



COASTAL  
CONSERVATION  
ASSOCIATION

FLORIDA

September 12, 2024

South Florida Water Management District  
3301 Gun Club Road  
West Palm Beach, FL 33406

Florida Department of Environmental Protection  
3900 Commonwealth Boulevard  
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-3000

To Whom It May Concern:

Like you, Coastal Conservation Association Florida, supports a comprehensive approach to restore and protect the quality of Florida's water resources. A comprehensive approach consists of multiple projects that are proven to meet the region's objectives for the environment. The more projects we can implement, the faster we can reach our restoration goals. Thus providing a healthy, sustainable environment for coastal marine wildlife impacted by water flowing from the greater Kissimmee Valley, Lake Okeechobee, and Everglades systems.

Our leadership has reviewed the Southland Water Resource Project which is designed to expand storage capacity for water South of Lake Okeechobee, thus improving water quality and supporting Everglades restoration efforts. It is unique in that it will help meet the need for more water storage in the region. Phase 1 can be online in five years, providing immediate beneficial use capacity of nearly 20 thousand acre-feet of storage which we think is important.

Ultimately, the project will increase capacity to provide the region with up to 120k acre-feet of storage.

To construct the vital water storage, the project will remove the existing limestone, which will be used to help meet the statewide shortage for aggregate and support the state's infrastructure needs. The revenue from the aggregate will support the acceleration of the project's development, alleviating dependency on taxpayer dollars and freeing public funds to support even more water restoration efforts.

We are acquainted with the Phillips & Jordan company and are aware that they have been instrumental in delivering some of the largest and most impactful water quality projects in South Florida and the Everglades Agricultural Area, including the A2 Stormwater Treatment Area (STA), C-51 Reservoir (a PBA and P&J project), and the C-43 BOMA project. More recently, P&J has stepped in to assist the South Florida Water Management District with the C-43 Reservoir soil cement contract to get the project back on track. We have confidence in their efforts to advance our state's water restoration initiatives given their deep understanding of the water storage and water quality needs of the state, coupled with their knowledge of local geology and the long-term goals of Everglades restoration.

The Southland Project seems to be a valuable component to our state's water restoration efforts, and the Coastal Conservation Association recommends swift action to continue planning, begin construction and bring the project online.

Thank you for your consideration,

J. Scott Green  
Chairman, Government Relations Committee  
Coastal Conservation Association of Florida