



Florida Department of Environmental Protection

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


Rick Scott
Governor

Jennifer Carroll
Lt. Governor

Herschel T. Vinyard Jr.
Secretary

TO: George Roberts, Chair, NFWFMD
Douglas E. Barr, Executive Director, NFWFMD
Donald J. Quincey, Jr., Chair, SRWMD
David Still, Executive Director, SRWMD
W. Leonard Wood, Chair, SJRWMD
Kirby B. Green, III, Executive Director, SJRWMD
Ronald E. Oakley, Chair, SWFWMD
David Moore, Executive Director, SWFWMD
Joe Collins, Chair, SFWMD
Carol Wehle, Executive Director, SFWMD

FROM: Herschel T. Vinyard Jr., Secretary

CC: Melissa L. Meeker, Deputy Secretary 

DATE: April 14, 2011

SUBJECT: Governor Scott Direction Regarding Water Management Districts

This week Governor Scott issued direction re-asserting the importance of clear, coherent, consistent statewide water policies to preserve and enhance Florida's unique water resources and promote the regulatory certainty necessary to assure a vibrant economy. (Letter attached.) One key component of the effort is the Department's role in leading and supervising the actions of the Water Management Districts.

To work directly with me in fulfilling these responsibilities, I have appointed Melissa Meeker as my Deputy Secretary for Water Policy and Ecosystem Projects, including South Florida initiatives. Melissa is your key resource and, in turn, I expect you to give her your full support. Her contact information is included at the end of this memorandum.

Melissa and I will be in touch with you over the next few weeks regarding issues of statewide concern. Such issues may include initial ground rules and short-term actions designed to improve our working relationships and permitting efficiencies. The Governor's and my expectations are that together we will create a more effective, consistent water resource development and management strategy.

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Toward that end, we need a full team. The Department is working with the Governor's office to fill outstanding Governing Board appointments as quickly as possible. We look forward to the challenges ahead and working together to forge progressive, dynamic water policies for Florida.

Contact info:
Melissa L. Meeker, Deputy Secretary
FDEP Office of Water Policy and Ecosystem Projects
3900 Commonwealth Blvd., MS 23
Tallahassee, FL 32399-3000
melissa.meeker@dep.state.fl.us
850.245.2029

Attachment



RICK SCOTT
GOVERNOR

April 12, 2011

Secretary Herschel Vinyard
Department of Environmental Protection
3900 Commonwealth Boulevard M.S. 49
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dear Secretary Vinyard:

Effective and efficient water management is essential to the public and to the environmental and economic health and welfare of the State. Specifically, current budgetary constraints mandate that water management core responsibilities be carried out in a fiscally responsible manner so that the priorities of water supply, flood protection, and resource protection can be fulfilled. In addition, citizens, including businesses, are entitled to clear, predictable and consistent application of the rules, policies and orders of the Department of Environmental Protection (Department) and the Water Management Districts (Districts) in the implementation of Chapter 373, Florida Statutes (F.S.).

Chapter 373, F.S., establishes the core responsibilities to be carried out by the Department and the State's five Districts as it relates to managing and protecting the State's water resources. Section 373.026(7), F.S., mandates that the Department exercise general supervisory authority over the Districts.

To this end, I expect the Department to supervise activities of the Districts, including their water supply and regulatory activities, to ensure statewide consistency is achieved, taking into account the differing regional characteristics of the State's water resources. Further, the Department should ensure that the core responsibilities undertaken by the Districts are consistent with Chapter 373, F.S., for managing the State's water resources.

I expect these actions to include the following review and oversight of:

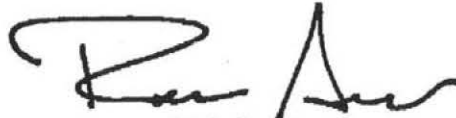
- Proposed budgets and any plans for debt issuance;
- Rulemaking activities for Environmental Resources Permitting, Consumptive Use Permitting, Uniform Mitigation Assessment Methodology, and Minimum flows and Levels rules, practices and related programs;
- Development of meaningful and measurable proposals that will streamline regulatory programs;
- Ensuring consistency across District boundaries;

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- Prior coordination of District positions, including lobbying, of any issues having implications on policy or budgetary matters concerning the State's water resources; and
- Coordination of land acquisition and disposition.

Please ensure that I am updated on District issues periodically.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rick Scott", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Rick Scott
Governor

RS/mm

cc:

George Roberts, Chair, Northwest Florida Water Management District
Donald J. Quincey, Jr., Chairman, Suwannee River Water Management District
W. Leonard Wood, Chairman, St. Johns River Water Management District
Ronald E. Oakley, Chair, Southwest Florida Water Management District
Joe Collins, Chair, South Florida Water Management District
Douglas E. Barr, Executive Director, Northwest Florida Water Management District
David Still, Executive Director, Suwannee River Water Management District
Kirby B. Green, III, Executive Director, St. Johns River Water Management District
Dave Moore, Executive Director, Southwest Florida Water Management District
Carol Ann Wehle, Executive Director, South Florida Water Management District