

June 17, 2010

Dan Kimball, Chair  
Greg Knecht, Vice-Chair  
South Florida Ecosystem Working Group  
c/o The Office of the Executive Director  
Florida International University, OE 148  
11200 SW 8th Street  
Miami, FL 33199

Dear Mr. Kimball and Mr. Knecht:

At times the Biscayne Bay Regional Restoration Coordination Team brings to the Working Group's attention a matter that has become especially timely and important regarding Biscayne Bay restoration. We are approaching you again with such a matter. We very much appreciate your members' continuing support for restoration projects in Biscayne Bay and its watershed and we hope you will find the following information to be helpful in continuing the effort to restore the Bay.

Our purpose in this letter is to point out the importance of continuing to support the current long-term water and biological monitoring efforts that have provided essential data for restoration efforts over many years. The substantial body of data from monitoring water quality and salinity patterns, habitat values, and fisheries resources has supported ecological indicators for the southern coastal system, for the Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands, and for other CERP project formulation. It will also provide science-based feedback for adaptive management, which is particularly critical as the Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands and C-111 Spreader project elements move into initial construction phases under the leadership of the South Florida Water Management District.

The data from long-term water and biological monitoring is also proving invaluable to managers addressing other resource issues, including the ongoing process to establish numeric nutrient criteria, water reservations, regulatory review of permit applications, natural resource damage assessment, and climate-change related issues such as sea level rise or salt intrusion.

We of course are very aware of the challenging budget climate that faces all public and private organizations working to improve and protect south Florida resources, and we understand that difficult decisions will be necessary to balance priorities. During this process, we hope the members of the Working Group will keep in mind the essential value of continued resource monitoring for restoration-related Biscayne Bay activities. It is our hope that these programs will continue to receive support through CERP systemwide and project activities and through other long-standing interagency monitoring collaborations.

As we seek to achieve this Team's goals of identifying priority restoration projects, sharing information, strengthening partnerships, and building consensus among Working Group members and stakeholders, we hope the information above will be helpful to you. Thank you again for your continued investment in Biscayne Bay and support of our Team.

Sincerely,

Dick Frost, Chair  
Biscayne Bay Regional Restoration and Coordination Team