



September 15, 2005

Colonel Robert M. Carpenter, District Engineer
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Jacksonville District
P.O. Box 4970
Jacksonville, FL 32232-0019

Dear Colonel Carpenter,

The Southwest Florida Watershed Council is a grass roots, multi-county coalition of individuals, organizations, agencies and businesses that have come together to address issues affecting the Caloosahatchee and Big Cypress watersheds. We have a strong desire to work with regulatory agencies to resolve problems and we strive to keep a positive outlook even as we debate complex issues amongst our diverse membership. We recognize that decisions regarding water resource issues in South Florida involve both scientific and political considerations, and we strive to work within existing frameworks as much as possible.

It is with a spirit of cooperation that we submit to you the enclosed resolution seeking action to improve the health of the Caloosahatchee and its estuary. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers plays a tremendously important role in the protection of public safety, and we are mindful of your mission. We do not ask you to take any action that would put the public at risk. In fact, the steps that we outline in the enclosed resolution would likely provide indirect benefits to the welfare of the public in our region – we simply ask that you place greater emphasis on the health of natural systems in your decision-making processes and allocate resources to address water quality problems in Lake Okeechobee and the Caloosahatchee.

We thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Susan Brookman

The mission of the Southwest Florida Watershed Council is to protect, conserve, manage and/or restore the land and water resources of the Caloosahatchee and Big Cypress Watersheds. Through increased awareness, participation and cooperation among all stakeholders in consensus building, planning and decision making, we are working to meet the economic, natural and cultural needs for this and succeeding generations.