

Florida House of Representatives

Heather Fritzenhagen

Tallahassee Office:

319 The Capitol
402 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, Florida 32399
Ph: (850) 717-5078

District Office:

2120 Main Street
Suite 208
Fort Myers, Florida 33901
Ph: (239) 533-2440

September 29, 2015

Mr. Michael Sharp, Director
Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund
1133 Fifteenth Street, N.W., Suite 1100
Washington, D.C., 20005

Re: The Proposal Submerged Aquatic Vegetation (SAV)
Restoration Project

Dear Mr. Sharp:

Please accept the following letter in support of the proposed Submerged Aquatic Vegetation (SAV), Restoration Project put forth by the Caloosahatchee River Restoration Consortium. The public, private partnership of the Caloosahatchee River Restoration Consortium is comprised of the Caloosahatchee River Citizens Association, also known as "RiverWatch", The Florida Gulf Coast University, University of Florida, Sea & Shoreline LLC., and Johnson Engineering, Inc.

I endorse the project and the proposal for multiple reasons, such as the benefit of the revitalization of acres of submerged aquatic vegetation in the upper estuary and for the enormous economic impact it will have on the community. The project will preserve local jobs, restore employment to hundreds of Floridians, sustain jobs in the resort and hospitality industry and create new employment over-all with elevated salaries.

It is my understanding from the Mayor that the revitalization approach regarding the (SAV) is recommended by researchers and ecologists from the Chesapeake Bay to Charlotte Harbor. The project is perfectly suited for Florida's expectations and objectives for the Gulf of Mexico Benefit Fund and Restore Act Fund.

I appreciate the opportunity to endorse and offer my support for the project and really hope to see it come to fruition. If you have any questions or concerns regarding the above please do not hesitate to contact me.

Very Truly Yours,

Heather Fitzenhagen
State Representative
District 78