





# CHARLOTTE HARBOR NATIONAL ESTUARY PROGRAM

4980 Bayline Drive, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, North Fort Myers FL 33917-3909

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## Via Facsimile

July 14, 2004

Mr. Nicolas Gutierrez, Chair, Governing Board  
South Florida Water Management District  
3301 Gun Club Road  
West Palm Beach, FL 33401

Dear Mr. Gutierrez:

On February 18, 2004, the Charlotte Harbor Estuary Program (CHNEP) forwarded a letter to both the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) and the U.S. Corps of Engineers recommending that the two agencies modify the regulations affecting flows from Lake Okeechobee to the Caloosahatchee Estuary to protect Florida's fish and wildlife resources and provide a more natural variability in water flows to the estuaries. Mr. Henry Dean, Executive Director, SFWMD, replied on March 12, 2004, stating:

The schedule improvement process will of course include a high degree of interaction with other state and federal agencies, tribes, and the general public. The District welcomes any input that the Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program might have during this process.

It is our understanding that during the July 14, 2004, Governing Board meeting, a WSE schedule modification may be presented that will have "slightly worse" performance relative to baseline for the Caloosahatchee Estuary [See Slide 11, July 8, 2004, PowerPoint presentation to the Water Resources Advisory Committee (WRAC) by Dr. Susan Gray]. This is of great concern to the CHNEP as our Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP) Objective HA-2 directs us to work with our partners to: "Identify, establish, and maintain a more natural seasonal variation (annual hydroperiod) in freshwater flows by 2010 for : 1. Caloosahatchee River..." The SFWMD is one of our partner organizations that signed the CCMP to protect the estuaries from Venice to Estero Bay.

Though the July 8, 2004, WRAC meeting held in West Palm Beach provided an opportunity for public comment, we request that the Governing Board defer action until its August meeting, and in the interim, host a public meeting on the West Coast. We appreciate your consideration of our comments; should you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact Dr. Lisa B. Beever at [lbeever@swfrpc.org](mailto:lbeever@swfrpc.org).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Lisa B. Beever".

*for*  
Lisa B. Beever, PhD  
Director



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### FAX

**To:** Mr. Kurt Harclerode  
561-640-2847 (fax)

**From:** Liz Donley  
239-995-1777, ext. 234  
239-656-7724 (fax)

**Date:** July 14, 2004

**No. of Pages:** 2 including coversheet)

**Subject:** Charlotte Harbor NEP letter to Governing Board

Kurt:

Following is the CHNEP's letter to the Governing Board. Thank you,

Liz Donley  
Grants and Contracts Manager

The Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program is a partnership that protects the estuaries from Venice to Estero Bay. This partnership gives citizens, elected officials, resource managers, and commercial and recreational resource users in the 4,400-square-mile study area a voice to address diverse resource management concerns, including fish and wildlife habitat loss, water quality degradation and water flow.

“Working together to protect estuaries and watersheds from Venice to Bonita Springs to Bartow”