



SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

November 21, 2019

Ms. 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:

As the Charlotte Harbor Flatwoods Initiative (CHFI) Coordinator for the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD), I would like to thank the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) and DEP staff for 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 Legislature.

Your support will allow local, state and federal agencies, NGO's, the Coastal and Heartland National Estuary Partnership (CHNEP), and private stakeholders of the Charlotte Harbor Flatwoods Initiative, who are partnering 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 "impaired" 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,

Kim Fikoski

Kim Fikoski
SFWMD Charlotte Harbor Flatwoods Initiative Coordinator

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October 2, 2019
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c: Paula Allen, Florida Department of Environmental Protection
Barbara Goodman, ARC Chair, Florida Department of Environmental Protection
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