January 31, 2013

Ms. Diana M. Martuscelli, Biologist
Planning and Policy Division
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Post Office Box 4970
Jacksonville, FL  32232-0019

RE: Department of the Army, Jacksonville District Corps of Engineers
Draft Environmental Assessment, Three Forks Marsh Conservation Area (TFMCA)
Cultural Resources Protection Feature – Brevard and Indian River Counties, Florida.
SAI # FL201301176475C (Reference Prior SAI # FL201207236322)

Dear Ms. Martuscelli:

The Florida State Clearinghouse has coordinated a review of the subject Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) under the following authorities: Presidential Executive Order 12372; Section 403.061(42), Florida Statutes; the Coastal Zone Management Act, 16 U.S.C. §§ 1451-1464, as amended; and the National Environmental Policy Act, 42 U.S.C. §§ 4321-4347, as amended.

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection’s (DEP) Central District Office in Orlando advises that Environmental Resource Permitting staff issued Noticed General Permit No. 05-133404-007 to the St. Johns River Water Management District for the proposed project in December 2012. Please contact Ms. Kimberly Eisele, Environmental Specialist, at (407) 897-2950 for further information and assistance.

Based on the information contained in the Draft EA and issuance of the noticed general permit, the state has determined that the proposed project is consistent with the Florida Coastal Management Program (FCMP). The state’s final concurrence of the project’s consistency with the FCMP was determined during the environmental permitting process, in accordance with Section 373.428, Florida Statutes.

Thank you for the opportunity to review this proposal. Should you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Ms. Lauren P. Milligan at (850) 245-2170 or Lauren.Milligan@dep.state.fl.us.

Yours sincerely,

Sally B. Mann, Director
Office of Intergovernmental Programs

SBM/Im
Enclosure

cc: Lu Burson, DEP, Central District
NOTICE OF GENERAL PERMIT

Via Email:
hherrera@sjrwmd.com

St. Johns River Water Management District
c/o Hector Herrera
4049 Reid Street
P.O. Box 1429
Palatka, FL 32178

File No: 05-133404-007
Applicant: SJRWMD

Dear Mr. Herrera:

This is to acknowledge receipt of your notice on November 16, 2012 of intent to use a Noticed General Permit to restore wetlands within upper St. John’s River basin as detailed as described in Attachment 1. The project is part of the SWIM plan, pursuant to Rule 62-330.485, F.A.C and was originally authorized under permit number 05-133404-001. The projects are located within the St. John’s Marsh Conservation Area (SJMCA), the St. John’s Water Management Area (SJWMA), Three Forks Marsh Conservation Area (TFMCA), the C-1 canal and retention areas, the Fellsmere Water Management Area, and the Blue Cypress marsh Conservation Area (BCMCA) in Brevard and Indian River Counties, Florida. Construction and operation must comply with the attached figures and conditions.

(1) REGULATORY AUTHORIZATION - GRANTED

Based on the forms, drawings, and documents submitted with your notice, it appears that the project meets the requirements for the noticed general permit listed below. Any activities performed under a noticed general permit are subject to general conditions required in Rule 62-330.405, F.A.C. (attached), and the specific conditions of Rule 62-330.485, F.A.C. (attached). Any deviations from these conditions may subject the permittee to enforcement action and possible penalties.

Please be advised that the construction phase of the noticed general permit must be completed within five years from the date the notice to use the noticed general permit was received by the Department. If you wish to continue this noticed general permit beyond the expiration date, you must notify the Department at least 30 days before its expiration.

(2) PROPRIETARY AUTHORIZATION - NOT REQUIRED

The proposed project is not located on sovereignty submerged lands.
Permittee: SJRWMD
Permission No.: 05-133404-007
Page 2 of 10

(3) SPGP AUTHORIZATION - PENDING

Your project has been reviewed for compliance with a State Programmatic General Permit (SPGP). Your proposed activity as outlined on the attached drawings is **NOT in compliance with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) State Programmatic General Permit (SPGP)**. A copy of your notice also has been sent to the U.S. Army of Engineers (USACOE) for review. The USACOE may require a separate permit. **Failure to obtain this authorization prior to construction could subject you to enforcement action by that agency.** For further information, you should contact the USACOE at 321/504-3771.

