



Everglades Coalition

1000 Friends of Florida
Arthur R. Marshall Foundation
Audubon of Florida
Audubon Society of the Everglades
Audubon Society of Southwest
Florida
Caloosahatchee River Citizens
Association
Clean Water Action
Clean Water Network
Collier County Audubon Society
Conservancy of Southwest Florida
Defenders of Wildlife
Ding Darling Wildlife Society
Earthjustice
Environment Florida
The Environmental Coalition
Everglades Coordinating Council
Everglades Foundation
Everglades Law Center
Florida Defenders of the
Environment
Florida Keys Environmental Fund
The Florida Native Plant Society
Florida Oceanographic Society
Florida Sierra Club
Florida Wildlife Federation
Friends of Arthur R. Marshall
Loxahatchee Wildlife Refuge
Friends of the Everglades
Hendry Glades Audubon Society
Izaak Walton League
Florida Keys Chapter
Florida Division
Izaak Walton League of America
Mangrove Chapter
Last Stand
League of Women
Voters of Florida
Loxahatchee River Coalition
Martin County
Conservation Alliance
National Audubon Society
National Parks
Conservation Association
National Wildlife Federation
National Wildlife Refuge
Association
Natural Resources
Defense Council
The Ocean Conservancy
The Pegasus Foundation
Sanibel-Captiva
Conservation Foundation
Save It Now, Glades!
Sierra Club
Sierra Club Broward Group
Sierra Club Central Florida Group
Sierra Club Loxahatchee Group
Sierra Club Miami Group
South Florida Audubon Society
Tropical Audubon Society
The Urban Environment League
World Wildlife Fund

August 11, 2010

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

Dear Chairman Buermann:

The Everglades Coalition, an alliance of 53 national, state, and local groups dedicated to full restoration of the Greater Everglades Ecosystem, urges your support for the proposal to immediately acquire 26,800 acres of land from the U.S. Sugar Corporation with the option to acquire more than 150,000 additional acres over the next ten years. The Coalition also encourages the Governing Board to continue its strategic project planning to utilize the 150,000 acres in the option to increase the flow of clean water south into the southern Everglades.

This proposed land acquisition will allow substantial water quality improvements to take place in the Everglades. This ecosystem, which historically had extremely low nutrient levels, has long been plagued by water quality issues that interfere with restoration.

The ability to achieve the 10 parts per billion (ppb) phosphorus limit for the Everglades depends greatly on having adequate land on which to clean the water that flows to the Everglades. The Everglades Coalition has previously called for the construction of up to 45,000 acres of new Stormwater Treatment Areas and this land acquisition will greatly advance that goal. The proposal to purchase this land from a willing seller, using funds already available, is the fastest way to achieve water quality benefits.

Purchasing and ultimately utilizing 26,800 acres of land to improve the quality of our water, is a momentous achievement that will be celebrated for years to come. We ask for your continued support for Everglades restoration and your approval of this critical purchase to ensure that future generations can experience and enjoy the abundance of America's Everglades.

Sincerely,

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