

Widness, Cathy

From: Reppen, Deena
Sent: Monday, December 15, 2008 6:16 AM
To: Carter, Annette; River of Grass
Subject: Fw: Abort The U.S. Sugar Deal

Sent from my BlackBerry Wireless Handheld

SFWMD Wireless Email Solutions

From: Williams, Carolyn
To: District Leadership Team
Sent: Mon Dec 15 05:29:52 2008
Subject: Fw: Abort The U.S. Sugar Deal

Good morning. FYI

Sent from my BlackBerry Wireless Handheld

SFWMD Wireless Email Solutions

From: Fred Lehrer
To: Williams, Carolyn
Sent: Sun Dec 14 08:23:49 2008
Subject: Abort The U.S. Sugar Deal

Please, please share with the District leadership this request that the proposed project will be aborted. Please don't leave as your legacy a deal that:

- places a huge burden on State taxpayers;
- overpays for assets purchased;
- contains "sweetheart" provisions that smell;
- commits the District to future expenditures of dubious value;
- has the known result of causing economic dislocation for thousands;
- and risks all sorts of unknown and unintended consequences.

Please don't allow a small number of vocal environmental activists to skew our State's agenda.

Sincerely,

Frederick A. Lehrer

12/15/2008

Frederick A. Lehrer
2020 Mainsail Circle
Jupiter, FL 33477
(561) 748-2813
FredLehrer@comcast.net

Witness, Cathy

From: martha musgrove [malmusgrove@yahoo.com]
Sent: Monday, December 15, 2008 1:43 AM
To: Buermann, Eric; Collins, Mike; Dauray, Charles; Estenoz, Shannon; Meeker, Melissa; Montgomery, Jerry; Rooney, Patrick; Wehle, Carol; Bergeron, Christine
Cc: Reppen, Deena
Subject: Support for Sugar purchase agreement and a suggestion for renegotiating leases

Dec. 15, 2008

To: Governing Board of South Florida Water Management District and Carol Wehle, Executive Director
 From: Martha Musgrove, President, Decision Makers Forum
 Pursuant to emailed suggestion that comments be submitted by e-mail:

Despite some concerns, this is to urge the governing board to support the pending purchase agreement to acquire U.S. Sugar lands. I acknowledge that the price is significantly greater than any farmer in the area would pay, but I would also point out that you are **not** buying the land **to farm it**.

What you're buying is **an opportunity** that attaches to the land precisely because of and **only** because of its location. The opportunity you are buying is to restore the Everglades, a unique and vast natural resource storing water, moderating our climate and vital to sustaining South Florida as a region. Government always pays a premium for land located exactly where needed for a particular purpose and opportunity.

Without the land that U.S. Sugar owns south of Lake Okeechobee, the heart of restoration will be lost. Without the land, it becomes impossible to construct a broad flowway to reestablish the historic connection between Lake Okeechobee, the Everglades and Florida Bay. There can be no restoration either of Lake Okeechobee and the estuaries. Equally important the land U.S. Sugar now owns south of the lake is not enough, some of the land owned by Florida Crystals and several other sugar growers is also needed.

What concerns me today -- given that the intent has always been to swap land that is acquired outside the restoration footprint for additional land needed within the footprint -- is that these tandem swap-agreements are not now before you. I am one of those Everglades Restoration supporters that believe simultaneous land swaps should take place when finally closing the deal.

The big questions to be asked are: Why don't you have these tandem agreements before you? Why didn't negotiations with Florida Crystals rise to the level of Gov. Charles Crist and gain equal attention and commitment?

In view of the appraisals and price being paid for U.S. Sugar land, I find it difficult to believe that "price" was the issue that thwarted agreements with Florida Crystals. And when I look at a map of the various landholdings, I know that it will be only with additional costs that you will be able to construct a flowway without acquiring this additional land.

I urge you -- upon approval of the purchase agreement -- to utilize the time between this vote, the required validation (acknowledged in the contract) and actual closing to negotiate a deal with Florida Crystals. I do so, notwithstanding, reports that Florida Crystals has or will file objections to the validation proceedings in order to protect its interests.

The lease agreement setting a \$50 per acre lease rate for six to seven years is the most troubling document before you. Plainly stated, no sugar grower is going to swap productive land for land encumbered by leases, yet only 30,000 acres will be subject to "early termination." That amount is insufficient to complete the proposed flowway. It has been suggested that the district won't be ready to build a flowway in seven years, but no one can even design a flowway without knowing what land will be available.

The two agreements are being presented to you as if they were one document and as if only one vote is needed. Yet they do not read as if they are contingent on each other. The purchase agreement may be a non-negotiable, "take it or leave" it agreement, but I do not read the lease agreement that way nor does the letter from U.S. Sugar transmitting the purchase agreement state that the vote by its board

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was contingent on the simultaneous acceptance of the lease agreement. I suggest an attempt to modify the troubling items of the lease agreement would win greater public acceptance of the deal and that you are free to vote separately on the lease agreement.