Authority for review - an agreement with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers entitled “Coordination Agreement Between the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Jacksonville District) and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection State Programmatic General Permit, Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbor Act of 1899 and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act.

**RIGHTS OF AFFECTED PARTIES**

This letter acknowledges that the proposed activity may be conducted under Noticed General Permit rule 62-330.485, F.A.C. and is a final determination unless a sufficient petition for an administrative hearing is timely filed under sections 120.569 and 120.57 of the Florida Statutes as set forth below.

Mediation is not available.

A person whose substantial interests are affected by the Department’s action may petition for an administrative proceeding (hearing) under sections 120.569 and 120.57 of the Florida Statutes. The petition must contain the information set forth below and must be filed (received by the clerk) in the Office of General Counsel of the Department at 3900 Commonwealth Boulevard, Mail Station 35, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-3000.

Because the administrative hearing process is designed to redetermine final agency action on the application, the filing of a petition for an administrative hearing may result in a final determination that the proposed activity is not authorized under the general permit rule 62-330.485. If a sufficient petition for an administrative hearing or request for an extension of time to file a petition is timely filed, this determination automatically becomes only proposed agency action subject to the result of the administrative review process. Accordingly, the applicant is advised not to commence construction or other activities under this determination until the time frames noted below for filing a petition for an administrative hearing or request for an extension of time has expired.

Under rule 62-110.106(4) of the Florida Administrative Code, a person whose substantial interests are affected by the Department’s action may also request an extension of time to file a petition for an administrative hearing. The Department may, for good cause shown, grant the request for an extension of time. Requests for extension of time must be filed with the Office of General Counsel of the Department at 3900 Commonwealth Boulevard, Mail Station 35, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-3000, before the applicable deadline. A timely request for an extension of time shall toll the running of the time period for filing a petition until the request is acted upon. If a request is filed late, the Department may still grant it upon a motion by the requesting party showing that the failure to file a request for an extension of time before the deadline was the result of excusable neglect.
In the event that a timely and sufficient petition for an administrative hearing is filed, other persons whose substantial interests will be affected by the outcome of the administrative process have the right to petition to intervene in the proceeding. Intervention will be only at the discretion of the presiding officer upon the filing of a motion in compliance with rule 28-106.205 of the Florida Administrative Code.

In accordance with rule 62-110.106(3), petitions for an administrative hearing by the applicant must be filed within 21 of receipt of this written notice. Petitions filed by any persons other than the applicant, and other than those entitled to written notice under section 120.60(3) of the Florida Statutes, must be filed within 21 days of publication of the notice or within 21 days of receipt of the written notice, whichever occurs first.

Under section 120.60(3) of the Florida Statutes, however, any person who has asked the Department for notice of agency action may file a petition within 21 days of receipt of such notice, regardless of the date of publication.

The petitioner shall mail a copy of the petition to the applicant at the address indicated above at the time of filing. The failure of any person to file a petition for an administrative hearing within the appropriate time period shall constitute a waiver of that right.

A petition that disputes the material facts on which the Department’s action is based must contain the following information:

(a) The name and address of each agency affected and each agency’s file or identification number, if known;
(b) The name, address, and telephone number of the petitioner; the name, address, and telephone number of the petitioner’s representative, if any, which shall be the address for service purposes during the course of the proceeding; and an explanation of how the petitioner’s substantial interests are or will be affected by the agency determination;
(c) A statement of when and how the petitioner received notice of the agency decision;
(d) A statement of all disputed issues of material fact. If there are none, the petition must so indicate;
(e) A concise statement of the ultimate facts alleged, including the specific facts that the petitioner contends warrant reversal or modification of the agency’s proposed action; and
(f) A statement of the specific rules or statutes that the petitioner contends require reversal or modification of the agency’s proposed action;
(g) A statement of the relief sought by the petitioner, stating precisely the action that the petitioner wishes the agency to take with respect to the agency’s proposed action.

