



An Equal Opportunity Employer

Southwest Florida Water Management District

2379 Broad Street, Brooksville, Florida 34604-6899

(352) 796-7211 or 1-800-423-1476 (FL only)

TDD only: 1-800-231-6103 (FL only)

On the Internet at WaterMatters.org

Bartow Service Office
170 Century Boulevard
Bartow, Florida 33830-7700
(863) 534-1448 or
1-800-492-7862 (FL only)

Sarasota Service Office
6750 Fruitville Road
Sarasota, Florida 34240-9711
(941) 377-3722 or
1-800-320-3503 (FL only)

Tampa Service Office
7601 Highway 301 North
Tampa, Florida 33637-6759
(813) 985-7481 or
1-800-836-0797 (FL only)

June 28, 2011

- H. Paul Senft, Jr.**
Chair, Polk
- Hugh M. Gramling**
Vice Chair, Hillsborough
- Douglas B. Tharp**
Secretary, Sumter
- Albert G. Joerger**
Treasurer, Sarasota
- Neil Combee**
Former Chair, Polk
- Ronald E. Oakley**
Former Chair, Pasco
- Todd Pressman**
Former Chair, Pinellas
- Judith C. Whitehead**
Former Chair, Hernando
- Jeffrey M. Adams**
Pinellas
- Carlos Beruff**
Manatee
- Bryan K. Beswick**
DeSoto
- Jennifer E. Closshey**
Hillsborough
- David L. Moore**
Executive Director
- William S. Bilenky**
General Counsel

Mr. Jon Steverson, Special Counsel on Policy & Legislative Affairs
Florida Department of Environmental Protection
3900 Commonwealth Boulevard
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-3000

Dear Mr. Steverson:

We are in receipt of your June 16th letter regarding direction for the preparation of the Southwest Florida Water Management District (District) Fiscal Year (FY) 2012 budget. We appreciate your guidance and input.

As we prepare our FY 2012 budget, the District is dedicated to continuing efforts to streamline its processes and gain efficiencies, while re-focusing on its statutory obligations and core mission. Maintaining the balance between the water needs of users, and protecting and maintaining water and related natural resources of the region is fundamental to the quality of life of all Floridians and is our understanding of the statutory core mission of the District.

We understand the economic challenges the Governor, Legislature and all Floridians are facing. We are proud that we have already initiated the processes for many of the changes suggested by the Governor after his inaugural address. Specifically, the District is taking the steps outlined below to ensure it remains fiscally sound and responsive to the needs of the people of Florida while cutting taxes, reducing positions and streamlining and minimizing its regulatory processes.

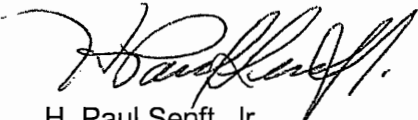
- **Debt:** The District has been committed to a pay-as-you go fiscal policy for many years and does not have any short or long-term debt. Over the years, this policy has allowed the District to undertake significant water supply projects without the need to seek State appropriations for payment of debt service from the Water Management Lands Trust Fund.
- **Land Acquisition:** In a June 1, 2011 letter from Mike Long, the Department provided clear guidance on real estate acquisitions and the District ceased all acquisition activities not critical to its core mission. Therefore, anticipated acquisitions for the coming year are limited to a few very small purchases or easements associated with locations of critical project elements, such as monitor well sites. In addition to the directive on acquisition, at the request of the Governing Board, the District has already begun an extensive analysis of all fee land holdings to identify parcels that may be appropriate to surplus. Staff will be bringing the surplus property report to the Governing Board later this year.

Mr. Jon Steverson
Page 2
June 28, 2011

- Salaries, Benefits and Staffing: The District has eliminated over 95 positions since 2009. In the interest of sound business best practices, the Governing Board contracted for outside, independent and professional comprehensive analyses of the District's staffing levels, organizational structure, salaries and benefits by two national consulting companies. These studies will be used as a basis for the upcoming budget preparation. Specifically, in the regulatory division, the District has already reduced staffing to near 1992 levels; a level equivalent to the District's staffing for regulation before the creation of the Environmental Resource Permitting program in 1995. We look forward to working with the Department and other districts in developing consistent, appropriate benchmarks for all regulatory programs.
- Core Mission: During budget preparation, the District has remained focused on its core areas of responsibility for: flood protection, water supply, water quality and natural systems. The District continues to identify initiatives, such as its public service campaign, that can be reduced or eliminated in the FY 2012 budget.

Again, we look forward to working with you, the Governor and the Legislature as our budget preparation for FY 2012 is completed. If you have any questions or suggestions regarding the budget, please do not hesitate to contact me personally.

Sincerely,



H. Paul Senft, Jr.
Governing Board Chair

HPS/dtr

cc: Herschel T. Vinyard Jr., Secretary, FDEP
Jennifer Fitzwater, Chief of Staff, FDEP

bcc: Governing Board
B. Belinky
K. Fritsch
L. Kavouras ✓
R. Owen
B. Wirth
D. Rathke