



CHARLOTTE HARBOR NATIONAL ESTUARY PROGRAM

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November 10, 2005

John Moulton
Tetra Tech EC Inc.
759 South Federal Highway, Suite 100
Stuart, FL 34994

Re: State-side Aquatic Preserve Document

Dear Mr. Moulton;

The Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program (NEP) has reviewed the State-wide Aquatic Preserve Document, issued on October 28, 2005. The Charlotte Harbor NEP is a partnership program, created by Section 320 of the Clean Water Act, to protect and preserve the Charlotte Harbor estuary, recognized as an estuary of national significance and one of the most productive estuaries in Florida. Since 1996, the Charlotte Harbor NEP has developed and adopted a *Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP)* for the estuary and its watershed. This plan was developed utilizing four committees of citizens, scientists, resource managers, industry representatives and policy makers. Our partnership includes, among others, Lee, Polk, Manatee, Sarasota, Hardee, DeSoto, and Charlotte Counties; several cities; the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency; U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission; the Florida Department of Environmental Protection; and both the South and the Southwest Florida Water Management Districts.

We have the following comments:

- The draft State-wide Aquatic Preserve Document is consistent with our CCMP, especially the emphasis on water quality, water quantity, and habitat.
- The reference to the Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Program on page 7 is welcome. The Charlotte Harbor NEP assists in funding the program in our study area.
- As an interagency partner, the Charlotte Harbor NEP requests that National Estuary Program be listed under U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in the same manner as National Estuarine Research Reserve System is listed under NOAA on page 16. This reference would serve to acknowledge the contributions made by the Charlotte Harbor NEP, Sarasota Bay Estuary Program, Tampa Bay Estuary Program, and Indian River Lagoon National Estuary Program.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (239) 338-2556 or at lbeever@swfrpc.org.

Sincerely,

Lisa B. Beever, PhD, AICP
Director