



Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
CHARLES H. BRONSON, Commissioner
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Please Respond to:

Office of the Commissioner
PL-10, The Capitol
Tallahassee, Florida 32399
(850) 488-3022

November 15, 2006

Ms. Carol Wehle, Executive Director
South Florida Water Management District
P.O. Box 24680
West Palm Beach, Florida 33416-4680

Dear Ms. Wehle,

It is my pleasure to provide you with a copy of the Florida Agricultural Water Conservation Best Management Practices manual, developed by the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services pursuant to section 570.085, Florida Statutes.

The manual contains technically and economically feasible water conservation techniques that will help to reduce the total amount of irrigation water used by the agricultural industry. Reflecting nearly three years of work by a statewide steering committee representing Florida's diverse agricultural industry, this effort also included the involvement of technical staff from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) and the five water management districts.

I am especially proud that the completion of this manual demonstrates the agricultural industry's commitment to conserving and protecting the state's water resources. On a personal note, the effort follows up on the Department's agreement with FDEP, as reflected in Florida's Agricultural Water Policy, to develop strategies to implement the recommendations of the Water Conservation Initiative report.

Consistent with the authorizing statute, the measures in the manual are designed to qualify for regulatory and other incentives, as determined by the appropriate agency. **As we move forward with implementing the manual, which could include adoption by rule, we would like to discuss with the water management districts and FDEP how it might serve as an incentive-based tool for both regulatory and non-regulatory programs. As part of that discussion, I have asked that this topic be included on the agenda for the next meeting of the Soil and Water Conservation Council, scheduled for January 2007.**



Florida Agriculture and Forest Products
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In preparation for the Council discussion in January, it would be very helpful if your staff could review the manual and consider how it can be most useful to your agency's programs. Our Office of Agricultural Water Policy staff would be happy to talk with your staff about their ideas and answer any questions they may have. The staff contact, Ms. Terry Pride, can be reached at (850) 617-1709.

Thank you for your attention to this important initiative. If you have questions or need more information, please contact Mr. Chuck Aller at (850) 488-3022.

Sincerely,



CHARLES H. BRONSON
COMMISSIONER OF AGRICULTURE

Enclosure

cc: Terry L. Rhodes
Chuck Aller
Rich Budell
Janet Llewellyn, FDEP