A petition that does not dispute the material facts on which the Department’s action is based shall state that no such facts are in dispute and otherwise shall contain the same information as set forth above, as required by rule 28-106.301. Under sections 120.569(2)(c) and (d) of the Florida Statutes, a petition for administrative hearing must be dismissed by the agency if the petition does not substantially comply with the above requirements or is untimely filed.
This action is final and effective on the date filed with the Clerk of the Department unless a petition is filed in accordance with the above. Upon the timely filing of a petition this order will not be effective until further order of the Department.

This determination constitutes an order of the Department. The applicant has the right to seek judicial review of the order under section 120.68 of the Florida Statutes, by the filing of a notice of appeal under rule 9.110 of the Florida Rules of Appellate Procedure with the Clerk of the Department in the Office of General Counsel, 3900 Commonwealth Boulevard, Mail Station 35, Tallahassee, Florida, 32399-3000; and by filing a copy of the notice of appeal accompanied by the applicable filing fees with the appropriate district court of appeal. The notice of appeal must be filed within 30 days from the date when the final order is filed with the Clerk of the Department. The applicant, or any party within the meaning of section 373.114(1)(a) of the Florida Statutes, may also seek appellate review of this order before the Land and Water Adjudicatory Commission under section 373.114(1) of the Florida Statutes. Requests for review before the Land and Water Adjudicatory Commission must be filed with the Secretary of the Commission and served on the Department within 20 days from the date when the final order is filed with the Clerk of the Department.

If you revise your project after submitting the initial joint application, please contact us as soon as possible. Also, if you have any questions, please contact Kimberly Eisele at the letterhead address, Kim.Eisele@dep.state.fl.us or call 407/897-2950, between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. When referring to this project, please use the file number listed above.

Sincerely,

Lisa Prather
Environmental Manager
Submerged Lands and Environmental Resources Program

Date: December 11, 2012

LP/kje/dv

Enclosure:
   General Conditions for NGP 62-330.405, F.A.C.
   Specific Conditions: Rule 62-330.485, F.A.C.
   Proprietary Conditions
   Copy of Drawings, Sheets 1 through 3
   Construction Commencement Notice
Copies furnished to:
  Brevard County Natural Resources (e)
  ACOE

FILING AND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

FILED, on this date, pursuant to 120.52(7), Florida Statutes, with the designated Department Clerk, receipt of which is hereby acknowledged.

[Signature]
December 11, 2012
Clerk Date

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

The undersigned hereby certifies that this Noticed General Permit and authorization to use sovereign submerged lands, including all copies, were mailed before the close of business on December 11, 2012, to the above listed persons by [Signature].
NOTICE OF GENERAL PERMIT
Attachment A

In the Matter of an Application
For a General Permit by:

SJRWMD
DEP File No. 05-133404-007
Brevard County

The Department of Environmental Protection gives notice that it has determined that the restoration wetlands within upper St. John’s River basin as part of the SWIM plan, pursuant to Rule 62-330.485, F.A.C, by the St. Johns River Water Management District, qualifies for the Noticed General Permit established under Rule 62-330.485, F.A.C. The project is located within the St. John’s Marsh Conservation Area (SJMCA), the St. John’s Water Management Area (SJWMA), Three Forks Marsh Conservation Area (TFMCA), the C-1 canal and retention areas, the Fellsmere Water Management Area, and the Blue Cypress marsh Conservation Area (BCMCA) in Brevard and Indian River Counties, Florida.

The Department’s determination shall become final unless a timely petition for an administrative hearing is filed under sections 120.569 and 120.57 of the Florida Statutes. The time and procedure for petitioning for a hearing are set forth below. Upon the timely filing of a petition, this determination will not be effective until further order of the Department.