Lastly I want assure you, I have no financial interests in the Everglades Agricultural Area or any companies doing business there. I am interested only in seeing Everglades Restoration expeditiously implemented. MLM

Ms. Martha Musgrove
2432 Edgewater Dr.
West Palm Beach, FL 33406
561-965-9409

Widness, Cathy

From: JamInfo@aol.com
Sent: Monday, December 15, 2008 7:00 AM
To: Aronberg.Dave.web@flsenate.gov
Cc: Oelrich.Steve.web@flsenate.gov; Siplin.Gary.web@flsenate.gov;
 Richtner.Garrett.web@flsenate.gov; Atwater.Jeff.web@flsenate.gov;
 Constantine.Lee.web@flsenate.gov; Deutch.Ted.web@FL.Senate.Gov;
 Pruitt.Ken.web@flsenate.gov; Mary.Brandenburg@MyFloridaHouse.gov;
 Priscilla.Taylor@MyFloridaHouse.gov; William.Snyder@MyFloridaHouse.gov;
 Matt.Hudson@MyFloridaHouse.gov; Maria.Sachs@MyFloridaHouse.gov;
 Eric.Eikenberg@MyFlorida.com; Mike.Sole@DEP.State.FL.US; River of Grass
Subject: Ecosystem Services Value of restoring the Missing Link, availed by land purchase
Attachments: ACES ppt.ppt

Dear Senator Aronberg, et al;

In all the posturing over the potential U.S. Sugar land purchase, there is one thing that has not been done, until this week. That would be projecting future ecosystem services value [ESV], i.e., economic dollar value, of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP) implementation, given optimal use of the land purchased to restore the missing link and revitalize the River of Grass, as Governor Crist has called for.

The National Academy of Sciences National Research Council reports: *Until the economic value of ecosystem goods and services is acknowledged in environmental decision-making, they [ESV] will implicitly be assigned a value of zero in cost-benefit analysis, and policy choices will be biased against conservation. ... When faced with environmental policy decisions that seek to balance human activity and conservation, the process of valuing ecosystem services can inform the policy debate and lead to better decision making.to date, that value has not been well quantified.* For more info, see http://dels.nas.edu/dels/rpt_briefs/valuing_services_final.pdf.

Using ecosystem services standards that consider all economic value, over a CERP life cycle of 40 years, a first order calculation reveals that the worth of ecosystem services potentially accruing from restoration of the missing link, is on the order of \$69.156 billion dollars.

Estimating the cost of the land purchase and CERP implementation to restore the missing link through the Everglades Agricultural Area (EAA) at \$7.6 Billion dollars, the Benefit to Cost ratio = 9.10.

These calculations were presented last week at "A Conference on Ecosystem Services" - ACES for short -per the attached power point presentation.

The underlying ACES theme was to bundle all possible benefits and monetize same, as amplified in the National Academy report. There are no major case studies that go in this direction that I can find, thus far. Richard Weisskoff's book on "Economics of Everglades Restoration" comes closest. Otherwise nothing has been done to make CERP a case study in how to translate ecosystems services into economic dollar value.

The forwarded message provides additional background, emphasizing the need to *use science for decision making in dynamic systems*, the overarching theme of the ACES conference.

As the means to balance all the Everglades politics with science, thanks for consideration of an analysis estimating the real value of the US Sugar Land Purchase to the State of Florida.

Hopefully this will provide the decision support to resolve the nuances, and get on with the purchase.

Respectfully submitted,

John Arthur Marshall
www.ArtMarshall.org

 Forwarded Message:

12/15/2008

Subj: Ecosystem Services Value of Restoring the Missing Link, availed by land purchase
Date: 12/12/2008 1:15:32 P.M. Eastern Standard Time
From: JamInfo
To: EBuermann@sfwmd.gov, MCollins@SFWMD.gov, PRooney@sfwmd.gov, MMeeker@sfwmd.gov, CDauray@sfwmd.gov, SEstenez@sfwmd.gov, PHuck@sfwmd.gov, JMontgom@sfwmd.gov
CC: CWehle@SFWMD.gov, riverofgrass@sfwmd.gov, dreppen@sfwmd.gov
BCC: JAMinfo

Dear Chairman Buermann, Governing Board Members, et al;

Thanks for the previous opportunity to present to the Governing Board, a power point program on the potential cost savings and benefits of restoring flow down the missing link to revitalize the river of grass. Of course the September 12, 2007 presentation preceded the Governor's announcement, June 24, 2008, by some months. Thanks also for a few remarks of encouragement to continue the research and expand on the initial findings. Thanks also for the recent notice sent by Deena Reppen encouraging written inputs.

