



SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

LOWER WEST COAST REGIONAL SERVICE CENTER 2301 McGregor Boulevard, Fort Myers, FL 33901
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July 1, 2003

Ms. Susan Brookman
Southwest Florida Watershed Council
P.O. Box 61063
Fort Myers, Florida 33906-1063

Dear Ms. Brookman:

The South Florida Water Management District appreciates your organization's interest in the protection, conservation, and management of water resources in the Caloosahatchee and Big Cypress Basin watersheds. As you probably know, the District has recently approved an extension of the Charlotte Harbor Surface Water and Improvement Management (SWIM) program into the Caloosahatchee estuary and to the south as far as Estero Bay. This will enable the complete coastal and estuarine waters of the greater Charlotte Harbor to receive the considerations inherent in the State of Florida's SWIM program.

Last year, the District developed a series of five watershed initiatives stretching from Charlotte Harbor to Naples Bay. Each of them included a number of restoration projects. The inclusion of Naples Bay in the SWIM program would aid in the generation of the funds necessary to implement these restoration projects. Further, as you may not know, the Naples City Council and Collier County Board of County Commissioners have passed resolutions supporting the inclusion of Naples Bay in a SWIM program. Thus, your letter is timely, and your endorsement significant, on two counts.

Your continued support of this and other watershed restoration efforts in Southwest Florida is important, and I urge your organization to continue to maintain a close relationship with the District as we move forward with these efforts.

Again, I thank you for your letter and your support.

Sincerely,

Carla Palmer
Lower West Coast Service Center Director
South Florida Water Management District

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