



SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

April 11, 2014

The Honorable Jo-Ellen Darcy
Assistant Secretary of the Army – Civil Works
Department of the Army
108 Army Pentagon, Room 3E446
Washington, DC 20310-0108

Subject: Ten Mile Creek, Kissimmee River and C-111 Projects

Dear Secretary Darcy:

I am writing to express my appreciation for the follow-up actions taken by you and your office toward resolving the remaining issues and identifying a path forward for completing the Kissimmee River Restoration and C-111 South Dade projects. Resolution of these issues is critical to our shared goal of moving these projects forward and will demonstrate to stakeholders and the public the strength and success of our long-standing partnership. It will also position both our agencies for near-term groundbreakings on these important Everglades restoration projects. As part of this momentum, I would like to propose an opportunity to add another element to our good news story: a positive plan forward for the Ten Mile Creek Water Preserve Area.

A crucial outcome of our agencies' collaborative discussions in March to resolve the Kissimmee River and C-111 challenges was agreement on crediting issues. This has been a high-priority and long-standing concern for the South Florida Water Management District Governing Board. By resolving these crediting issues, SFWMD has more financial certainty in moving forward on Ten Mile Creek. With your approval of our agreement on these important crediting issues I am confident that our Governing Board would be willing to support SFWMD taking on Ten Mile Creek from the Corps as a 100-percent, non-federal responsibility.

To achieve this, my proposal is, that following your formal approval of our staffs' agreement on the Kissimmee River and C-111 crediting issues, SFWMD would formally request that the Army deauthorize the Ten Mile Creek Water Preserve Area Project, terminate the Project Cooperation Agreement and extinguish any real estate certifications associated with the Project. At our Board's direction, SFWMD then would take full ownership and responsibility for converting the Ten Mile Creek facility into a useful facility. I can attest to strong local stakeholder support for a plan that would put the Ten Mile Creek project to work in the near-term, and I believe this proposal can fulfill that vision.

The Honorable Jo-Ellen Darcy
April 11, 2014
Page 2

Upcoming on May 6 is a combined meeting of the South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task Force and the Water Resources Advisory Committee (WRAC). This gathering will include a significant number of resource agency leaders and stakeholders and offers an excellent forum for announcing a breakthrough on these very important Everglades restoration projects.

In South Florida, early May is the beginning of the wet season, which is again forecast to be wetter-than-normal. This announcement will show our combined timely response in presenting a plan forward for completing these three projects as steps toward relieving stress on the estuaries. I am hopeful that you will concur with the concepts discussed by our staffs in March and that we can share some exciting news at the upcoming Task Force/WRAC meeting.

If you would like to discuss, please feel free to contact me at (561) 682-6302.

All the best,



Blake C. Guillory, P.E.
Executive Director
South Florida Water Management District

c: Drew S. Bartlett, FDEP
Colonel Alan M. Dodd, USACE
Sarah Heard, Martin County Board of County Commissioners
Frannie Hutchinson, St. Lucie County Board of County Commissioners
Brigadier General Donald E. Jackson, USACE
Let Mon Lee, ASA(CW)
Ernie Marks, FDEP
Craig Schmauder, ASA(CW)
Herschel T. Vinyard, FDEP
SFWMD Governing Board