The "expanded update" has been done, and presented as a paper at "A Conference on Ecosystem Services" - ACES for short. The ACES Conference was (1) a call for "bundling all ecosystem services benefits", i.e., consider all benefits, and (2) to monetize or evaluate the bundled benefits by giving them a dollar value; and (3) using this for a more robust Benefit to Cost analysis for decision-support that can be understood by congress and the public.

A primary purpose of the "update" was to give a first order estimate of the total ecosystem services value (ESV) of the US Sugar Corp deal, given that the nuances can be resolved, and the land purchased. In the attached, all can hopefully see that \$1.34 millions is a trivial amount, given the potential of seeing the missing link restored, to an ESV approaching \$70 Billion, over the lifetime of CERP (40 years used for the analysis).

The theme of ACES and technical information presented indicates that (1) the approach and methodology in the attached presentation is valid, (2) the approach is what is being sought by govt, industry, and NGO's, and (3) the estimate of the ultimate value of the US Sugar land purchase over 40 years is in the ball park.

Some at the ACES Conference projected that the worth of restoring some 95,000 acres of wetlands/STA's in terms of carbon sequestration and mitigation of sea level rise would be an ESV benefit worth the cost of the project. Attached calculations validate that this is likely true, given that the full potential of the land purchase, in terms of ESV, can be fully realized.

Hopefully this will be useful as decision support in your deliberations on acquiring the land needed to restore the missing link.

From the ACES conference, I went directly to the Task Force meeting, and reported a summary of ACES, and the paper I had presented, including copies of the attached to the Task Force, and then to the Everglades Coalition, as they have similar concerns.

I plan on doing the same at the next governing board meeting, in the usual 3 minutes, or less, as required. Here is a paraphrasing of what went to the Task Force, as an advance copy.

Governing Board members, Thanks for your consideration.

 ACES Presentation Title:

On the Value of Ecosystems Services Provided by Restoring Gravity-driven Flow to the Everglades
 [From Lake O to WCA-3]

Background: *Deputy Secretary of the Interior Lynn Scarlett gave the keynote address (Dec 10) at A Conference on Ecosystem Services (ACES) in Naples, Florida. [I gave Sec Scarlett a copy of the attached right after her speech, noting that it does give credibility to her DOI DRAFT Vision Document per the attached]. ACES 2008 will bring together leaders from government agencies, non-governmental organizations, academia, tribes and the private sector to advance the understanding of "ecosystem services"—services provided to people by natural systems. The interdisciplinary conference, sponsored by more than a dozen agencies and institutions, will cover topics related to ecosystems such as science, conservation, restoration, resource management and development decisions. More: http://www.doi.gov/news/08_News_Releases/121008.html. (355 Attendees)*

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Comments to the Task Force, paraphrased, went as follows.

- Ecosystem Services are those services that benefit people in an economic way
- This appears to be a new way of doing business arising out of the reality that the planet is in serious trouble. [this has the ESV concept gaining momentum fast]
- Virtually all of you [Govt folks] had representatives of your agencies participating, including a few gov't folks in the audience [Fred Sklar, SFWMD; Barry Rosen and Ronnie Best, USGS, USACE Reps, DOI reps, et al]
- Attention getter: Deputy Sec Lynn Scarlett gave serious endorsement of the proceedings in a plenary speech, as noted in background.
- Two buzz words were introduced: *Monitizing*, and *Bundling*.
 - Bundling is used in a slightly different context than bundling projects. Bundling here means considering all possible benefits resulting from restoration, enhancement and protection.
 - Monitizing means converting the bundle into ESV = \$\$\$
- ArtMarshall.org contribution was to bundle and monitize all the benefits of restoration in the EAA per the attached using literature standards.
- The ACES conference provided direct and indirect peer review that confirmed the validity of the attached presentation.
- Ecosystem Value will always be in the mega-billions, and exceed cost by nearly a factor of ten (10).
- This provides a better approach [full value benefit accounting as well as full cost accounting] to the traditional [and less seen] Benefit:Cost Study.
- Rather than go into further detail, I will let the hand-out [attached] speak for itself.
- QED.

Over all the first order estimate of ESV benefit is based on a lot of research, and a three page spread-sheet model. Per what was outlined as a need at ACES, the attached presentation appears literally and figuratively on the money in order of magnitude. It needs more tweaking, which ought to be an innovation of CERP implementing agencies. From what was gleaned at the ACES conference the worth of the calculated benefits are likely to increase.

Of course this also validates what Art Marshall new intuitively as well. For the Art Marshall approach, ***Semper If!***

John Arthur Marshall
www.ArtMarshall.org

Make your life easier with all your friends, email, and favorite sites in one place. [Try it now.](#)

Walker, Reagan

From: Jim Beauchamp [JimBeauchamp8@aol.com]
Sent: Monday, December 15, 2008 10:43 AM
To: River of Grass
Subject: Support Purchase of US Sugar Everglades Land

We support the purchase of US Sugar everglades land by the State of Florida.

