the public to accomplish these goals.

Adopted by unanimous vote of the Rivers Coalition on June 26, 2008.

Attested by Leon Abood
Chairman, Rivers Coalition

Walker, Reagan

From: Reynerio Muradaz [rey@muradaz.com]
Sent: Monday, December 15, 2008 12:13 PM
To: River of Grass
Subject: Help Restore the River of Grass

Reynerio Muradaz
10927 Fieldfair Drive,
Naples, FL 34119-8942

December 15, 2008

River of Grass Campaign
FL

Dear River of Grass Campaign:

Dear SFWMD Governing Board Members:

I am writing to express my strong support for the purchase of the US Sugar lands. I have been affected by the water quality degradation as a result of the polluted from Lake Okeechobee releases from insufficient water storage and treatment. The purchase of these lands represents one of the most significant opportunities to preventing further degradation, as well as for ensuring South Floridaï¿½s sustainability and quality of life.

Despite the economic downturn, this is the right time to buy these lands because this is a rare opportunity to meet our pressing need for additional water storage and treatment for Everglades restoration and for our growing South Florida population. This is an investment into our own ecological infrastructure that provides a basic necessity, clean freshwater.

Truly the future and wellbeing of Southwest Floridaï¿½s residents, environment, and long-term economy lies in your hands with this momentous decision. Therefore, I respectfully ask you to approve the acquisition of the US Sugar lands as a critical investment to restoring the Everglades and preserving our sustainability.

Sincerely,

Reynerio Muradaz
239-594-2289

Walker, Reagan

From: mccabej@comcast.net
Sent: Monday, December 15, 2008 12:50 PM
To: Buermann, Eric
Cc: River of Grass; Rooney, Patrick; Montgomery, Jerry; Meeker, Melissa; Huck Jr., Paul; Dauray, Charles; Collins, Mike; Estenoz, Shannon
Subject: Please approve the purchase of the Everglades Agicultual Area land.

Dear Mr.Eric Buermann Chairman and Governing Board Members:

I am writing on behalf of the Ding Darling Wildlife Society (DDWS).
Please vote to acquire the significant acreage in the Everglades Agricultural Area. This acquisition will significantly improve our chances of restoring the Everglades to its original condition while improving the water quality of Lake Okeechobee, and of the Caloosahatchee and St. Lucie Rivers' estuaries. The Ding Darling National Wildlife Refuges is bathed by the waters of the Caloosahatchee as it enters the Guff Of Mexico . The refuge is dependent on quality water as are the Everglades. Although we recognize that the proposal before you has challenges, the question you face is whether or not to buy land in an area that is critical for Everglades restoration. If the purchase of this land is not approved, there is no assurance we will ever regain this opportunity. We respectfully ask you to support the purchase of this land without additional delay.
Thank you for all of your hard work.

Sincerely,
John D McCabe
DDWS
Sanibel Florida
mccabej@comcast.net

Walker, Reagan

From: Carter, Annette
Sent: Monday, December 15, 2008 1:12 PM
To: River of Grass
Subject: Concerned Citizen - Please Vote No on the US Sugar Land Acquisition

Ms. Opal Royal Hancock (720 Cortec Street, Clewiston, FL 33440 863-983-8758) called and requested that the Board vote No on the River of Grass land acquisition. She is very concerned about the citizens of the Glades and their ability to continue a livelihood with the purchase of all the US Sugar land. The request that she made is that if the acquisition is approved consider be given to keep land in agricultural use as they are the top citrus producing County in the State; they have the 2nd richest soil in the United States; the County produces 1/5th of all sugar consumed in the United States; and the land can produce something to either eat or drink 365 days a year. Please vote No.

Annette Carter
Office of Governing Board and Executive Services
(561) 682-6433
ancarter@sfwmd.gov
Florida enjoys a broad public records law - any emails sent to or from this address are subject to review by the public at any time.

Walker, Reagan

From: JAMESCLAVELLE@aol.com
Sent: Monday, December 15, 2008 1:14 PM
To: River of Grass
Subject: (no subject)

I fully support the purchase of the US Sugar land

Make your life easier with all your friends, email, and favorite sites in one place. Try it now.

