



SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

November 25, 2019

Jon Van Arnam
Deputy County Administrator
Palm Beach County
301 North Olive Ave
West Palm Beach FL, 33401

Subject: Letter of Support for the Loxahatchee River Watershed Restoration Project

Dear Mr. Van Arnam:

The South Florida Water Management District (District) is committed to continue working in collaboration with local stakeholders on regional water resource and restoration projects that meets our shared environmental needs. The Loxahatchee River Watershed Restoration Project (LRWRP) is a planning and feasibility study that is a part of the larger Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP) with the goal of providing restorative flows to the Loxahatchee River including the northwest fork of the river which is a federally designated wild and scenic river and only the second river in Florida with this distinction.

The LRWRP has been in planning for several years and is now nearing completion. The next step in the process is to move the project forward towards approval by the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) so the study will be ready for authorization by Congress in 2020. As the non-federal sponsor on CERP, the District is expected to provide a letter of support and financial capability to the USACE to move forward with this authorization.

While we all acknowledge the incredible milestone that congressional authorization represents, I write this letter to commit to Palm Beach County, local municipalities and interested stakeholders that the District will continue to engage with you and your public on the project as we explore implementation of features that restore the river. I truly appreciate Palm Beach County's investment in restoring the Loxahatchee River and look forward to continuing our collaboration for restoring this important ecosystem as well as others including the Lake Worth Lagoon.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Drew Bartlett", is written over a horizontal line.

Drew Bartlett
Executive Director

DB/jl