A person whose substantial interests are affected by the Department’s decision may petition for an administrative proceeding (hearing) under sections 120.569 and 120.57 of the Florida Statutes. The petition must contain the following information:

(a) The name, address, and telephone number of each petitioner; the Department permit identification number and the county in which the subject matter or activity is located;

(b) A statement of how and when each petitioner received notice of the Department action;
(c) A statement of how each petitioner's substantial interests are affected by the Department action;

(d) A statement of the material facts disputed by the petitioner, if any;

(e) A statement of facts that the petitioner contends warrants reversal or modification of the Department action;

(f) A statement of which rules or statutes the petitioner contends require reversal or modification of the Department action; and

(g) A statement of the relief sought by the petitioner, stating precisely the action that the petitioner wants the Department to take.

A petition that does not dispute the material facts on which the Department’s action is based shall state that no such facts are in dispute and otherwise shall contain the same information as set forth above, as required by rule 28-106.301.

Because the administrative hearing process is designed to re-determine the Department’s determination, the filing of a petition means that the Department’s final determination may be different from the determination stated in this notice. Persons whose substantial interests may be affected by any change in the Department’s determination have the right to petition to become a party to the proceeding, in accordance with the requirements set forth above.

Mediation under section 120.573 of the Florida Statutes is not available for this proceeding.

The application is available for public inspection during normal business hours, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except legal holidays, please make an appointment at the letterhead address or call (407) 897-2949.
CHAPTER 62-330
NOTICED GENERAL ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCE PERMITS

62-330.405 General Conditions for All Noticed General Permits

(1) The terms, conditions, requirements, limitations, and restrictions set forth in this section are general permit conditions and are binding upon the permittee for all noticed general permits in this chapter. These conditions are enforceable under Part IV of Chapter 373, F.S.

(2) The general permit is valid only for the specific activity indicated. Any deviation from the specified activity and the conditions for undertaking that activity shall constitute a violation of the permit. A violation of the permit is a violation of Part IV of Chapter 373, F.S., and may result in suspension or revocation of the permittee’s right to conduct such activity under the general permit. The Department also may begin legal proceedings seeking penalties or other remedies as provided by law for any violation of these conditions.

(3) This general permit does not eliminate the necessity to obtain any required federal, state, local and special district authorizations prior to the start of any construction, alteration, operation, maintenance, removal or abandonment authorized by this permit.

(4) This general permit does not convey to the permittee or create in the permittee any property right, or any interest in real property, nor does it authorize any entrance upon or activities on property which is not owned or controlled by the permittee, or convey any rights or privileges other than those specified in the general permit.

(5) The general permit does not relieve the permittee from liability and penalties when the permitted activity causes harm or injury to: human health or welfare; animal, plant or aquatic life; or property. It does not allow the permittee to cause pollution in contravention of Florida Statutes and Department rules.

(6) The permittee is hereby advised that Section 253.77, F.S., states that a person may not commence any excavation, construction, or other activity involving the use of sovereign or other lands of the state, the title to which is vested in the Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund without obtaining the required lease, license, easement, or other form of consent authorizing the proposed use. Therefore, the permittee is responsible for obtaining any necessary authorizations from the Board of Trustees prior to commencing activity on sovereignty lands or other state-owned lands.

(7) The authorization to conduct activities pursuant to a general permit may be modified, suspended or revoked in accordance with Chapter 120 and Section 373.429, F.S.

(8) This permit shall not be transferred to a third party except pursuant to Rule 62-343.130, F.A.C., or, for activities within the geographical area of the Northwest Florida Water Management District, Rule 62-346.130, F.A.C. The permittee transferring the general permit shall remain liable for any corrective actions that may be required as a result of any permit violations prior to sale, conveyance, or other transfer of ownership or control of the permitted system or the real property at which the permitted system is located.

