

John E. Manning
District One

November 19, 2019

Cecil L. Pendergrass
District Two

Ray Sandelli
District Three

Brian Hamman
District Four

Frank Mann
District Five

Roger Desjarlais
County Manager

Richard Wesch
County Attorney

Donna Marie Collins
County Hearing Examiner

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

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

Dear Ms. Allen:

On behalf of Lee County, I would like to thank the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection staff for the recent approval of the boundary amendment of the Charlotte 580 Parcel and the inclusion of Stolle Ranch in the Charlotte Harbor Flatwoods Florida Forever Project. We would like to express our strong support for the Charlotte Harbor Flatwoods Florida Forever Project and request that the members of ARC consider increasing the ranking of this important 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 Florida Legislature.

Your support will allow local, state and federal agencies, the Coastal and Heartland National Estuary Partnership (CHNEP), and private stakeholders of the Charlotte Harbor Flatwoods Initiative, who are collaborating across multiple political boundaries, to further their goals to restore hydrologic connections for enhanced wetland hydroperiods in Babcock-Webb and Yucca Pens Wildlife Management Areas. This project will increase regional wet season storage to enhance dry season flows to tidal creeks of Charlotte Harbor's Outstanding Florida Waters and the Caloosahatchee Estuary to improve water quality and hydrology, as well as providing other regional benefits.

We respectfully request that this support letter be included with the materials for the ARC meeting on December 12 and 13, 2019. We thank you for your consideration and hope that you will support our request for increased priority ranking of the Charlotte Harbor Flatwoods Project.

Sincerely,



Brian Hamman, Chairman
Lee County Board of Commissioners
District 4

Cc: Barbara Goodman, ARC Chair, Florida Department of Environmental Protection
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
Lynetta Usher Griner, ARC Vice Chair, Griner Usher Land & Timber, Inc.
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