

APPENDIX K
LETTERS OF SUPPORT

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Letters of Support from Florida Department of Transportation, Florida Department of Environmental Protection and South Florida Water Management District dated May 12, 2008 to:

Florida Senator Bill Nelson

Florida Senator Mel Martinez

Florida Representatives Mario Diaz-Balart, Alcee Hastings and Debbie Wasserman Shultz

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*Florida Department of
Transportation*



*Florida Department of
Environmental Protection*



*South Florida Water
Management District*

May 12, 2008

The Honorable Bill Nelson
United States Senate
716 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Nelson:

As you are aware, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has published the Draft 2008 Modified Water Deliveries to Everglades National Park Tamiami Trail Modification Limited Re-evaluation Report and Environmental Assessment. Prior to our submittal of formal comments on the report, we wanted to inform you of our support for the Tentatively Selected Plan identified in the Report and to thank you for Congressional support and attention to this project.

Our expectation, which appears consistent with the Tentatively Selected Plan, is the construction of a one-mile bridge and the reinforcement of Tamiami Trail to sufficiently allow sustained stages in the L-29 canal to reach 8.5 feet. While the "plan" is not and cannot be perfect, the ability to almost double the annual average volume of water delivered into Everglades National Park is a significant step. We understand the fiscal concerns identified by the Appropriations Committees. We believe the tentatively selected plan is the minimal alternative for addressing Tamiami Trail and is worthy of the investment by the federal government.

In fact, while the Modified Water Deliveries Project is identified as a 100 percent federally funded project, the State, in continuing to show strong support for our restoration partnership, is willing to assist in moving the Tamiami Trail project forward by contributing approximately \$10 million in funds and materials to the Army Corps of Engineers.

Florida Department of Transportation
605 Suwannee Street - Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0450
Florida Department of Environmental Protection
3900 Commonwealth Boulevard - Tallahassee, Florida 32399-3000
South Florida Water Management District
3301 Gun Club Road - West Palm Beach, Florida 33406

The Honorable Bill Nelson
May 12, 2008
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We are encouraged that staff from our agencies, staff from the federal agencies, and individuals from the environmental community all have worked collectively to develop a plan that could, after all these years, result in improved water deliveries and contribute to the restoration of the southern region of *America's River of Grass*. We hope that your continued support and leadership will result in the Congressional support vital to now bring this page of Everglades Restoration to a close.

If we can be of any assistance, please do not hesitate to ask. We look forward to joining you at the groundbreaking celebration for Tamiami Trail in the very near future.

Sincerely,



Michael W. Sole
Secretary
Florida Department of
Environmental Protection



Stephanie C. Kopelousos
Secretary
Florida Department of
Transportation



Carol Ann Wehle
Executive Director
South Florida Water
Management District

- c: Eric Buermann, Chairman, Governing Board, SFWMD
- Kelly Layman, Chief of Staff, DEP
- Kevin Thibault, Chief of Staff, DOT
- Greg Knecht, Director, Ecosystem Projects, DEP
- Kerry Feehery, Florida Washington Office
- Hannah Walker, Florida Washington Office



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In fact, while the Modified Water Deliveries Project is identified as a 100 percent federally funded project, the State, in continuing to show strong support for our restoration partnership, is willing to assist in moving the Tamiami Trail project forward by contributing approximately \$10 million in funds and materials to the Army Corps of Engineers.

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Florida Department of
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Transportation*



*Florida Department of
Environmental Protection*



*South Florida Water
Management District*

May 12, 2008

The Honorable Mario Diaz-Balart
House of Representatives
25th District, Florida
328 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Alcee Hastings
House of Representatives
23rd District, Florida
2353 Rayburn Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Debbie Wasserman Shultz
House of Representatives
20th District, Florida
118 Cannon Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Diaz-Balart, Congressman Hastings, and Congresswoman Wasserman Shultz:

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In fact, while the Modified Water Deliveries Project is identified as a 100 percent federally funded project, the State, in continuing to show strong support for our restoration partnership, is willing to assist in moving the Tamiami Trail project forward by contributing approximately \$10 million in funds and materials to the Army Corps of Engineers.

We are encouraged that staff from our agencies, staff from the federal agencies, and individuals from the environmental community all have worked collectively to develop a plan that could, after all these years, result in improved water deliveries and contribute to the restoration of the southern region of *America's River of Grass*. We hope that your continued support and leadership will result in the Congressional support vital to now bring this page of Everglades Restoration to a close.

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Secretary
Florida Department of
Transportation



Carol Ann Wehle
Executive Director
South Florida Water
Management District

- c: The Honorable Vern Buchanan
The Honorable Lincoln Diaz-Balart
The Honorable Ron Klein
The Honorable Connie Mack
The Honorable Tim Mahoney
The Honorable Kendrick Meek
The Honorable Adam Putnam
The Honorable Ileana Ros-Lehtinen
The Honorable Robert Wexler

The Honorable Mario Diaz-Balart

May 12, 2008

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**US Army Corps
of Engineers®**

Jacksonville District



**U.S. Department of the Interior
National Park Service
Everglades National Park**