Walker, Reagan

From: marie reardon [electra72@embarqmail.com]
Sent: Monday, December 15, 2008 1:52 PM
To: River of Grass
Subject: Help Restore the River of Grass

marie reardon
328 NE 18 place
cape coral, FL 33909-2717

December 15, 2008

River of Grass Campaign
FL

Dear River of Grass Campaign:

Dear SFWMD Governing Board Members:

I am writing to express my strong support for the purchase of the US Sugar lands. I have been affected by the water quality degradation as a result of the polluted from Lake Okeechobee releases from insufficient water storage and treatment. The purchase of these lands represents one of the most significant opportunities to preventing further degradation, as well as for ensuring South Floridaï¿½s sustainability and quality of life.

Despite the economic downturn, this is the right time to buy these lands because this is a rare opportunity to meet our pressing need for additional water storage and treatment for Everglades restoration and for our growing South Florida population. This is an investment into our own ecological infrastructure that provides a basic necessity, clean freshwater.

Truly the future and wellbeing of Southwest Floridaï¿½s residents, environment, and long-term economy lies in your hands with this momentous decision. Therefore, I respectfully ask you to approve the acquisition of the US Sugar lands as a critical investment to restoring the Everglades and preserving our sustainability.

Sincerely,

marie reardon
239-458-3987

Walker, Reagan

From: CHRISTINE HOWELL [cespenlaub@embarqmail.com]
Sent: Monday, December 15, 2008 2:13 PM
To: River of Grass
Subject: voting on SFWM buy-out of U.S.S.C.

I would like to express my concerns about the purchase of the total acreage you propose to buy, when all y ou need is 40,000. Also,several other isssues--the vacant seat on the board, which represents the Glades area and the fact that only 16 counties will be bearing the tax burden for this purchase. Where does the Federal government come to help with this issue? Please address all these concerns. Thank You. Christine Howell

Walker, Reagan

From: Dawn Shirreffs [dshirreffs@cleanwater.org]

Sent: Monday, December 15, 2008 2:20 PM

To: Buermann, Eric; Estenoz, Shannon; Collins, Mike; Dauray, Charles; Huck Jr., Paul; Meeker, Melissa; Montgomery, Jerry; Rooney, Patrick

Cc: River of Grass

Subject: Please purchase US Sugar

Dear Governing Board Members

On behalf of Clean Water Action and our more than 55,000 Florida members we are writing to congratulate you on your heroic efforts to acquire critical lands for Everglades Restoration and to request approval of the U.S. Sugar Corporation purchase agreement this week.

Your approval of U.S. Sugar's farmlands will further Everglades Restoration in ways previously thought unattainable. Re-establishing the connectivity to Lake Okeechobee is the right decision for America's Everglades, the right decision for the economy, and the right decision for Florida.

We ask that you not allow the details of the negotiation to derail restoration of the greater Everglades Ecosystem. Please approve this purchase agreement and forward the vision shared by SFWMD and Governor Crist to secure these lands and restore the birthright of Floridians to a healthy, vibrant Everglades.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us (305) 653-9101 or katerno@cleanwater.org or dshirreffs@cleanwater.org.

Dawn Shirreffs
Florida Progam Coordinator
Clean Water Action
Clean Water Fund
www.cleanwater.org

190 Ives Dairy Road, Suite 106
Miami, Florida 33179
305.653.9101
305.653.9108 fax

Walker, Reagan

From: m c [gladesgumption@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, December 15, 2008 3:27 PM
To: River of Grass
Subject: U S Sugar deal VOTE NO

Mike Collins asked the question on Dec. 2 "Can we afford this deal?" I think the question should be **"Can taxpayers in the SFWMD afford this deal?" The answer is NO.** Twenty years from now every resident in the Glades, every taxpayer in the SFWMD and the world will remember "the deal" and be living with the defects if it is passed. The governor will have changed many times, the SFWMD board will have changed many times, the Everglades will have changed somewhat and the inland communities will be either ghost towns or still on the maps. Your decision about "the deal" will change everything for inland communities for many years to come. Nat Reed said "This is the dream of dreams that Marjory Stoneman Douglas proposed and everybody laughed at because nobody thought it would ever be possible," dreams turn into nightmares and a dream of Everglades Restoration is possible without this deal and not becoming a **nightmare for taxpayers and Glades residents.**