James L. Beauchamp & Terry D. Beauchamp
JimBeauchamp8@aol.com
720 Elinor Way Sanibel, FL 33957

Walker, Reagan

From: Jerry Churchill [3djerry@comcast.net]
Sent: Monday, December 15, 2008 11:07 AM
To: River of Grass
Cc: Rooney, Patrick
Subject: Everglades Agricultural Area acquisition

Dear Mr. Chairman and Governing Board Members:

On Tuesday December 16, you are voting wether or not to acquire a large area of the EAA. This is a very important component of restoring the Everglades. This purchase will also improve the water quality of Lake Okeechobee, and the Caloosahatchee and St Lucie Rivers. If the purchase of this land does not go forward at this time, there is no assurance we will ever regain this opportunity. We ask you to support the purchase of this land now. Thank you for all your hard work.

Sincerely,

Jerry R. Churchill (a year around resident of Sanibel FL)

Walker, Reagan

From: Jim Beauchamp [JimBeauchamp8@aol.com]
Sent: Monday, December 15, 2008 11:10 AM
To: River of Grass
Subject: Support Purchase of US Sugar Everglades Land

The email message below was sent by James & Terese Beauchamp to:

Eric Buermann; Chairman **Email:** ebuermann@sfwmd.gov

Shannon A. Estenoz **Email:** sestenoz@sfwmd.gov

Michael Collins **Email:** mcollins@sfwmd.gov

Charles J. Dauray **Email:** cdauray@sfwmd.gov

Paul C. Huck, Jr. **Email:** phuck@sfwmd.gov

Melissa L. Meeker **Email:** mmeeker@sfwmd.gov

Jerry Montgomery **Email:** jmontgom@sfwmd.gov

Patrick J. Rooney, Jr., Esq. **Email:** prooney@sfwmd.gov

Dear SFWMD Governing Board:

We support the purchase of US Sugar everglades land by the State of Florida. We are citizens of Sanibel, Florida. We have come to Sanibel for over 35 years. We have watched the water quality and environment decline over those 35 years. While there are many factors causing this decline in the quality of life and the economic potential of the southwest region of Florida, fixing the US Sugar's huge negative contribution to the environment is critical to successful restoration.

The decision before you this week, the approval of the purchase agreement with the U.S. Sugar Corporation, represents the greatest opportunity in our history for Everglades restoration. Although it is comprehensive and presents some challenges in our future, it is imperative we say "YES" to the purchase of U.S. Sugar farmlands and move forward.

In June Gov. Charlie Crist recognized this as an once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to revive the River of Grass and complete the reconnection between Lake Okeechobee and the Everglades. This transaction will provide the greatest opportunity we have to store and treat water that will benefit America's Everglades, Lake Okeechobee and the Caloosahatchee River and St. Lucie River estuaries. We have support the Governor's position and ask you today to say "Yes" and truly restore the greater Everglades Ecosystem.

We support the purchase of US Sugar everglades land by the State of Florida. Please accelerate this process if at all possible!

Thank you,

James L. Beauchamp
Terese D. Beauchamp
720 Elinor Way
Sanibel, FL 33957

12/15/2008

Walker, Reagan

From: Shepard, Donald C. [DShepard@faegre.com]
Sent: Monday, December 15, 2008 11:33 AM
To: Buermann, Eric; Estenoz, Shannon; Collins, Mike; Dauray, Charles; Huck Jr., Paul; Meeker, Melissa; Montgomery, Jerry; Rooney, Patrick; River of Grass
Subject: US Sugar Land Acquisition

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I understand that a vote on the purchase of property by the State of Florida from U.S. Sugar is scheduled for this Tuesday. I can't imagine a more important vote to save our water in the Caloosahatchee and St. Lucie Rivers. Those of us in the Ft. Meyers area have seen first hand what happens when too much water is flooded down those rivers. The beaches in and around the river are just now recovering from the disastrous results of the 2005 and 2006 storms.

I know there are others in opposition, as there always would be. But if action is not taken now, it is unlikely that there will be another opportunity like this one for many years. And that will be too late.

I respectfully request that you support this purchase at the earliest possible date. It has to be the right thing to do for all of Florida.

Thank you for your consideration.

Best regards,

Donald C. Shepard

Donald C. Shepard
Faegre & Benson LLP
2200 Wells Fargo Center
90 South Seventh Street
Minneapolis, MN 55402-3901
612-766-6826 / FAX 612-766-1600
DShepard@faegre.com
http://www.faegre.com

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Walker, Reagan

From: emiliealfino@comcast.net
Sent: Monday, December 15, 2008 11:41 AM
To: ebeurmann@sfwmd.gov; Estenoz, Shannon; Collins, Mike; Dauray, Charles; Huck Jr., Paul; Meeker, Melissa; Montgomery, Jerry; Rooney, Patrick
Cc: River of Grass
Subject: FW: US Sugar Land Purchaes

----- Forwarded Message: -----

From: "Bob" <fishingbob@comcast.net>
To: "Alfino, Emilie" <emiliealfino@comcast.net>
Subject: US Sugar Land Purchaes
Date: Mon, 15 Dec 2008 16:20:08 +0000
Dear Mr. Chairman And Governing Board Members of SFWMD

It is imperative that you vote to go forward with the purchase of the US Sugar property, especially now that the cost per acre is greatly reduced without the hard assets being included.

