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RICK SCOTT
GOVERNOR

April 22, 2014

Lieutenant General Thomas P. Bostick
Chief of Engineers
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
2600 Army Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20310

Dear General Bostick:

Today you have a unique opportunity to be part of Florida's rich environmental history. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) Civil Works Review Board's (Board) consideration and approval of the Central Everglades Planning Project (CEPP) on April 22, 2014 is another critical step in our joint efforts to restore water quality in South Florida and send the water south. I urge the Board to fully approve the CEPP and to continue the Corps' partnership with Florida to restore one of America's most cherished ecosystems, while simultaneously reducing excessive flow of freshwater to the St. Lucie and Caloosahatchee estuaries.

The collaborative planning process undertaken to develop the CEPP is a model for how Florida, federal agencies, and stakeholders can work together in a focused, expedited, and transparent process. The result of this process is a series of Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP) projects that will become the backbone of Everglades restoration and build upon the success of my $880 million Everglades water quality plan, to send water south and away from the estuaries families rely on. The expedited and focused collaborative planning used during the CEPP will forge a federal and state partnership that can invest in and deliver projects at an accelerated pace, matching the urgency of the issues facing our communities and ecosystem.

To that end, we look forward to continuing our partnership with the Corps to construct critical CERP Projects for the estuaries on the east and west coasts. Our CERP partnership, when paired with Florida's water quality plan, and the CEPP will help preserve this iconic ecosystem for generations to come.

Again, I urge you to fully approve the CEPP and to continue the Corps' strong partnership with Florida.

Sincerely,

Rick Scott
Governor