Please, I beg you, make it YOUR decision, not a mandate from the Governor, not because of threats to your business or family ties and not because a deadline stops the deal. The truth of "the deal" has not been told. Taxpayers are in dire circumstances districtwide, unemployment, and worried. Do not add to that a deal that is excessive, has no set plan, needs more land than this deal for complete restoration, relies on trading land plus additional taxpayers dollars to accomplish the missing link, adds to taxpayers debt, ends jobs and devastates communities. Restoration should have peace – this deal brings no peace. The price is too high for everyone – not just the dollar value - but in the delay of projects on the table and SFWMD being put in shaky financial posture. The taxpayers of SFWMD should not be placed in a position of financial collapse because of a purchase beyond its means. Our economy is in dire straights because of people living beyond their means. The SFWMD should not be able to impose taxes upon taxpayers beyond their means because a Governor says so and contributes nothing but a demand of voting his way.

I pray you have the gumption – the courage - to stand up to the Governor and VOTE NO. The land will become available again – only next time without destruction tied to it and restoration that brings peace. You will be remembered for having the courage and gumption to accomplish Everglades Restoration with common sense through an open, public forum - not one of darkness and destruction.

Voting no is not a vote against Everglades Restoration, it is a vote of yes to common sense, truth and your responsibility to taxpayers. Thank you for having gumption and courage for the Glades, for taxpayers and inland communities.

Walker, Reagan

From: Carol Thompson [carolthompson13@wowway.com]
Sent: Monday, December 15, 2008 10:10 PM
To: River of Grass
Subject: Help Restore the River of Grass

Carol Thompson
1783 Morning Sun Lane
Naples, FL 34119-3320

December 15, 2008

River of Grass Campaign
FL

Dear River of Grass Campaign:

Dear SFWMD Governing Board Members:

I am writing to express my strong support for the purchase of the US Sugar lands. I have been affected by the water quality degradation as a result of the pollution from Lake Okeechobee releases, from insufficient water storage and treatment. The purchase of these lands represents one of the most significant opportunities to preventing further degradation, as well as for ensuring South Florida's sustainability and quality of life.

Despite the economic downturn, this is the right time to buy these lands because this is a rare opportunity to meet our pressing need for additional water storage and treatment for Everglades restoration and for our growing South Florida population. This is an investment into our own ecological infrastructure that provides a basic necessity, clean freshwater.

Truly the future and wellbeing of Southwest Florida's residents, environment, and long-term economy lies in your hands with this momentous decision. Therefore, I respectfully ask you to approve the acquisition of the US Sugar lands as a critical investment to restoring the Everglades and preserving our sustainability.

Sincerely,

Carol Thompson

Walker, Reagan

From: Thomas Van Lent [tvanlent@evergladesfoundation.org]
Sent: Tuesday, December 16, 2008 8:56 AM
To: River of Grass
Subject: Vote "Yes" on Acquisition

My name is Dr. Thomas Van Lent. I am the senior scientist with the Everglades Foundation, and a water resources engineer. I respectfully urge you to vote "yes" to acquire the lands in the "River of Grass" initiative, and secure our future.

The cities and towns of south Florida, agriculture, tourism, our entire economy, depend upon a healthy sustainable environment and a dependable water supply. The Everglades, our estuaries, and our economy share the same future, the same fate. The plan for Everglades restoration is, by design, also the plan to accommodate the other water-related needs as well. The District's Water Supply Plan, is basically, Everglades restoration. A "yes" vote is the best hope to secure a future that includes a healthy environment, profitable agriculture, and reliable water supplies for our cities and towns.

Here's why. Your very capable engineering staff has laid out several practical, workable solutions that dramatically improve the chances of a workable restoration plan, and you have heard those presentations. But listen closely to what careful, deliberate engineers like Tommy Strowd have said. Those meticulous, fact-driven engineers are telling you that acquiring the US Sugar lands will allow the development of plans that are require dramatically less storage, much simpler engineering designs, and are better, faster and cheaper than anything proposed so far. A "yes" vote makes possible, with straightforward, off-the-self engineering, the recovery of our battered estuaries, the easing of threats to Lake Okeechobee and the communities that are under the shadow of its frail levee, a restored Everglades, and a secure water supply to our cities and towns.

