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June 28, 2006

Mr. Fritz A. Behring
County Manager, Clay County
Post Office Box 1366, 477 Houston Street
Green Cove Springs, FL 32043-1366

RE: Clay County Manatee Protection Plan

Dear Mr. Behring:

We received the county-approved Clay County Manatee Protection Plan (MPP) on March 30, 2006. We are pleased to provide the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's (FWC) approval of your plan. Realizing that County staff has been working on this for several years, we applaud the effort of County staff and Clay County's proactive approach to manatee protection.

The positive result of this effort is due to the cooperation and hard work of many groups: staff members of Clay County, the Clay County Parks and Recreation Committee, the Clay County Board of County Commissioners, the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the FWC. The Clay County MPP addresses appropriate locations for future development, while still providing protection for manatees and their habitat in critical-use areas. We think it will bring a successful blend of access and protection to the county's waters.

We look forward to continuing to work cooperatively with County staff to use and implement the provisions outlined in the Clay County MPP. FWC staff is also available for assistance when Clay County amends its comprehensive plan language later this fall. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Ms. Carol Knox or Ms. Terri Calleson of my staff at (850) 922-4330.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kenneth D. Haddad".

Kenneth D. Haddad
Executive Director

kdh/tc

cc: Mr. Glenn R. Lassiter, Chairman, Clay County Board of County Commissioners
Mr. Tom Price, Recreation Director
Mr. Terry Jeffers, Parks and Recreation Department
Mr. Dave Hankla, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Ms. Colleen M. Castille, Florida Department of Environmental Protection
Mr. Kirby B. Green III, St. Johns Water Management District