



SCCF

Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation

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SCCF is dedicated to the conservation of coastal habitats and aquatic resources on Sanibel and Captiva and in the surrounding watershed through:

- Marine Research
- Land Acquisition
- Natural Resource Policy
- Native Plant Nursery
- Environmental Education
- Sea Turtle Conservation
- Wildlife Habitat Management



June 20, 2013

Herschel T. Vinyard Jr.

Secretary

Florida Department of Environmental Resources

3900 Commonwealth Boulevard

M.S. 49

Tallahassee, Florida 32399

Dear Secretary Vinyard:

The Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation is dedicated to the conservation of coastal habitats and aquatic resources on Sanibel and Captiva and in the surrounding watershed. SCCF manages over 1300 acres of land on the islands. The SCCF Marine Laboratory actively conducts research in areas including seagrasses, mangroves, harmful algal blooms, fish populations and shellfish restoration. SCCF's RECON (River, Estuary and Coastal Observing Network) network of seven in-water sensors provides real-time, hourly readings of key water quality parameters – spanning a 90-mile area – which are available on our web site.

This pristine and natural backdrop has become a way of life that supports not only wildlife, but a vibrant and robust *world class* tourism economy that attracts visitors who value and cherish the Sanibel community. ***The Sanibel population swells to 30,000 in season—supported by the businesses of the 6,000 annual residents.*** Many Sanibel residents have built their businesses in tandem with the natural setting—offering visitors opportunities to enjoy the waters and shores of the Island through fishing, paddleboarding, windsurfing, snorkeling, shelling, paddling, kayaking and other activities. Although fragile in its balance, the symbiotic relationship thrived... the Island community's strong investment in conservation and nature returned a steady stream of visitors by which the Islanders could earn a living.

On April 20, 2010, the BP oil spill upset the fragile balance of Sanibel Island. The oil didn't reach Sanibel's shores, but the world's perception of harm to Sanibel's protected and nurtured coastal barrier island weighed heavily in the tourist's decision to travel elsewhere for vacation. Bookings were canceled, wedding parties were moved, visitors failed to appear and the industries that relied upon the Gulf waters struggled while the world waited to see the fallout.

For this reason, the Sanibel Captiva Conservation Foundation strongly supports and endorses the City of Sanibel's application to fund a project to improve water quality in and around Sanibel Island. The Sanibel project will remove excess nutrients and pollutants from the waterways and will improve the water quality



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in the area. Sanibel's reputation as a pristine natural community rests on our active efforts to improve our native habitat. The objective of this project is to enhance the water quality of Sanibel's surrounding waters, including Pine Island Sound, Sanibel's Clam Bayou, San Carlos Bay, and lower Charlotte Harbor, which are located within the Caloosahatchee River watershed.

We have had a long and strong partnership with the City of Sanibel. The investment of new funds to improve water quality will maximize our investment in our Island. Thank you for giving full consideration to this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Erick Lindblad". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Erick" and last name "Lindblad" clearly distinguishable.

Erick Lindblad
Executive Director