The really risky, almost reckless choice is "no" vote. This will burden future Governing Boards with finding more than 11 million acre-ft of storage, as compared to the less than 2 million that would be needed if the US Sugar lands are acquired. Moreover, with the alternative plan, that huge storage volume would have to be delivered using unavailable or untested technologies. There are concerns with this deal, certainly. But those issues pale in comparison with the questions involved in putting 92% of the storage solution into ASR and in-ground reservoirs, and then finding the funds to build and operate those facilities. The concerns about this deal only seem large because they're before you, today, right now, and a no vote just saddles future Boards with monumental, practically insolvable problems. A "no" vote is casting your lot with an unproven, uncertain, unworkable, wildly expensive future. Voting "no" is a vote for no future at all.

Governor Crist has demonstrated his vision and commitment, and we especially thank Sec. Sole for all the work he has done. The responsible, prudent, good resource steward thing to do is vote "yes". Not only for our Everglades and our estuaries, but also for our cities and towns. Today, you have the chance to set us on the path to a secure, viable, workable future by voting yes. I respectfully urge you to do so.

Thomas Van Lent, Ph.D.
Senior Scientist

The Everglades Foundation
18001 Old Cutler Road, Suite 625
Palmetto Bay, FL 33157
(O) 305-251-0001 x 230
(M) 305-304-9906
tvanlent@evergladesfoundation.org
www.evergladesfoundation.org

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Walker, Reagan

From: Kahlil Kettering [kkettering@NPCA.ORG]
Sent: Tuesday, December 16, 2008 9:52 AM
To: River of Grass
Subject: Dear Mr. Chairman and Governing Board Members:

Dear Mr. Chairman and Governing Board Members:

On Tuesday, you are scheduled to vote to acquire a vast amount of acreage in the Everglades Agricultural Area. This acquisition presents an opportunity to significantly improve our chances of restoring the Everglades to its original condition while improving the water quality of Lake Okeechobee, and of the Caloosahatchee and St. Lucie Rivers' estuaries as well. Although we recognize that the proposal before you has challenges, the time for action is now, and the question you face is whether or not to buy land in an area that is critical for Everglades restoration. If the purchase of this land is not approved, there is no assurance we will ever regain this opportunity. We respectfully ask you to support the purchase of this land without additional delay. Thank you for all your hard work.
Sincerely,
Kahlil Kettering

McGorty, Jacki

From: Steven Cichielo [reelapealin@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, December 15, 2008 9:19 PM
To: McGorty, Jacki
Subject: NO to US Sugar

Jackie, Please accept this letter as a formal petition against the purchase of US Sugar's vast acreage. I do support the restoration of the Everglades Watershed and would support purchasing the needed land for the project from the Lawrence Group or any other company willing to purchase thus said property. The taxpayers of Florida have already been burdened with costs of this restoration. Please do not continue to punish taxpayers to correct the environmental crimes committed by the US Sugar Corporation and the SFWMD. Thankyou, Steven Cichielo
Cape Coral,FL

Walker, Reagan

From: McCartney, James C. [JMCCARTN@MCCARTHY.CA]
Sent: Tuesday, December 16, 2008 1:12 PM
To: Buermann, Eric; Estenoz, Shannon; Collins, Mike; Dauray, Charles; Huck Jr., Paul; Meeker, Melissa; Montgomery, Jerry; Rooney, Patrick
Cc: River of Grass
Subject: Everglades Agricultural Area

To the Chairman and Governing Board Members, South Florida Water Management District

My wife and I own a home on Sanibel Island. We understand that you are voting this week on the acquisition of a large tract of land in the Everglades Agricultural Area. This acquisition will significantly improve the chances of restoring the Everglades to its original condition, while improving the water quality of Lake Okeechobee and the Caloosahatchee River estuary. We respectfully ask you to approve the purchase, without further delay.

