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July 7, 2014

The Honorable Jo-Ellen Darcy  
Assistant Secretary of the Army, Civil Works  
108 Army Pentagon  
Room 3E446  
Washington, DC 20310-0108

Mr. Blake C. Guillory, P.E.  
Executive Director  
South Florida Water Management District  
3301 Gun Club Road  
West Palm Beach, FL 33406

Dear Assistant Secretary Darcy and Director Guillory,

I am writing to put my full support behind the Army Corps of Engineers and the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) formally agreeing to transfer the Ten Mile Creek project to the SFWMD.

Ten Mile Creek can and should be utilized to hold water back from flowing into the fragile St. Lucie Estuary. I have repeatedly called for the Corps and the SFWMD to find a way to store water in Ten Mile Creek, whether through repeated meetings with Assistant Secretary Darcy, including in my office last June and in January this year when she accepted my invitation to tour our region's waterways, or in my many conversations with the SFWMD. In early April, the Army Corps received a letter from the SFWMD regarding Ten Mile Creek, Kissimmee River, and the C-111 South Dade projects. Among other things, the letter states that the SFWMD "would take full ownership" of the Ten Mile Creek project and convert it "into a useful facility." In a June 16<sup>th</sup> letter, the Corps responded and stated it is "prepared to entertain a formal request from SFWMD concerning the Ten Mile Creek project."

While I understand that the SFWMD and the Corps have many challenging and often intertwining issues to resolve, I urge the Corps and the SFWMD to work together to complete a reuse of Ten Mile Creek that will provide near-term benefit to the residents of St. Lucie County and the ecosystem of the Indian River Lagoon as soon as possible. Recent heavy rainfall resulting in local run-off into the St. Lucie waterways has emphasized the need to pursue all possible long and short-term solutions, and water storage in the Ten Mile Creek structure is an important tool that can soon be utilized with cooperation between the Corps and the SFWMD.

I again urge both the Corps and the SFWMD to work together as expeditiously as possible to facilitate the use of Ten Mile Creek, and offer my assistance in any way. Thank you for your continued attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

  
Patrick E. Murphy  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

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