(9) Upon reasonable notice to the permittee, Department staff with proper identification shall have permission to enter, inspect, sample and test the permitted system to insure conformity with the plans and specifications approved by the permit.

(10) The permittee shall maintain any permitted system in accordance with the plans submitted to the Department and authorized in this general permit.
(11) A permitee’s right to conduct a specific noticed activity under this noticed general permit is authorized for a duration of five years.

(12) Construction, alteration, operation, maintenance, removal and abandonment approved by this general permit shall be conducted in a manner which does not cause violations of state water quality standards, including any antidegradation provisions of paragraphs 62-4.242(1)(a) and (b), subsections 62-4.242(2) and (3) and Rule 62-302.300, F.A.C., and any special standards for Outstanding Florida Waters and Outstanding National Resource Waters. The permittee shall implement best management practices for erosion, turbidity, and other pollution control to prevent violation of state water quality standards. Temporary erosion control measures such as sodding, mulching, and seeding shall be implemented and shall be maintained on all erodible ground areas prior to and during construction. Permanent erosion control measures such as sodding and planting of wetland species shall be completed within seven days of any construction activity. Turbidity barriers shall be installed and maintained at all locations where the possibility of transferring suspended solids into wetlands and other surface waters exists due to the permitted activity. Turbidity barriers shall remain in place and shall be maintained in a functional condition at all locations until construction is completed and soils are stabilized and vegetation has been established. Thereafter the permittee shall be responsible for the removal of the barriers. The permittee shall correct any erosion or shoaling that causes adverse impacts to the water resources.

(13) The permittee shall hold and save the Department harmless from any and all damages, claims, or liabilities which may arise by reason of the construction, alteration, operation, maintenance, removal, abandonment or use of any system authorized by the general permit.

(14) The permittee shall immediately notify the Department in writing of any previously submitted information that is later discovered to be inaccurate.

CHAPTER 62-330
ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCE PERMITTING

62-341.485 General Permit to Water Management Districts for Environmental Restoration or Enhancement.

(1) A general permit is hereby granted to the Department and Water Management Districts for the construction, alteration, operation, maintenance, removal and abandonment of systems to implement Department or District environmental restoration or enhancement projects.
(2) In order to qualify for this general permit, the environmental restoration or enhancement project must comply with any one of the following procedures:
   (a) The project is part of a Surface Water Improvement and Management Plan developed pursuant to Section 373.453, F.S., that is reviewed by the Department and approved by a water management district in accordance with Section 373.456, F.S.;
   (b) The project is approved by the Water Management District Governing Board or the Secretary of the Department after conducting at least one public meeting; or
   (c) The project is wholly or partially funded by the Department through the Ecosystem Management and Restoration Trust Fund pursuant to Section 403.1651, F.S., or the Water Resource Restoration and Preservation Act pursuant to Section 403.0165, F.S.
(3) This general permit shall be subject to the following specific conditions:
   (a) A project under this general permit shall not significantly impede navigation; and
   (b) All erodible ground areas and slopes disturbed during construction shall be revegetated with sod, mulch, seed, wetland species, or otherwise appropriately stabilized within 72 hours after completion of the activity authorized under this general permit and at any other time as necessary to prevent violations of state water quality standards.
(4) When the activity under this general permit is to be conducted by the Department within the geographical area of the Northwest Florida Water Management District (District), the Department shall provide the notice and any fee required by paragraph 62-346.090(2)(b), F.A.C., to the District, and the District shall process the notice as provided in subsection 62-346.090(2), F.A.C.
(5) When the activity under this general permit is to be conducted by the Department within the geographical area of the Suwannee River Water Management District, St. Johns River Water Management District, Southwest Florida Water Management District, or South Florida Water Management District, the Department shall provide the notice and any required fee to the appropriate District which shall process the notice according to Rules 40B-400.485, 40C-400.485, 40D-400.485, or 40E-400.485, F.A.C., as applicable, and according to any related procedural rules of the District.

