



December 5, 2006

DEC - 7 2006

Mr. Scott P. Seeburger
SFECCTA Project Manager
Florida Department of Transportation
District IV Planning and Environmental Management
3400 West Commercial Boulevard
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33309-3421

**Department of Environmental
Resources Management**

2300 North Jog Road, 4th Floor
West Palm Beach, FL 33411-2743
(561) 233-2400
FAX: (561) 233-2414
www.co.palm-beach.fl.us/erm

Dear Mr. Seeburger:

**SUBJECT: COMMENTS ON TIER 1 DRAFT PROGRAMMATIC
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

The Palm Beach County Department of Environmental Resources Management (ERM) has reviewed the Tier 1 Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (DPEIS) for the South Florida East Coast Corridor Transit Analysis Study (SFECCTA). We have the following comments.

Summary Report Wizard

The Chain of Lakes Aquatic Natural Area, the Leon M. Weekes Environmental Preserve, the Lake Worth Lagoon Aquatic Natural Area, the Lake Park Scrub Natural Area, and Peanut Island should have been included in the list of sites under "Identified Resources and Level of Importance." These sites are located within the one-mile buffer area. The Leon M. Weekes Environmental Preserve is owned jointly by Palm Beach County and the City of Delray Beach, and directly abuts the Florida East Coast Railway. Please include these sites in your review.

Two preserve areas owned by the City of Boca Raton are not included on the list: Rosemary Ridge Preserve and Gopher Tortoise Trace Preserve. These sites are located adjacent to the FEC Railway just south of the Leon M. Weekes Environmental Preserve. We recommend that you contact the City of Boca Raton for information on these sites. Jupiter Beach Park and Carlin Park are not located within the one-mile buffer area and should be deleted from the list. The correct name for the natural area listed as "Jupiter Inlet" is "Jupiter Inlet Natural Area."

Figure 0.1

The correct name for the airport located in Lantana is "Palm Beach County Park Airport."

Table A.14

Add Palm Beach County to the list of owners of the Jupiter Ridge Natural Area. Although most of the site is owned by the Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund (BTITF), the County owns several small parcels.

**Palm Beach County
Board of County
Commissioners**

- Addie L. Greene, Chairperson
- Jeff Koons, Vice Chair
- Karen T. Marcus
- Warren H. Newell
- Mary McCarty
- Burt Aaronson
- Jess R. Santamaria

County Administrator

Robert Weisman

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Also add the City of Boca Raton and Palm Beach County to the list of owners of the Yamato Scrub Natural Area. Although most of the site is owned by the BTIITF, the City and the County are joint owners of one parcel.

Jupiter Beach Park and Carlin Park should be deleted from the table. These parks are located outside of the one-mile buffer area. "Jupiter Inlet" should be listed as "Jupiter Inlet Natural Area."

Table 5.5

Delete Jonathan Dickinson State Park and the Hypoluxo Scrub Natural Area from consideration as sites for Operations and Maintenance (O&M) Facilities H and F, respectively. Both sites contain high-quality native communities and listed species and are not suitable sites for the construction of any transportation-related facilities. The Hypoluxo Scrub Natural Area should be on the Conservation and Recreation shape file and not on the FL Land Management Areas shape file, since this site is owned and managed by Palm Beach County.

Figures A.4 and A.5

The boundaries for several municipalities, including the City of Delray Beach, the City of Palm Beach Gardens and the Town of Jupiter, appear to be incorrect on these figures. The current boundaries for municipalities in Palm Beach County that are located adjacent to the FEC Railway are shown on the enclosed figure.

Figure A.11

This figure is based on land use data from 1999. The figure should be updated with more current land use data, if possible.

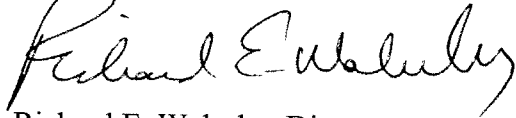
Figures A.31 – A.33

All of the potential contaminant sources in the study area have not been identified, specifically petroleum-contaminated sites. For information on sources and sites in Palm Beach County, contact David Gibson at 561-233-2483 or dgibson@co.palm-beach.fl.us.

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Please contact me at 561-233-2400 or rwalesky@co.palm-beach.fl.us or Sandy Mann at 561-233-2489 or smann@co.palm-beach.fl.us if you have any questions regarding these comments. We appreciate the opportunity to comment on the DPEIS.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Richard E. Walesky". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "R".

Richard E. Walesky, Director
Environmental Resources Management

REW:SLM:KMB
Enclosure