



# Everglades Coalition

1000 Friends of Florida  
Arthur R. Marshall Foundation  
Audubon of Florida  
Audubon Society of the Everglades  
Audubon Society of Southwest  
Florida  
Caloosahatchee River Citizens  
Association  
Clean Water Action  
Clean Water Network  
Collier County Audubon Society  
Conservancy of Southwest Florida  
Defenders of Wildlife  
Ding Darling Wildlife Society  
Earthjustice  
Environment Florida  
The Environmental Coalition  
Everglades Coordinating Council  
Everglades Foundation  
Everglades Law Center  
Florida Defenders of the  
Environment  
Florida Keys Environmental Fund  
The Florida Native Plant Society  
Florida Oceanographic Society  
Florida Sierra Club  
Florida Wildlife Federation  
Friends of Arthur R. Marshall  
Loxahatchee Wildlife Refuge  
Friends of the Everglades  
Hendry Glades Audubon Society  
Izaak Walton League  
Florida Keys Chapter  
Florida Division  
Izaak Walton League of America  
Mangrove Chapter  
Last Stand  
League of Women  
Voters of Florida  
Loxahatchee River Coalition  
Martin County  
Conservation Alliance  
National Audubon Society  
National Parks  
Conservation Association  
National Wildlife Federation  
National Wildlife Refuge  
Association  
Natural Resources  
Defense Council  
The Ocean Conservancy  
The Pegasus Foundation  
Sanibel-Captiva  
Conservation Foundation  
Save It Now, Glades!  
Sierra Club  
Sierra Club Broward Group  
Sierra Club Central Florida Group  
Sierra Club Loxahatchee Group  
Sierra Club Miami Group  
South Florida Audubon Society  
Tropical Audubon Society  
The Urban Environment League  
World Wildlife Fund

August 11, 2010

Chairman Eric Buermann  
Governing Board  
South Florida Water Management District  
3301 Gun Club Road  
West Palm Beach, FL 33406

Dear Chairman Buermann:

The Everglades Coalition, an alliance of 53 national, state, and local groups dedicated to full restoration of the Greater Everglades Ecosystem, urges your support for the proposal to immediately acquire 26,800 acres of land from the U.S. Sugar Corporation with the option to acquire more than 150,000 additional acres over the next ten years. The Coalition also encourages the Governing Board to continue its strategic project planning to utilize the 150,000 acres in the option to increase the flow of clean water south into the southern Everglades.

This proposed land acquisition will allow substantial water quality improvements to take place in the Everglades. This ecosystem, which historically had extremely low nutrient levels, has long been plagued by water quality issues that interfere with restoration.

The ability to achieve the 10 parts per billion (ppb) phosphorus limit for the Everglades depends greatly on having adequate land on which to clean the water that flows to the Everglades. The Everglades Coalition has previously called for the construction of up to 45,000 acres of new Stormwater Treatment Areas and this land acquisition will greatly advance that goal. The proposal to purchase this land from a willing seller, using funds already available, is the fastest way to achieve water quality benefits.

Purchasing and ultimately utilizing 26,800 acres of land to improve the quality of our water, is a momentous achievement that will be celebrated for years to come. We ask for your continued support for Everglades restoration and your approval of this critical purchase to ensure that future generations can experience and enjoy the abundance of America's Everglades.

Sincerely,

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