



Carlos Alvarez, Mayor

Department of Environmental Resources Management

Office of the Director
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October 18, 2007

- ADA Coordination
Agenda Coordination
Art in Public Places
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Aviation
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Building
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Citizen's Independent Transportation Trust
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Community Action Agency
Community & Economic Development
Community Relations
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Countywide Healthcare Planning
Cultural Affairs
Elections
Emergency Management
Employee Relations
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Historic Preservation
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Housing Finance Authority
Human Services
Independent Review Panel
International Trade Consortium
Juvenile Assessment Center
Medical Examiner
Metropolitan Planning Organization
Park and Recreation
Planning and Zoning
Police
Procurement Management
Property Appraiser
Public Library System
Public Works
Safe Neighborhood Parks
Seaport
Solid Waste Management
Strategic Business Management
Team Metro
Transit
Urban Revitalization Task Force
Vizcaya Museum and Gardens
Water and Sewer

Mr. Kipp Frohlich, Section Leader
Imperiled Species Management Section
Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
620 S. Meridian St., MS6A
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dear Mr. Frohlich:

We appreciate receiving your letter of September 18, 2007, regarding information required for updating the Miami-Dade Manatee Protection Plan (MPP).

On October 2, 2007, the Board of County Commissioners approved an ordinance establishing a new citizen's advisory committee, with members appointed by individual commissioners and the Mayor of Miami-Dade County, and requiring the Department of Environmental Resources Management (DERM) to update information needed for the plan. The ordinance requires the appointments to occur within 30 days, and requires an initial meeting within the next 30 days and quarterly thereafter. At the initial meeting, DERM is required to provide an informational presentation to the new committee. The committee is required to set a date for a public hearing for the purpose of receiving comments from the public regarding the nature and scope of the information to be considered in the process of updating the MPP, in addition to data and analysis otherwise required by State law.

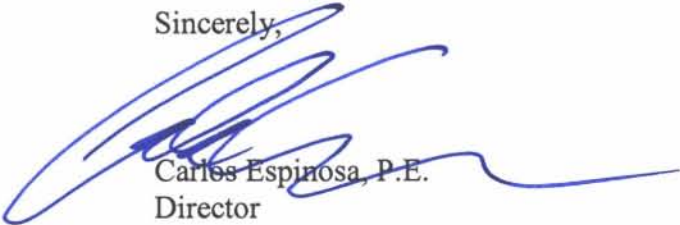
DERM requests assistance from your office in preparing the informational report and briefing the new committee, as well as assisting us with the public hearing. Our department believes that it is very important that the committee members have information directly from the FWC on manatee status and the objectives of the draft Manatee Management Plan with respect to revisions of MPP's. Although we do not yet know the exact date of the first committee meeting, it is our expectation that it will occur in November 2007. We request that you designate a member of your staff to attend the committee meetings and public hearing.

At the Miami-Dade County Commission hearing on October 2, Chair Bruno Barreiro also directed the Department of Environmental Resources Management to request FWC to provide information on manatee mortality in Miami-Dade caused by commercial vessels in comparison to recreational vessels. Our staff is generally aware that few vessel strikes are witnessed. However, we are requesting assistance in responding to Chair Barreiro, so that this information can be provided to the new committee.

Delivering Excellence Every Day

The ordinance requires the MPP update and work of the new committee to be completed within 18 months. This will require close collaboration. We look forward to a continuing partnership with FWC on this task. Please feel free to contact my office should you require assistance or have additional questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Carlos Espinosa, P.E.
Director