



# THE EVERGLADES COALITION

May 2, 2003

1000 Friends of Florida  
Arthur R. Marshall Foundation and  
Florida Environmental Institute, Inc.  
Audubon Society of the Everglades  
Biscayne Bay Foundation  
Broward County Audubon Society  
Broward County Sierra Club  
Center for Marine Conservation  
Clean Water Action  
Clean Water Network-Florida  
Campaign  
Collier County Audubon Society  
The Conservancy of Southwest  
Florida  
Defenders of Wildlife  
Earthjustice Legal Defense Fund  
Environmental and Land Use Law  
Center  
The Environmental Coalition  
Environmental Defense Fund  
Everglades Coordinating Council  
Florida Audubon Society  
Florida Defenders of the Environment  
Florida Keys Chapter of the Izaak  
Walton League of America  
Florida Keys Environmental Fund  
Florida PIRG  
Florida Sierra Club  
Florida Wildlife Federation  
Friends of the Everglades  
Izaak Walton League of America  
League of Women Voters of Florida  
Loxahatchee Sierra Club  
Martin County Conservation Alliance  
National Audubon Society  
National Parks and Conservation  
Association  
National Wildlife Federation  
Natural Resources Defense Council  
Outward Bound  
The Pegasus Foundation  
Redland Conservancy  
Sierra Club  
Sierra Club Miami Group  
Tropical Audubon Society  
Wilderness Society  
World Wildlife Fund

Colonel James G. May  
Jacksonville District Commander  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
400 West Bay Street, P.O. Box 4970  
Jacksonville, FL 32232-0019

Maureen Finnerty  
Superintendent  
Everglades National Park  
40001 State Road 9336  
Homestead, FL 33034-6733

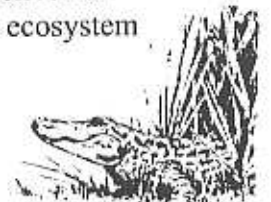
Jay Slack  
Florida Field Supervisor  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
1339 20<sup>th</sup> Street  
Vero Beach, FL 32961-2676

Henry Dean  
Executive Director  
South Florida Water Management District  
3301 Gun Club Road  
West Palm Beach, FL 33416-4680

Dear Colonel May, Superintendent Finnerty, Supervisor Slack and Executive  
Director Dean:

On behalf of the Everglades Coalition, we would like to comment on the  
Draft Combined Structural and Operational Plan (CSOP) Overview and  
Project Purposes and Objectives (Purpose and Objectives). The Coalition has  
tracked the Modified Water Deliveries and C-111 Projects since their  
inception and applauds your efforts to develop a process by which these long-  
stalled restoration projects may finally move forward. The Coalition will  
continue to be active participants in seeing that these projects achieve the  
goals for which they were authorized. We are concerned, however that this  
document does not adequately reflect those goals.

Our greatest concern is the failure to articulate that restoration is the primary  
purpose of these projects and that the CSOP must achieve this purpose. As  
you are aware, the primary purpose of both the Modified Water Deliveries  
and C-111 Projects – as authorized by Congress – is to restore the ecosystem



of the southern Everglades, including Everglades National Park and Florida Bay. This objective must be accomplished while maintaining the authorized flood damage reduction levels within the C-111 Basin. These authorized project purposes must remain the understood premise upon which development of the CSOP takes place. If these governing assumptions are not expressly articulated in the Purpose and Objectives document, we cannot advocate the participation of the Coalition members in the CSOP stakeholder process.

The Southern Everglades Team of the Coalition has presented specific changes that will reflect the restoration mandate, help ensure that development of the CSOP achieves its legal objectives and gives us assurances that the stakeholder process will be well-grounded. We also believe that the draft Charter presented to the South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Working Group has some *procedural* concerns that need to be addressed in order to ensure participation by the Coalition members.

We remain committed to assisting in the development of the Combined Structural and Operational Plan, but our involvement in a stakeholder process is contingent upon ensuring that such a process proceeds with a mutual understanding by all parties that the authorized restoration purpose of the plans is the primary goal. We look forward to working with you to refine this document to accurately reflect that objective.

Sincerely,



Mary Munson  
National Co-Chair  
Everglades Coalition



Erin Deady  
State Co-Chair  
Everglades Coalition

cc: Colonel Terrence Salt, South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task Force  
Anne Klee, South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task Force  
Rick Smith, South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Working Group  
Mike Eng, U.S. Institute for Environmental Conflict Resolution