



Department of Environmental Protection

Lawton Chiles
Governor

Marjory Stoneman Douglas Building
3900 Commonwealth Boulevard
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-3000

Virginia B. Wetherell
Secretary

July 25, 1995

The Honorable Bettye J. Matthews
Chairperson
Collier County Commission
3301 East Tamiami Trail
Naples, Florida 33962-4977

Dear Chairperson Matthews:

I am pleased to inform you that the Florida Department of Environmental Protection has reviewed and approved the Collier County Manatee Protection Plan (MPP). The incorporation of the revisions agreed to by the Department and the County in May have strengthened manatee protection measures in the plan. The plan should provide adequate long-term protection for manatees, aid in increasing boater safety, and contribute to the protection of estuarine habitat critical to many species in Collier County. Acceptance of the plan by the Department allows vessel docking density restrictions placed on shoreline development to be relaxed once the appropriate speed zones are in place. We will promulgate rules to implement the speed zones called for in the plan as quickly as possible.

The Department greatly appreciates the effort that Collier County government has expended in development of the MPP. In addition to rule promulgation, my staff is ready to assist Collier County with implementing other elements of the plan such as, boater education, and channel marking. Please contact Mr. Patrick Rose of the Bureau of Protected Species Management at (904) 922-4330 regarding questions or concerns that you may have.

Sincerely,

Virginia B. Wetherell
Secretary

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