March 22, 2002

The Honorable Doug Coward,
Chairman
St. Lucie County Board of
County Commissioners
2300 Virginia Avenue
Fort Pierce, FL 34982

RE: St. Lucie County Manatee Protection Plan

Dear Chairman Coward:

On behalf of the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC), I would like to offer my thanks and congratulations on the submittal of the St. Lucie County Manatee Protection Plan dated March 1, 2002. This letter is our formal notification of the Commission’s approval of the St. Lucie County Manatee Protection Plan, adopted by the Board of County Commissioners on February 26, 2002. We appreciate the proactive measures that the Board of County Commissioners and county staff have undertaken to protect manatees within St. Lucie County.

Enacting a long-range plan to ensure the viability of the manatee required a long-time, cooperative partnership between the state and the county. We especially acknowledge the roles and work of your staff. Mr. Don McLam served as the local liaison on manatee issues with our agency since 1991. He initiated planning efforts and participated in various studies over the years. Ms. Jody Bonet served as the contract manager for the Boat Facility Siting Plan contract. Ms. Anna Smith managed the contract for the Manatee Protection Plan and incorporated the work from the Boat Facility Siting Plan. We have appreciated the professionalism of your staff and their willingness to work on the various tasks that produced a quality countywide Manatee Protection Plan.
We look forward to working with you on the implementation of the plan and to continuing our partnership to protect manatees within St. Lucie County.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Allan L. Egbert, Ph.D.
Executive Director

ALE/MRM
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cc: Ms. Colleen Castille, Office of the Governor
Mr. David Struhs, Florida Department of Environmental Protection
Mr. Jay Slack, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Mr. Stuart Santos, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Mr. Henry Dean, South Florida Water Management District
Mr. Erik Martin, Ecological Associates, Inc.