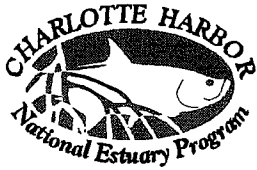


outgoing



April 15, 2002

E. D. "Sonny" Vergara, Executive Director
Southwest Florida Water Management District
2379 Broad Street
Brooksville, FL 34604-6899

Dear Mr. Vergara:

Late last year, David A. Tomasko, Ph.D., Senior Environmental Scientist, Surface Water Improvement and Management (SWIM) Section of the Southwest Florida Water Management District, provided the Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program (CHNEP) management conference with several outstanding presentations of the Pollutant Load Reduction Goal (PLRG) recommendations for Charlotte Harbor. He provided an overview of water quality in Charlotte Harbor as well as the Peace and Myakka Rivers. The PLRG recommendation, which had received support from our management conference, is to treat the water leaving Lake Hancock. This will assist greatly in protecting the water quality of Charlotte Harbor.

This letter is to document our support of the conclusions reached regarding the Pollutant Load Reduction Goals and land acquisition initiatives. Our *Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan* (CCMP), adopted March 2000, includes:

- Quantifiable Objective WQ-5: Restore and maintain Lake Hancock to Class III water quality standards (or better) and improve the Trophic State Index (TSI) value for the water exiting the lake from "poor" to "good" by the year 2010 and
- Priority Action WQ-H: Install and maintain filtration marshes at appropriate locations around Lake Hancock.

This letter further states to the SWFWMD Governing Board the CHNEP's full support of your efforts to improve the water quality leaving Lake Hancock.

Sincerely,

Lisa B. Beever, PhD, AICP
Director

cc: David A. Tomasko, Ph.D., Senior Environmental Scientist, SWIM, SWFWMD
SWFWMD Governing Board
CAC members