



Board of County Commissioners
1801 27th Street, Vero Beach, Florida 32960
Telephone: (772) 567-8000 Fax: (772) 778-9391

January 18, 2018

Indian River Lagoon National Estuary Program
Mr. Frank Sakuma, Chief Operating Officer
Via Email: sakuma@ircouncil.org

**RE: Letter of Intent to Apply for Category 1 Restoration Grant
Indian River County Jones' Pier Conservation Area Wetland Restoration**

Dear Mr. Sakuma,

Indian River County intends to apply for funding from the IRLNEP to construct a wetland restoration and enhancement project at the Jones' Pier Conservation Area. In accordance with the requirements of the IRLNEP RFP for Category 1 Restoration Projects, this Letter of Intent provides the following information:

❖ **Requesting Organization Name and Contact Information for the Project Lead**

Organization: Indian River County
Conservation Lands Program
5500 77th Street
Vero Beach, FL 32967

Project Lead: Elizabeth Powell, Conservation Lands Manager
Phone: (772) 226-1873; E-mail: bpowell@ircgov.com

❖ **Participating Organizations or Institutions**

Confirmed: St. John's River Water Management District, Indian River County Historical Society, Indian River County Mosquito Control District, Keep Indian River Beautiful, Environmental Learning Center

Possible: University of Florida Institute for Food and Agricultural Sciences, Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

❖ **Brief Summary of the Project and its Benefits to the Indian River Lagoon**

Prior agricultural uses of the Jones' Pier Conservation Area have eliminated the majority of the natural communities on-site. This 3-acre project will restore/create a mixture of open water and herbaceous wetlands in areas that are dominated by Brazilian pepper and other exotic species. The construction of this project will provide numerous benefits to the Lagoon including treatment of runoff from the site prior to discharge into the Lagoon; creation of high marsh habitat (which is a limited resource in this portion of the Lagoon); providing a refuge for wildlife; removing exotic species and re-vegetating with native plants; and providing broad educational opportunities that engage the public and encourage responsible stewardship of the Lagoon environment.

❖ **Project Funding Request, Major Expenses, and Anticipated Matching Funds**

Funding Request: \$56,000 (40% of the anticipated \$140,000 project cost) for wetland restoration

Major Expenses: Contractor labor for site clearing, earthwork, structure(s), erosion control and re-vegetation

Anticipated Matching Funds: The County has budgeted funds for this project within their 5-year Capital Improvement Plan.

Please do not hesitate to contact me using the information below if you have any questions or require clarification of the information in this letter. We look forward to the opportunity to work with your staff on this unique project.

Sincerely,



Elizabeth Powell
Conservation Lands Manager