The combination all of the "Northern Everglades and Estuaries Protection Plan" in conjunction with "Water Flows South" now puts a viable solution in slight.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Captain Bob Pascale

Walker, Reagan

From: Reppen, Deena
Sent: Monday, December 15, 2008 11:45 AM
To: River of Grass; Carter, Annette; Kivett, Marcia; Walker, Reagan; Widness, Cathy
Subject: FW: US Sugar SF Water MD DEAL

Please add to GB book and count.

From: Wehle, Carol
Sent: Monday, December 15, 2008 11:33 AM
To: Reppen, Deena
Subject: Fw: US Sugar SF Water MD DEAL

Carol Ann Wehle
 Executive Director
 South Florida Water Management District

 Sent from my BlackBerry Wireless Handheld

SFWMD Wireless Email Solutions

From: John O'Neill
To: Donna Storter Long ; Buermann, Eric; Dauray, Charles; Montgomery, Jerry; Estenez, Shannon; Collins, Mike; Huck Jr., Paul; Meeker, Melissa; Rooney, Patrick; Ritter, Gary
Cc: Charlie.Crist@myflorida.com ; Jeff.Kottkamp@myflorida.com ; Michael.Sole@dep.state.fl.us ; Kelly.Layman@dep.state.fl.us ; commissioner@doacs.state.fl.us ; alex.sink@myfloridacfo.com ; pruittken.web@flsenate.gov ; blanton.faye@flsenate.gov ; rubio.marco@myfloridahouse.com ; Tzaicel_Hernandez@martinez.senate.gov ; denise.grimsley@myfloridahouse.gov ; bullard.larcenia.web@flsenate.gov ; Sen. Dave Aronberg ; info@tomrooney.com ; Wehle, Carol; Strowd, Tommy; Sen. J.D. Alexander
Sent: Mon Dec 15 11:16:52 2008
Subject: Re: US Sugar SF Water MD DEAL
 Ditto Donna's remarks/statement below:
 and these are my thoughts.
 The economy around this lake has been destroyed by the pollution allowed to pour in for 50 yrs. Voluntary BMPs will not work, plus the state has cut that funding. The pollution coming into the lake and the cleanup of the lake has to happen first!
 Agri-jobs are being replaced by automation and other countries. The counties around the lake cannot plan on Agri jobs as a future or the state to help. History does not make futures! The US Sugar and their jobs are history, irregardless of the buying/selling of land south of the lake. The lake is dead and the economies with it and they will be until the pollution pouring into the lake is fixed/lake cleaned out.
 The politicians/gov. in this state has given SFWMD the money and power to do whatever they want with your/our tax dollars. Ditto re fed. gov./COEs. Taxation without representation!!!

John O'Neill
 Resident BHR

12/15/2008

----- Original Message -----

From: Donna Storter Long

To: ebuermann@sfwmd.gov ; [Charles Dauray](mailto:Charles.Dauray) ; jmontgom@sfwmd.gov ; sesteno@sfwmd.gov ; mcollins@sfwmd.gov ; phuck@sfwmd.gov ; mmeeker@sfwmd.gov ; prooney@sfwmd.gov

Cc: Charlie.Crist@myflorida.com ; Jeff.Kottkamp@myflorida.com ; Michael.Sole@dep.state.fl.us ; Kelly.Layman@dep.state.fl.us ; commissioner@doacs.state.fl.us ; alex.sink@myfloridacfo.com ; pruitt.ken.web@flsenate.gov ; blanton.faye@flsenate.gov ; rubio.marco@myfloridahouse.com ; Tzaicel.Hernandez@martinez.senate.gov ; denise.grimsley@myfloridahouse.gov ; bullard.larcenia.web@flsenate.gov ; Sen. Dave Aronberg ; info@tomrooney.com ; 'CAROL ANN WEHLE' ; tstrowd@sfwmd.gov ; Sen. J.D. Alexander

Sent: Saturday, December 13, 2008 9:12 PM

Subject: US Sugar SF Water MD DEAL

Dear Chairman Ebuermann and Governing Board Members,

An old cliché could not be more apropos re the Sugar-Water deal:

WHEN IN DOUBT, DON'T.

You have heard multiple arguments and appeals on both sides of this issue so I won't waste I time here with redundancy.

However, if the deal merits your endorsement, it still will after all the options and aspects have been completely explored. But to date, they have NOT, especially in light of the potential savings with the Lawrence Group offer and the potential lawsuit with Florida Crystals.

