



National Parks Conservation Association®
Protecting Our National Parks for Future Generations®

Thomas C. Kiernan
President

May 12, 2009

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

Re: River of Grass Acquisition

Dear Chairman Buermann,

On behalf of the National Parks Conservation Association and our 340,000 members nationwide I am writing to urge the Governing Board of the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) to proceed with the River of Grass Acquisition proposal to acquire land in the Everglades Agricultural Area (EAA) from US Sugar Corporation.

This visionary initiative provides us the opportunity to finally find that missing link we have sought for years as we aspire towards restoring America's Everglades. South Florida vacillates from drought and flooding as circumstances often result in too much water, or not enough. This land acquisition provides us the opportunity to create water storage and treatment in the EAA to address this problem, which is vital for restoration of Everglades National Park including Florida Bay, the Caloosahatchee and St. Lucie estuaries, and the greater Everglades ecosystem we all treasure.

The Everglades is in dire need of additional land for water storage and treatment, without this the ecosystem could be threatened by collapse. We are at a pivotal point in history and the fate of our Everglades rests in your hands. The State of Florida has been a great partner in Everglades restoration and we call upon the state to continue their commitment to this historic restoration project and approve the proposal to acquire land from US Sugar in the EAA.

Sincerely,

Tom Kiernan
President

cc: Governing Board members
Carol Wehle, Executive Director, South Florida Water Management District