Thank you. James C. McCartney

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Walker, Reagan

From: Widness, Cathy
Sent: Wednesday, December 17, 2008 7:18 AM
To: River of Grass
Subject: FW: Governing Board - Email from Who To Contact Page

Cathy A. Widness
Office of Board & Executive Services
3301 Gun Club Road
MSC 2122
West Palm Beach, FL 33406
Phone: 561-682-6317
Fax: 561-682-5132
cwidness@sfwmd.gov

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From: hmartell@aol.com [mailto:hmartell@aol.com]
Sent: Tuesday, December 16, 2008 7:54 AM
To: McGorty, Jacki; Widness, Cathy
Subject: Governing Board - Email from Who To Contact Page

Contact Us Form

From: hmartell@aol.com
Subject Area: Governing Board - Email from Who To Contact Page
Message, Request, Question: Please reconsider approving the expenditure of over a Billion dollars !!! worth purchase of land from US Sugar. It is outrageous to even consider this purchase, especially during this difficult time that our economy is experiencing. Someone HEAD NEED'S TO BE EXAMINE, IT JUST DOESN'T MAKE ANY SENSE TO SPEND MY TAX DOLLARS ON THIS LAND TRANSACTION. I TRUST THAT THIS NOT ANOTHER GOVERNMENT "UNDER THE TABLE DEALS" FROM OUR CORRUPT POLITICIANS. STOP IT NOW!! To all of you, have a wonderful Holidays, Henry Martell Miami, Florida
Related URL: https://
Your Name: Henry Martell
Phone (with area code):
Street Address:
City: Miami
State:
Zip:
County: Miami-Dade

Walker, Reagan

From: Widness, Cathy
Sent: Wednesday, December 17, 2008 7:19 AM
To: River of Grass
Subject: FW: Governing Board - Email from Who To Contact Page

Cathy A. Widness
Office of Board & Executive Services
3301 Gun Club Road
MSC 2122
West Palm Beach, FL 33406
Phone: 561-682-6317
Fax: 561-682-5132
cwidness@sfwmd.gov

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From: stephenmcgy@gmail.com [mailto:stephenmcgy@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, December 16, 2008 8:39 AM
To: McGorty, Jacki; Widness, Cathy
Subject: Governing Board - Email from Who To Contact Page

Contact Us Form

From: stephenmcgy@gmail.com
Subject Area: Governing Board - Email from Who To Contact Page
Message, Request, Question: I respectfully the oppose use of public funds at the present time to buy private lands for everglades renovation, as proposed by the Governor. There are too many uses for the money and the contract is unfavorable to the State. Thank you
Related URL: https://
Your Name: Stephen McGaughey
Phone (with area code): 305-793-3949
Street Address: 5106 Granada Blvd
City: Coral Gables
State: FL
Zip: 33146
County: Miami-Dade

Walker, Reagan

From: Carter, Annette
Sent: Wednesday, December 17, 2008 8:37 AM
To: River of Grass
Subject: Concerned Citizens - Vote No on the US Sugar Land Acquisition

On December 16th three phone messages were received from concerned citizen in the Glades area in regards to the District's acquisition of the US Sugar lands. They requested that the Board vote No for the following reasons:

1. The state is not in a good financial position to be going further into debt when teachers are being laid off.
2. It's wrong for the citizens of Hendry County and south Florida to be responsible for this debt and the loss of jobs in this economic climate.
3. They asked the Board to vote No to save their County, schools and the tax base.

Annette Carter
Office of Governing Board and Executive Services
(561) 682-6433
ancarter@sfwmd.gov
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Walker, Reagan

From: Carter, Annette
Sent: Wednesday, December 17, 2008 8:41 AM
To: River of Grass
Subject: Vote No on the US Sugar Lands Acquisition

On December 16th Joanne Wilson (863-673-0253) left a phone message in regards to the District's acquisition of the US Sugar lands. She requested that the Board vote No for the following reasons:

1. The state is not in a good financial position to be going further into debt when teachers are being laid off.
2. It's wrong for the citizens of Hendry County and south Florida to be responsible for this debt and the loss of jobs in this economic climate.
3. They asked the Board to vote No to save their County, schools and the tax base.
4. A No vote will show that the Board and the District care about the people of the Glades.

Annette Carter
Office of Governing Board and Executive Services
(561) 682-6433
ancarter@sfwmd.gov
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