It seems Crist has placed us all in an unfair quandary, and without our replacement for Wade's seat on your Board.

Please, I urge you to defer or deny the current US Sugar proposal as outlined by Tommy Strowd and Carol Wehle et al at the Clewiston meeting December 10.

Sincerely,

Donna Storter Long
Glades County Commissioner District 2

"When we pay an ounce of principle
for a pound of acceptance,
we get badly cheated."

Donna Storter Long (R)
Glades County Commissioner
863.673.2661-Cell 158*17*36430-Nextel



Think Green & please,

print this e-mail only if necessary. Please note:
*Florida has a broad public records law and all
correspondence relating to Glades County business,
including email addresses, may be subject to disclosure.*

12/15/2008



Save Our River! Stop the Discharges!

P.O. Box 2627, Stuart, FL 34995

772-225-6849

December 15, 2008

Dear Governor Crist:

The Rivers Coalition unanimously voted to reaffirm our support for the acquisition of U.S. Sugar lands. We fully support the modified acquisition proposal.

Attached please find our resolution dated June 26, 2008.

Very sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Leon Abood', written in a cursive style.

Leon Abood, Chairman
Rivers Coalition

C.C.:

U.S. Sen. Bill Nelson

U.S. Sen. Mel Martinez

FL Rep. William Snyder

U.S. Congressman Tim Mahoney

U.S. Congressman Elect Candidate Tom Rooney

Colonel Paul Grosskruger

South Florida Water Management District Board

Martin County Commissioners

City of Stuart Commissioners

Sewall's Point Commissioners

St. Lucie County Commissioners

Resolution of the Rivers Coalition June 26, 2008

Whereas, the Rivers Coalition is a 50 member organization of business, environmental and civic groups that represent more than 250,000 citizens from Florida and beyond,

Whereas, the Rivers Coalition formed in 1998 as a result of huge damaging freshwater discharges from Lake Okeechobee that polluted the St. Lucie Estuary and crippled the local economy,

Whereas, the mission of the Rivers Coalition is, **"To fight for a safe, healthy and ecologically balanced St. Lucie River Estuary and Indian River Lagoon, natural resources that are vital to the economy and quality of life of Martin County and the Treasure Coast.**

Whereas, Rivers Coalition has consistently supported sending excess Lake Okeechobee waters away from the estuaries where it tends to do harm and towards the Everglades where more water is needed; and

Whereas, CERP and the Northern Everglades initiatives as currently proposed will not accomplish this to the extent necessary for true environmental restoration; and

Whereas, the proposed public purchase of US Sugar would make enough land available to create the necessary water storage, cleansing and flow capacity south from Lake O to the Everglades; and

Whereas, public ownership of these lands would substantially reduce the need for irrigation storage in Lake O and drainage water quality treatment associated with sugar production on these lands; and

Whereas, the overall potential benefits to the Lake, Estuaries and Everglades are much greater if the US Sugar lands are purchased and converted to public restoration purposes,

Whereas, Governor Crist has reached a landmark agreement in principle to acquire the holdings of US Sugar Corporation by the state of Florida,

Now Therefore Be It Resolved:

The Rivers Coalition strongly supports purchase of US Sugar and conversion of its 187,000 acres of farmland to environmental restoration projects that will restore wetlands, increase the water supply for the Everglades, improve safety for residents of the EAA by enabling a substantial southern outlet between Lake and Everglades, improve Lake health, and better protect the Estuaries from damaging Lake releases.

Be It Further Resolved, The Rivers Coalition urges all the agencies to promptly and effectively collaborate with the public to accomplish these goals.

Adopted by unanimous vote of the Rivers Coalition on June 26, 2008.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Leon Abood", written over a horizontal line.

Attested by Leon Abood
Chairman, Rivers Coalition

Walker, Reagan

From: Reynerio Muradaz [rey@muradaz.com]
Sent: Monday, December 15, 2008 12:13 PM
To: River of Grass
Subject: Help Restore the River of Grass

Reynerio Muradaz
10927 Fieldfair Drive,
Naples, FL 34119-8942

December 15, 2008

River of Grass Campaign
FL

Dear River of Grass Campaign:

Dear SFWMD Governing Board Members:

I am writing to express my strong support for the purchase of the US Sugar lands. I have been affected by the water quality degradation as a result of the polluted from Lake Okeechobee releases from insufficient water storage and treatment. The purchase of these lands represents one of the most significant opportunities to preventing further degradation, as well as for ensuring South Florida's sustainability and quality of life.

Despite the economic downturn, this is the right time to buy these lands because this is a rare opportunity to meet our pressing need for additional water storage and treatment for Everglades restoration and for our growing South Florida population. This is an investment into our own ecological infrastructure that provides a basic necessity, clean freshwater.

Truly the future and wellbeing of Southwest Florida's residents, environment, and long-term economy lies in your hands with this momentous decision. Therefore, I respectfully ask you to approve the acquisition of the US Sugar lands as a critical investment to restoring the Everglades and preserving our sustainability.

