

8. **OLD BUSINESS**

a. Water Quality Issues

1. Reports from City Council members
  - i. Update Regarding Urban Run-Off Issues  
(Mayor Denham)
  - ii. Correspondence of July 15, 2008 from the South  
Water Management District



# SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

EXO8-065

July 15, 2008

The Honorable Mick Denham, Mayor  
City of Sanibel  
800 Dunlop Road  
Sanibel, Florida 33957-4096

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Dear Mayor Denham:

**Subject: Everglades Agricultural Area Reservoir Construction Project**

Thank you for writing to the South Florida Water Management District to share your concerns regarding the Everglades Agricultural Area Reservoir construction project.

At the time your letter was dated, June 5, 2008, the District Governing Board had recently voted to temporarily suspend reservoir construction while facing litigation related to permits issued for the project.

Since then, Governor Charlie Crist and District Governing Board Vice Chair Shannon Estenoz announced a monumental opportunity to acquire 187,000 acres of land and assets south of Lake Okeechobee owned by the United States Sugar Corporation.

This real estate transaction, if successful, will provide water managers with the unprecedented opportunity to store and treat water on a scale never before envisioned for the benefit of the Everglades ecosystem – including protecting the Caloosahatchee and St. Lucie rivers and estuaries from harmful freshwater discharges.

It is recognized that the vast size and strategic location of the land may now present opportunities for additional storage and treatment not considered feasible or achievable when CERP was conceived. This could, in turn, lead to modifications of components contained in CERP, including plans for the Everglades Agricultural Area Reservoir.