



Charlotte County Government

"To exceed expectations in the delivery of public services."

www.CharlotteCountyFL.com

Shauna Allen, Staff Director
Florida Department of Environmental Protection
Division of State Lands
3900 Commonwealth Blvd. MS100
Tallahassee, FL 32399

October 8, 2019

Subject: Letter of Support for the Charlotte Harbor Flatwoods Florida Forever Project

Dear Ms. Allen:

Charlotte County would like to express our support for the Charlotte Harbor Flatwoods Florida Forever Project (Project) and to request the members of the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) consider increasing the ranking of this Partnerships and Regional Incentives project to a High Priority Group in your Work Plan so it may compete more effectively for the Florida Forever funds allocated by the Legislature. We also support the inclusion of Stolle Ranch in the Project boundary, and the boundary amendment for the Charlotte 580 Parcel.

Your support will allow local, state and federal agencies, numerous NGOs, the Coastal and Heartland National Estuary Partnership, and private stakeholders of the Charlotte Harbor Flatwoods Initiative who are partnering across multiple political boundaries to continue their goals to restore hydrologic connections for enhanced wetland hydroperiods in Babcock-Webb and Yucca Pens Wildlife Management Areas, increase regional wet season storage for enhanced dry season flows to tidal creeks of Charlotte Harbor's Outstanding Florida Waters and freshwater flows to the impaired Caloosahatchee Estuary to improve water quality and hydrology, reduce peak wet season discharges from man-made canals to tidal waters of Matlacha Pass Aquatic Preserve and the Caloosahatchee River, reduce regional flooding, enhance community resilience and help to restore and revitalize the local economy.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

18500 Murdock Circle, Suite 536 | Port Charlotte, FL 33948-1068
Phone: 941.743.1300 | Fax: 941.743.1310



Charlotte County Government

"To exceed expectations in the delivery of public services."

www.CharlotteCountyFL.com

On behalf of Charlotte County, thank you for your hard work and we respectfully request your support for increased priority ranking of the Charlotte Harbor Flatwoods Project, as well as inclusion of the Stolle Ranch and Charlotte 580 Parcel within the Project boundary. Please include this Letter of Support in the October 18, 2019 Evaluation Report for the Acquisition and Restoration Council members. Thank you in advance for your consideration and support.

Sincerely,

Kenneth W. Doherty
Charlotte County Board of County Commissioners

KD/jf

#19-28

Cc: Barbara Goodman, ARC Chair, Florida Department of Environmental Protection
Lynetta Usher Griner, ARC Vice Chair, Griner Usher Land & Timber, Inc.
Thomas Eason, Ph.D., ARC, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
Jim Karels, ARC, Florida Forest Service
Tim Parsons, Ph.D., RPA, ARC, Florida Division of Historical Resources
Bill Palmer, Ph.D., ARC, Tall Timbers Research Station and Land Conservancy
Elva Peppers, ARC, Florida Environmental and Land Services, Inc.
Paula Allen, Florida Department of Environmental Protection

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

18500 Murdock Circle, Suite 536 | Port Charlotte, FL 33948-1068
Phone: 941.743.1300 | Fax: 941.743.1310