Sincerely,

Reynerio Muradaz
239-594-2289

Walker, Reagan

From: mccabej@comcast.net
Sent: Monday, December 15, 2008 12:50 PM
To: Buermann, Eric
Cc: River of Grass; Rooney, Patrick; Montgomery, Jerry; Meeker, Melissa; Huck Jr., Paul; Dauray, Charles; Collins, Mike; Estenoz, Shannon
Subject: Please approve the purchase of the Everglades Agricultural Area land.

Dear Mr. Eric Buermann Chairman and Governing Board Members:

I am writing on behalf of the Ding Darling Wildlife Society (DDWS).

Please vote to acquire the significant acreage in the Everglades Agricultural Area. This acquisition will significantly improve our chances of restoring the Everglades to its original condition while improving the water quality of Lake Okeechobee, and of the Caloosahatchee and St. Lucie Rivers' estuaries. The Ding Darling National Wildlife Refuge is bathed by the waters of the Caloosahatchee as it enters the Gulf Of Mexico . The refuge is dependent on quality water as are the Everglades. Although we recognize that the proposal before you has challenges, the question you face is whether or not to buy land in an area that is critical for Everglades restoration. If the purchase of this land is not approved, there is no assurance we will ever regain this opportunity. We respectfully ask you to support the purchase of this land without additional delay.
Thank you for all of your hard work.

Sincerely,
John D McCabe
DDWS
Sanibel Florida
mccabej@comcast.net

Walker, Reagan

From: Carter, Annette
Sent: Monday, December 15, 2008 1:12 PM
To: River of Grass
Subject: Concerned Citizen - Please Vote No on the US Sugar Land Acquisition

Ms. Opal Royal Hancock (720 Cortec Street, Clewiston, FL 33440 863-983-8758) called and requested that the Board vote No on the River of Grass land acquisition. She is very concerned about the citizens of the Glades and their ability to continue a livelihood with the purchase of all the US Sugar land. The request that she made is that if the acquisition is approved consider be given to keep land in agricultural use as they are the top citrus producing County in the State; they have the 2nd richest soil in the United States; the County produces 1/5th of all sugar consumed in the United States; and the land can produce something to either eat or drink 365 days a year. Please vote No.

Annette Carter
Office of Governing Board and Executive Services
(561) 682-6433
ancarter@sfwmd.gov

Florida enjoys a broad public records law - any emails sent to or from this address are subject to review by the public at any time.

Walker, Reagan

From: JAMESCLAVELLE@aol.com
Sent: Monday, December 15, 2008 1:14 PM
To: River of Grass
Subject: (no subject)

I fully support the purchase of the US Sugar land

Make your life easier with all your friends, email, and favorite sites in one place. [Try it now.](#)

12/15/2008

Walker, Reagan

From: marie reardon [electra72@embarqmail.com]
Sent: Monday, December 15, 2008 1:52 PM
To: River of Grass
Subject: Help Restore the River of Grass

marie reardon
328 NE 18 place
cape coral, FL 33909-2717

December 15, 2008

River of Grass Campaign
FL

Dear River of Grass Campaign:

Dear SFWMD Governing Board Members:

I am writing to express my strong support for the purchase of the US Sugar lands. I have been affected by the water quality degradation as a result of the polluted from Lake Okeechobee releases from insufficient water storage and treatment. The purchase of these lands represents one of the most significant opportunities to preventing further degradation, as well as for ensuring South Florida's sustainability and quality of life.

Despite the economic downturn, this is the right time to buy these lands because this is a rare opportunity to meet our pressing need for additional water storage and treatment for Everglades restoration and for our growing South Florida population. This is an investment into our own ecological infrastructure that provides a basic necessity, clean freshwater.

Truly the future and wellbeing of Southwest Florida's residents, environment, and long-term economy lies in your hands with this momentous decision. Therefore, I respectfully ask you to approve the acquisition of the US Sugar lands as a critical investment to restoring the Everglades and preserving our sustainability.

Sincerely,

marie reardon
239-458-3987

Walker, Reagan

From: CHRISTINE HOWELL [cespenlaub@embarqmail.com]
Sent: Monday, December 15, 2008 2:13 PM
To: River of Grass
Subject: voting on SFWM buy-out of U.S.S.C.

I would like to express my concerns about the purchase of the total acreage you propose to buy, when all you need is 40,000. Also, several other issues--the vacant seat on the board, which represents the Glades area and the fact that only 16 counties will be bearing the tax burden for this purchase. Where does the Federal government come to help with this issue? Please address all these concerns. Thank You. Christine Howell

12/15/2008

Walker, Reagan

From: Dawn Shirreffs [dshirreffs@cleanwater.org]
Sent: Monday, December 15, 2008 2:20 PM
To: Buermann, Eric; Estenoz, Shannon; Collins, Mike; Dauray, Charles; Huck Jr., Paul; Meeker, Melissa; Montgomery, Jerry; Rooney, Patrick
Cc: River of Grass
Subject: Please purchase US Sugar

Dear Governing Board Members

On behalf of Clean Water Action and our more than 55,000 Florida members we are writing to congratulate you on your heroic efforts to acquire critical lands for Everglades Restoration and to request approval of the U.S. Sugar Corporation purchase agreement this week.

