



November 11, 2003

Ms. Jacque Rippe, Director
Lower West Coast Regional Service Center, South Florida Water Management District
2301 McGregor Boulevard
Fort Myers, Florida 33902

Dear Jacque,

Thank you for meeting with representatives of the Watershed Council last week. We all felt the meeting was productive, and we congratulate you on your new, well-earned leadership position with the District! We discussed several important topics during our meeting, and I thought it might be helpful to put the major points of discussion in writing to make our follow up easier.

With regard to the Caloosahatchee River and its management, we discussed the history of our request for a statutory reservation of water from both the District and the Department of Environmental Protection, as well as the responses we have received from each entity. We also discussed the confusion over regarding baseline data for water use permits and flows from S4 into the River. You agreed to do the following: find out the status of the District's work to promulgate a rule whereby a statutory reservation of water could be established for the Caloosahatchee, attempt to secure data regarding actual usage and permit allocations within the Caloosahatchee Basin, and determine whether or not there are currently flows from S4 into the River, as well as whether or not flows will occur in the future.

We talked about Southwest Florida's representation on the Working Group, and you offered to find out who serves on the Working Group from this region and how appointments are made.

In our discussion about the Board of Governors, you agreed to find out when they will hold a meeting in Southwest Florida and help us secure a spot on the agenda when they meet to provide an update on our work and continue the dialogue we established in September of 2002.

With regard to the Estero Bay Nutrient Management Partnership, you directed us to prepare a scope of work and work with Mike Bauer to secure a \$30,000 grant for the project. You also stated that you would provide assistance and contacts if we are able to proceed with a proposal to the U.S.E.P.A. Watershed Initiative program.

Finally, with regard to Minimum Aquifer Levels, you agreed to help us become involved in the rulemaking process.

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 participation and cooperation of all stakeholders in consensus building, planning, and decision making to meet the economic, natural and cultural needs for this and succeeding generations.

We neglected to ask you for one last request during our meeting, so I'll take the opportunity to make it now. We are aware that the Estero Bay Agency on Bay Management is asking for some "real world examples" of application of the Harper Methodology in calculating impacts of development. We would like to receive a copy of the material which is sent to the ABM so that our members may also have an opportunity to review it.

Thank you for taking the time to meet with us and open up a clear channel of communication with you. We wish you all the best in your new role, and we look forward to working with you!

Sincerely,

Susan Brookman
Vice Chairman