



SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

STATEMENT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: June 24, 2008

CONTACT: Kayla Bergeron, (561) 603.8791

STATEMENT

BY

South Florida Water Management District Governing Board Chair Eric Buermann

regarding the

**Announcement by Governor Charlie Crist to Begin Negotiations to Acquire
Agricultural Land Owned by the United States Sugar Corporation**

“This acquisition represents one of the most historic achievements for the protection and restoration of the Everglades since its designation as a national park six decades ago.”

“The opportunity to secure such a monumental agreement to benefit the Everglades presents itself just once in a lifetime. Until today, managing the treatment and delivery of water from Lake Okeechobee directly south to the Everglades has remained a distant dream for those committed to the preservation of this unique ecosystem. I am grateful to the Governor for his bold vision in making this dream a reality.”

###