Your approval of U.S. Sugar's farmlands will further Everglades Restoration in ways previously thought unattainable. Re-establishing the connectivity to Lake Okeechobee is the right decision for America's Everglades, the right decision for the economy, and the right decision for Florida.

We ask that you not allow the details of the negotiation to derail restoration of the greater Everglades Ecosystem. Please approve this purchase agreement and forward the vision shared by SFWMD and Governor Crist to secure these lands and restore the birthright of Floridians to a healthy, vibrant Everglades.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us (305) 653-9101 or katerno@cleanwater.org or dshirreffs@cleanwater.org.

Dawn Shirreffs
Florida Program Coordinator
Clean Water Action
Clean Water Fund
www.cleanwater.org

190 Ives Dairy Road, Suite 106
Miami, Florida 33179
305.653.9101
305.653.9108 fax

Walker, Reagan

From: m c [gladesgumption@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, December 15, 2008 3:27 PM
To: River of Grass
Subject: U S Sugar deal VOTE NO

Mike Collins asked the question on Dec. 2 "Can we afford this deal?" I think the question should be **"Can taxpayers in the SFWMD afford this deal?" The answer is NO.** Twenty years from now every resident in the Glades, every taxpayer in the SFWMD and the world will remember "the deal" and be living with the defects if it is passed. The governor will have changed many times, the SFWMD board will have changed many times, the Everglades will have changed somewhat and the inland communities will be either ghost towns or still on the maps. Your decision about "the deal" will change everything for inland communities for many years to come. Nat Reed said "This is the dream of dreams that Marjory Stoneman Douglas proposed and everybody laughed at because nobody thought it would ever be possible," dreams turn into nightmares and a dream of Everglades Restoration is possible without this deal and not becoming a **nightmare for taxpayers and Glades residents.**

Please, I beg you, make it YOUR decision, not a mandate from the Governor, not because of threats to your business or family ties and not because a deadline stops the deal. The truth of "the deal" has not been told. Taxpayers are in dire circumstances districtwide, unemployment, and worried. Do not add to that a deal that is excessive, has no set plan, needs more land than this deal for complete restoration, relies on trading land plus additional taxpayers dollars to accomplish the missing link, adds to taxpayers debt, ends jobs and devastates communities. Restoration should have peace – this deal brings no peace. The price is too high for everyone – not just the dollar value - but in the delay of projects on the table and SFWMD being put in shaky financial posture. The taxpayers of SFWMD should not be placed in a position of financial collapse because of a purchase beyond its means. Our economy is in dire straights because of people living beyond their means. The SFWMD should not be able to impose taxes upon taxpayers beyond their means because a Governor says so and contributes nothing but a demand of voting his way.

I pray you have the gumption – the courage - to stand up to the Governor and VOTE NO. The land will become available again – only next time without destruction tied to it and restoration that brings peace. You will be remembered for having the courage and gumption to accomplish Everglades Restoration with common sense through an open, public forum - not one of darkness and destruction.

Voting no is not a vote against Everglades Restoration, it is a vote of yes to common sense, truth and your responsibility to taxpayers. Thank you for having gumption and courage for the Glades, for taxpayers and inland communities.

Walker, Reagan

From: Carol Thompson [carolthompson13@wowway.com]
Sent: Monday, December 15, 2008 10:10 PM
To: River of Grass
Subject: Help Restore the River of Grass

Carol Thompson
1783 Morning Sun Lane
Naples, FL 34119-3320

December 15, 2008

River of Grass Campaign
FL

Dear River of Grass Campaign:

Dear SFWMD Governing Board Members:

I am writing to express my strong support for the purchase of the US Sugar lands. I have been affected by the water quality degradation as a result of the pollution from Lake Okeechobee releases, from insufficient water storage and treatment. The purchase of these lands represents one of the most significant opportunities to preventing further degradation, as well as for ensuring South Florida's sustainability and quality of life.

Despite the economic downturn, this is the right time to buy these lands because this is a rare opportunity to meet our pressing need for additional water storage and treatment for Everglades restoration and for our growing South Florida population. This is an investment into our own ecological infrastructure that provides a basic necessity, clean freshwater.

Truly the future and wellbeing of Southwest Florida's residents, environment, and long-term economy lies in your hands with this momentous decision. Therefore, I respectfully ask you to approve the acquisition of the US Sugar lands as a critical investment to restoring the Everglades and preserving our sustainability.

Sincerely,

Carol Thompson