



**CHARLOTTE HARBOR NATIONAL ESTUARY PROGRAM**  
1926 Victoria Avenue, Fort Myers, Florida 33901  
239/338-2556, Fax 239/338-2560, [www.chnep.org](http://www.chnep.org)

May 21, 2010

Chairman Eric Buermann  
South Florida Water Management District Governing Board  
P.O. Box 24680  
West Palm Beach, FL 33416-4680

Re: Everglades Restoration River of Grass Acquisition of Land

Dear Chairman Buermann:

The Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program (CHNEP) Management Conference supports the South Florida Water Management District (District) acquiring land south of Lake Okeechobee to support hydrologic restoration of the Everglades. Moreover, the acquisition and restoration of the historic flow-ways will also support the implementation of the Caloosahatchee River Watershed Management Plan and benefit the health of the Charlotte Harbor estuary.

The CHNEP is a partnership of local, regional, state, and federal government, business, industry, and citizens. Acquisition the lands south of Lake Okeechobee and hydrologic restoration of the flow-ways is extremely important to environmental health of the CHNEP Study Area.

The District has stated: “[t]he goal for the Caloosahatchee River watershed is to protect and enhance the estuaries that receive freshwater regulatory releases from Lake Okeechobee through the Caloosahatchee River.” The acquisition and restoration of the lands south of Lake Okeechobee will enable the District to achieve its goal for the Caloosahatchee River estuary.

If the CHNEP can be of further assistance, or if you have any questions regarding the above information, please contact me at the CHNEP office a (239) 338-2556 x 235 or via e-mail at [lbeever@swfrpc.org](mailto:lbeever@swfrpc.org). Thank you for all of your efforts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lisa B. Beever".

Lisa B. Beever, PhD, AICP  
Director