Upper St. Johns River Basin Restoration Activities

LEGEND
- Replace existing plug
- Relocate plug
- Cultural resource site

Levees
- Federal
- SJRWMD
- Private

The St. Johns River Water Management District prepares and uses this information for its own purposes and this information may not be suitable for other purposes. This information is provided as is. Further documentation of this data can be obtained by contacting the St. Johns River Water Management District, Geographic Information Systems, Program Management, P.O. Box 1426, 6049 Rialto Street, Palm Bay, Florida 32907-1429. Tel: (386) 527-4191.
Attachment 1

USJRB P
Proposed Construction

Blue Cypress Marsh Conservation Area (BCMCA) – Proposed construction in this area includes relocation of a previously permitted canal plug in the zig-zag canal to facilitate navigation (see Exhibit). Fill material will come from upland borrow source. Estimated dredge area: 0.09 acres. Estimated fill area: 0.13 acres.

St. Johns Marsh Conservation Area (SJMCA) – Proposed work for hydrologic restoration in this area includes the replacement of five of the eight original canal plugs in the C-40 canal and the relocation of one of the original plugs to a new site, due to construction accessibility, to improve the hydrology of the marsh and prevent over drainage during low water periods. Components of the federal flood protection project include construction of the L-74N tie-back which is approximately 1000’ of concrete wall at the northern terminus of the L-74N levee (see Exhibit). Fill material will come from upland borrow source. Estimated dredge area: 0 acres. Estimated fill area: 0.8 acres.

Three Forks Marsh Conservation Area (TFMCA) – The proposed construction in this area includes the construction of the following components; S-256 flowway plug and levee degrading and ring levees protecting three cultural resource sites (see Exhibit). Fill material will come from upland borrow source. Estimated dredge area: 6 acres. Estimated fill area: 25 acres.

C-1 Re-diversion Project – The proposed work in the C-1 Re-diversion Project area includes construction of levees and associated borrow, water control structures and pump station for the C-10 reservoir to increase the diversion volume of storm water to the St. Johns River (see Exhibit). Fill material will be side borrow where appropriate and from upland borrow source when side borrow is of poor quality for levee construction. Estimated dredge area: 124 acres. Estimated fill area: 155 acres.

Fellsmere Water Management Area – Proposed construction to this area includes levees, water control structures, and internal improvements (interior ditch filling, internal levee construction and deconstruction (including a fetch break), culvert and fence removal, grading to create fish and wetland habitat, etc.) to create the Fellsmere Water Management Area from 10,000 acres of former pasture and row crop land directly adjacent and to the east of SJWMA. The purpose of this project is to provide water quality improvement, additional flood control, downstream flow to the SJR, ecological restoration and additional recreation opportunities. Internal improvements - Dredge: 445 acres; Fill: 540 acres. Project levee fill area: 165 acres. Temporary impacts: 50 acres.
Basinwide maintenance – Maintenance activities on Upper St. Johns River Basin flood control structures within the next five years will include temporary impacts from construction of primarily sheet pile coffer dams, although in some cases earthen coffer dams may be used. Maintenance activities will be scheduled during the dry time of the year and anticipated duration of maintenance for each occurrence is less than thirty (30) days. Temporary fill: less than 0.1 acre per occurrence.
ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCE PERMIT
Construction Commencement Notice

Project: 
Phase: 

I hereby notify the Department of Environmental Protection that the construction of the surface water management system authorized by Environmental Resource Permit Number has commenced / is expected to commence on and will require a duration of approximately months weeks days to complete. It is understood that should the construction term extend beyond one year, I am obligated to submit the Annual Status Report for surface Water Management System Construction.

PLEASE NOTE: If the actual construction commencement date is not known, Department staff should be so notified in writing in order to satisfy permit conditions.

_________________________  ___________________________  ______________ 
Permittee or Authorized Agent  Title and Company  Date

_________________________  ___________________________ 
Phone  Address