December 4, 2012

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Attn: Eric Summa, Chief
Environmental Branch
Jacksonville District
P.O. Box 4970
Jacksonville, FL 32232

Re: File No. 16-267820-002-EE
Sawpit Creek Maintenance Dredging

Dear Mr. Summa:

We are in receipt of your notice of November 19, 2012, to use the Maintenance Dredging Exemption in Section 403.813(1)(f), Florida Statutes. The Department acknowledges your intention to use the exemption and your certification that you meet the requirements of the statute (see attached copy).

The scope of work entails dredging approximately 20,000 yd^3 of non-beach quality material from Cut-27 with disposal of the material at the upland Dredged Material Management Area (DMMA) DU-2. The federally authorized project depth at this portion of the AIWW is -12' MLLW with 2' of allowable over-depth. It is acknowledged that the area to be dredged is within the Nassau River-St. Johns River Marshes Aquatic Preserve. This stretch of the AIWW was last maintenance dredged in 2006.
This letter does not relieve you from the responsibility of obtaining other permits (Federal, State, or local) that may be required for the project.

Sincerely,

James R. Maher, P.E.
Program Administrator

Enclosure: 403.813(1)(f)
403.813 Permits issued at district centers; exceptions.

(1) A permit is not required under this chapter, chapter 373, chapter 61-691, Laws of Florida, or chapter 25214 or chapter 25270, 1949, Laws of Florida, for activities associated with the following types of projects; however, except as otherwise provided in this subsection, nothing in this subsection relieves an applicant from any requirement to obtain permission to use or occupy lands owned by the Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund or any water management district in its governmental or proprietary capacity or from complying with applicable local pollution control programs authorized under this chapter or other requirements of county and municipal governments:

(f) The performance of maintenance dredging of existing manmade canals, channels, intake and discharge structures, and previously dredged portions of natural water bodies within drainage rights-of-way or drainage easements which have been recorded in the public records of the county, where the spoil material is to be removed and deposited on a self-contained, upland spoil site which will prevent the escape of the spoil material into the waters of the state, provided that no more dredging is to be performed than is necessary to restore the canals, channels, and intake and discharge structures, and previously dredged portions of natural water bodies, to original design specifications or configurations, provided that the work is conducted in compliance with s. 379.2431(2)(d), provided that no significant impacts occur to previously undisturbed natural areas, and provided that control devices for return flow and best management practices for erosion and sediment control are utilized to prevent bank erosion and scouring and to prevent turbidity, dredged material, and toxic or deleterious substances from discharging into adjacent waters during maintenance dredging. Further, for maintenance dredging of previously dredged portions of natural water bodies within recorded drainage rights-of-way or drainage easements, an entity that seeks an exemption must notify the department or water management district, as applicable, at least 30 days prior to dredging and provide documentation of original design specifications or configurations where such exist. This exemption applies to all canals and previously dredged portions of natural water bodies within recorded drainage rights-of-way or drainage easements constructed prior to April 3, 1970, and to those canals and previously dredged portions of natural water bodies constructed on or after April 3, 1970, pursuant to all necessary state permits. This exemption does not apply to the removal of a natural or manmade barrier separating a canal or canal system from adjacent waters. When no previous permit has been issued by the Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund or the United States Army Corps of Engineers for construction or maintenance dredging of the existing manmade canal or intake or discharge structure, such maintenance dredging shall be limited to a depth of no more than 5 feet below mean low water. The Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund may fix and recover from the permittee an amount equal to the difference between the fair market value and the actual cost of the maintenance dredging for material removed during such maintenance dredging. However, no charge shall be exacted by the state for material removed during such maintenance dredging by a public port authority. The removing party may subsequently sell such material; however, proceeds from such sale that exceed the costs of maintenance dredging shall be remitted to the state and deposited in the Internal Improvement Trust Fund.