



Everglades Coalition

1000 Friends of Florida
Arthur R. Marshall Foundation
Audubon of Florida
Audubon of Southwest Florida
Audubon Society of the Everglades
Broward County Audubon Society
Caloosahatche River Citizens
Association
Clean Water Action
Clean Water Network
Collier County Audubon Society
The Conservancy of Southwest
Florida
Defenders of Wildlife
Earthjustice
Everglades Law Center
The Environmental Coalition
Everglades Coordinating Council
Environment Florida
Florida Defenders of the
Environment
Florida Division of the Izaak
Walton League of America
Florida Keys Chapter of the Izaak
Walton League of America
Florida Keys Environmental Fund
Florida Native Plant Society
Florida Oceanographic Society
Florida Sierra Club
Florida Wildlife Federation
Friends of the Everglades
Izaak Walton League of America
Last Stand
League of Woman Voters of Florida
Loxahatchee River Coalition
Mangrove Chapter of the Izaak
Walton League of America
Martin County Conservation
Alliance
National Audubon Society
National Parks Conservation
Association
National Wildlife Federation
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 Loxahatchee Group
Sierra Club Miami Group
Tropical Audubon Society
The Urban Environment League
World Wildlife Fund

September 4, 2008

Via Facsimile (850) 488-3309
Director Charles Gauthier
Division of Community Planning
Department of Community Affairs
2555 Shumard Oak Boulevard
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-2100

Via Facsimile (850)921-0781
Secretary Thomas G. Pelham
Department of Community Affairs
2555 Shumard Oak Boulevard
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-2100

Dear Secretary Pelham and Director Gauthier:

The Everglades Coalition wishes to thank the Department for its leadership in Everglades Restoration by challenging Miami-Dade County's recent "UDB" Comprehensive Development Master Plan (CDMP) amendments and upholding the integrity of Florida's Growth Management Act.

We believe that language and objections included in the Department's 7/19/08 Notice of Intent reflect the need for a consistent and comprehensive statewide approach to the protection of important natural resources such as the Everglades and agricultural resources. Governor Crist's June 2008 announcement regarding the planned purchase of U.S. Sugar signaled hope for true restoration of America's Everglades.

As you may be aware, a new application to move Miami-Dade's Urban Development Boundary (UDB) has been filed. The proposed Parkland development would construct nearly 7,000 homes outside of the current UDB despite adequate developable land within the UDB. This application violates the County's sustainable land use policies and will exacerbate the problem of unfettered growth and sprawl that the CDMP seeks to prevent.

The Department's continuing role in maintaining Miami-Dade County's existing UDB preserves open space critical to protect and restore the Everglades, Biscayne Bay and National Park as well as ensuring adequate water supply for South Florida families. In 2007 Miami-Dade County had more than 26,000 mortgage foreclosures (a 269% increase from 2006) and more than 16,000 in the first four months of 2008 (Miami Dade County Clerks of Courts, <http://www.miami-dadeclerk.com/dadecoc/Mortgage-Statics.asp>).

Our members and supporters thank you for strong action and wise implementation of Florida's growth management laws as part of Florida's ongoing commitment to Everglades restoration.

Sincerely,

Sara Fain
National Co-Chair

Mark Perry
State Co-Chair

www.evergladescoalition.org

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