



November 10, 2011

The Honorable Rick Scott
Governor of Florida
Tallahassee, Florida 32399

Dear Governor Scott:

Thank you for joining us in Washington on October 6, 2011, for a productive discussion on Everglades restoration. We appreciate your leadership in participating in this important dialogue. We are pleased that the State of Florida and the United States agree on the vital necessity of strengthening efforts to restore the Everglades. As co-manager with the Federal Government of 4 million acres that comprise the natural Everglades, the State is an essential partner in Everglades restoration, and we greatly value your commitment and expertise.

The Everglades remains a fragile and severely threatened ecosystem. Successful restoration will only be possible with a sustained effort by the State and Federal Government to promote natural hydrology, improve water quality, and increase the flow of clean water.

Working together cooperatively, the Federal Government and the State of Florida have achieved substantial progress in initiating and carrying forward restoration projects improving the quality, quantity, and distribution of water flowing into the Everglades. Nonetheless, as we all recognized during our October 6, meeting, more needs to be done. The Federal Government remains committed to building on recent progress and commencing a fast-track process to plan, fund, and build the next generation of restoration projects. Together with the South Florida Water Management District and the Army Corps of Engineers, we were pleased to announce this new planning process at the October 27 meeting, of the South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task Force. We believe this effort will carry us forward to achieve many of our restoration goals, support a strong economy, provide jobs, and realize a return on investments that we have each made for this program.

Our commitment to jointly plan the next generation of restoration projects will not be successful without parallel investments to lower phosphorus loadings in current flows to levels that will meet water quality standards under the Clean Water Act and the federal Consent Decree. Progress toward achieving these phosphorus reductions has been slower than all would prefer, resulting in protracted litigation involving the State, Federal Government, and the District as well as many Florida stakeholders.

To spur progress and respond to directives of U.S. District Judge Alan Gold, on September 3, 2010, EPA issued an Amended Determination (AD) outlining remedies and specific milestones for reducing

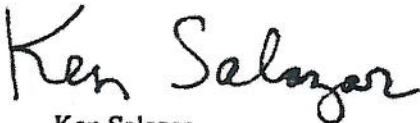
phosphorus discharges. EPA encouraged the State and the District to come forward with alternative suggestions for achieving water quality standards in the Everglades.

At our October 6 meeting, you proposed a new plan for achieving clean water. This plan is an encouraging step forward to meeting the goals of the AD. We appreciate your willingness to engage in constructive discussions of discharge limits that will achieve water quality standards. We also welcome your willingness to seek to meet these limits with expanded stormwater treatment areas and storage basins.

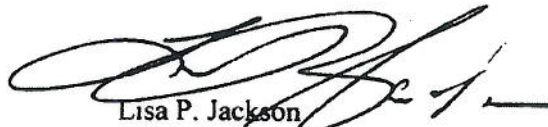
Based on our initial review, it appears that the State's plan calls for significantly smaller stormwater treatment area than in the AD and would require an additional two years to implement. It also appears to rely on a different set of technical assumptions than those underlying the AD. Working with experts from other agencies, EPA is analyzing whether the differences between the State's plan and the AD will compromise achievement of water quality goals and, if so, to what extent. We appreciate your cooperation in furnishing EPA with backup data it needs for its analysis and are hopeful that the additional information requested by EPA will be forthcoming quickly.

We can assure you that assessing and responding to the State's proposal has the highest priority of EPA and other federal agency experts and that they will actively engage with their State counterparts as the technical analysis proceeds. Thank you again for your leadership and support for Everglades restoration.

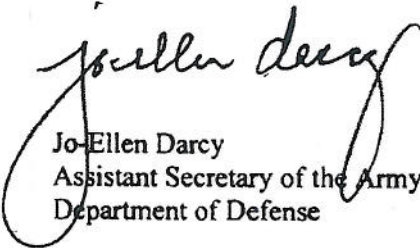
Sincerely,



Ken Salazar
Secretary of the Interior



Lisa P. Jackson
Administrator
Environmental Protection Agency



Jo-Ellen Darcy
Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works)
Department of Defense



Ignacia S. Moreno
Assistant Attorney General
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