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SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

EVERGLADES FOUNDATION

EVERGLADES TRUST

NATIONAL PARKS CONSERVATION
ASSOCIATION

NATIONAL WILDLIFE FEDERATION

THE NATURE CONSERVANCY

WORLD WILDLIFE FUND

December 19, 2007

President George W. Bush
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We commend you for your longtime support for the restoration of America's Everglades. You have consistently requested funding for important aspects of Everglades restoration, including the Modified Water Deliveries Project, the Kissimmee River, and Lake Okeechobee. Keeping Everglades restoration on schedule and the Federal/Florida partnership strong requires significant federal investment. We have attached a chart detailing our recommendations for fully funding Everglades restoration at \$371 million in fiscal year 2009.

Restoration of the Everglades is at a critical juncture. There is a new opportunity to make great strides in restoration, including funding the construction of the first three Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan projects, which were authorized in the Water Resources Development Act of 2007. These long awaited projects, Indian River Lagoon, Picayune Strand, and Site One Impoundment were developed through the unique partnership of federal, state, and local government entities and private sector partners. They are now ready for construction funding. Therefore, we ask that you include construction funding for these three CERP projects in your FY 2009 budget request.

The future of Everglades restoration depends largely on the implementation of CERP. Many other projects in various stages of planning are waiting for the construction of the first CERP projects. This makes the implementation of Indian River Lagoon, Picayune Strand and the Site One Impoundment projects particularly important. These projects will restore more than 160,000 acres of wetlands and significant estuarine habitat, and help secure Florida's tourism and outdoor recreation economy. The projects also improve water quality for the Everglades, Florida Bay in Everglades National Park, 10,000 Islands, St. Lucie Estuary, and Lake Okeechobee.

Sincerely,

(Signatures waived in order to expedite delivery.)

Attachment

President George W. Bush
December 19, 2007
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Jennifer Conner
South Florida Representative
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Everglades Restoration Federal Appropriations

Everglades Projects by Agency	2009 Recommendation
Mod. Waters Construction	\$25 million
CERP – DOI NPS/FWS	\$10 million
Restoration Task Force	\$1.3 million
USGS – Integrated Research, Planning, and Interagency Coordination	\$8 million
NPS – NPS Critical Ecosystem Studies Initiative (CESI)	\$6 million
Interior Total	\$50.3 million
Modified Waters Construction	\$25 million
Kissimmee River Construction	\$69 million
C-111 Construction	\$28 million
CERP Project Construction	\$62 million
-Indian River Lagoon	-\$16 million
-Picayune Strand	-\$24 million
-Site 1	-\$22 million
CERP Pilot Projects	\$60 million
CERP Planning & Design	\$70 million
Water Quality Circulation & Salinity Monitoring	\$0.5 million
Army Corps of Engineers Total	\$314.5 million
\$2.0M NNMFS/SEFSC \$1.0M NOS/MSA/FKNMS \$1.0M NOS/NCCOS/CSCOR \$2.0M for OAR/AOML	\$6 million
Commerce/NOAA Total	\$6 million
Total Everglades Restoration	\$370.8 million