



June 14, 2013

Herschel T. Vinyard Jr.
Secretary
Florida Department of Environmental Resources
3900 Commonwealth Boulevard
M.S. 49
Tallahassee, Florida 32399

Dear Secretary Vinyard:

The Lee County Visitor & Convention Bureau strongly supports and endorses the City of Sanibel's application to fund a City of Sanibel project to improve water quality in and around Sanibel Island. Sanibel's reputation and international appeal stem from its commitment to its natural environment and native habitat. Sanibel is vigilant in the protection and enhancement of its sanctuary characteristics.

The Sanibel project will remove excess nutrients and pollutants from the waterways and will improve the water quality 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.

The VCB is the County's tourism agency responsible for promoting Lee County's vacation assets in the United States and abroad. Our agency is acutely aware of the economic damage we experienced in Economic Loss Zone A-27. Furthermore we are well aware of the phones that did not ring and the vacations that were never booked at our destination as well as the long term negative perspective of our water quality due to the BP Spill.

We have a strong partnership with the City of Sanibel and we can assure you that we will work well together to maximize your investment in our community. Thank you for giving full consideration to this request.

Sincerely Yours,

Tamara Pigott
Executive Director