CHARLIE CRIST
GOVERNOR

June 30, 2009

Secretary Kurt S. Browning
Secretary of State
R. A. Gray Building
500 South Bronough Street
Tallahassee, Florida 32399

Dear Secretary Browning:

By the authority vested in me as the Governor of Florida, and under the provisions of Article III, Section 8, of the Constitution of Florida, I do hereby transmit Senate Bill 2080 with my signature, enacted during the 41st Session of the Legislature of Florida, convened under the Constitution of 1968, during the Regular Session of 2009 and entitled:

An act relating to water resources ...

Senate Bill 2080 contains a comprehensive package of provisions related to the water management districts and the conservation of water resources. The bill reenacts the water management districts as part of their agency sunset review. The bill also codifies principles of Florida-friendly landscaping that are important in Florida's continuing efforts to improve water conservation. I applaud these provisions and those who worked so hard to ensure their passage.

In particular, I want to acknowledge the continued work of the South Florida Water Management District in completing the U.S. Sugar land acquisition which will preserve the Florida Everglades for generations to come. I thank the members of the Governing Board as well as the dedicated staff of the District in ensuring a long awaited goal of storing, cleaning and moving water from Lake Okeechobee to Everglades National Park. The Everglades remain a natural treasure and this administration remains committed to working with local, state and federal partners in protecting the River of Grass.

However, Senate Bill 2080 also contains provisions that delegate final agency action to the executive director on surface water and consumptive use permit applications, as well as increase certain timeframes for consumptive use and surface water projects.

Accordingly, I am asking the governing boards and executive directors to continue to include surface water and consumptive use permits on all board meeting agendas or other public meetings for discussion and transparency purposes. I also look forward to working with the Legislature and all interested parties in the 2010 legislative session to address future issues relating to state water policy.

For this reason, I hereby sign into law Senate Bill 2080.

Sincerely,

Charlie Crist

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