

CHOCTAWHATCHEE AUDUBON SOCIETY

P. O. Box 1014, Fort Walton Beach, Florida 32549

ChoctawhatcheeAudubon.org

Subject: City of Fort Walton Beach NRDA Restoration Project

2 March 2011

Ms Stella Jones, City Planner
City of Fort Walton Beach
P.O. Box 4009
Ft Walton Beach, Florida 32549

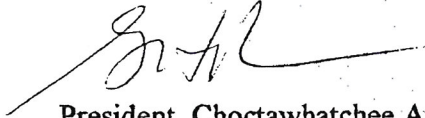
Dear Ms Jones

The Choctawhatchee Audubon Society, representing Okaloosa and Walton Counties, fully supports your proposed project to restore estuarine habitat in Santa Rosa Sound. We appreciate the potential impact that habitat restoration can have, especially on an impoverished body of water. Much of the city's shoreline consists of naked eroded sand berms and bulkheads which have been subjected to years of damage from boat wakes and storm surge from major hurricanes Erin, Opal, Ivan and Dennis.

I believe that your approach of using oyster reefs to suppress wave action and planted submerged and emergent vegetation will create shoreline plant and animal communities and permit a diverse and healthy environment for a host of native plants and animals. A key component of the project is the construction of boardwalk/signage which will serve as a viewing site to educate the public on the impact living shorelines can have on wildlife restoration.

Your proposed project will set standards which can be used as a construction guide for what will become the modus operandi for the future. We are very excited about the opportunity for our area to invest in such a project. We need this project now!

Gary H Parsons



President, Choctawhatchee Audubon Society

"CAS is dedicated to the protection of bird and wildlife habitat, environmental education, and a greater appreciation of Northwest Florida's natural beauty."

