DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY



JACKSONVILLE DISTRICT CORPS OF ENGINEERS
400 HIGH POINT DRIVE, SUITE 600
COCOA, FLORIDA 32926

March 22, 2013

Regulatory Division North Permits Branch Cocoa Permits Section SAJ-2012-02348(MOD-AWP) Modification-1

Florida Department of Transportation, District 3 Attn: Joy Giddens P.O. Box 607 Chipley, Florida 32428

Dear Ms. Giddens:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) has completed the review and evaluation of your modification request, received on March 12, 2013, in which you asked to authorized the compensatory mitigation required by Department of the Army (DA) permit number SAJ-2012-02348(IP-AWP), issued to Florida Department of Transportation, District 3, dated March 12, 2013. The mitigation site is located at St. Joseph State Buffer Preserve.

By copy of this letter you are authorized to complete the compensatory mitigation at the St. Joseph State Buffer Preserve as described in your March 12, 2013 DA permit. The compensatory mitigation will include impacts to 0.05 acre of waters of the United States (wetlands and surface waters) for the installation of six (6) low water crossings and sixteen (16) ditch plugs along Treasure Road, within the St. Joseph State Buffer Preserve.

Please note that you are required to adhere to the following special condition and all other conditions listed in your DA permit while working at the compensatory mitigation site.

21. **Eastern Indigo Snake Protection Measures:** The Permittee shall comply with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's "Standard Protection Measures for the Eastern Indigo Snake" dated February 12, 2004 and provided in Attachment 1 of this permit."

The impact of your proposal on navigation and the environment has been reviewed and found to be insignificant. The permit is hereby modified in accordance with your request. You should attach this letter to the permit. All other conditions of the permit remain in full force and effect.

If you have any questions concerning permit modification, please contact the project manager Andrew Phillips at the letterhead address, by telephone at 321-504-3771 extension 14 or by electronic mail at andrew.w.phillips@usace.army.mil.

Thank you for your cooperation with our permit program. The Corps Jacksonville District Regulatory Division is committed to improving service to our customers. We strive to perform

our duty in a friendly and timely manner while working to preserve our environment. We invite you to take a few minutes to visit http://per2.nwp.usace.army.mil/survey.html and complete our automated Customer Service Survey. Your input is appreciated – favorable or otherwise. Please be aware this Internet address is case sensitive and should be entered as it appears above.

BY AUTHORITY OF THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY:

Alan M. Dodd

Colonel, U.S. Army District Commander

Enclosure

Copy Furnished:

NWFWMD, Duncan Cairns CESAJ-RD-PE

STANDARD PROTECTION MEASURES FOR THE EASTERN INDIGO SNAKE

- 1. An eastern indigo snake protection/education plan shall be developed by the applicant or requestor for all construction personnel to follow. The plan shall be provided to the Service for review and approval at least 30 days prior to any clearing activities. The educational materials for the plan may consist of a combination of posters, videos, pamphlets, and lectures (e.g., an observer trained to identify eastern indigo snakes could use the protection/education plan to instruct construction personnel before any clearing activities occur). Informational signs should be posted throughout the construction site and along any proposed access road to contain the following information:
 - a. a description of the eastern indigo snake, its habits, and protection under Federal Law;
 - b. instructions not to injure, harm, harass or kill this species;
 - c. directions to cease clearing activities and allow the eastern indigo snake sufficient time to move away from the site on its own before resuming clearing; and,
 - d. telephone numbers of pertinent agencies to be contacted if a dead eastern indigo snake is encountered. The dead specimen should be thoroughly soaked in water and then frozen.
- 2. If not currently authorized through an Incidental Take Statement in association with a Biological Opinion, only individuals who have been either authorized by a section 10(a)(1)(A) permit issued by the Service, or by the State of Florida through the Florida Fish Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) for such activities, are permitted to come in contact with an eastern indigo snake.
- 3. An eastern indigo snake monitoring report must be submitted to the appropriate Florida Field Office within 60 days of the conclusion of clearing phases. The report should be submitted whether or not eastern indigo snakes are observed. The report should contain the following information:
 - a. any sightings of eastern indigo snakes and
 - b. other obligations required by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, as stipulated in the permit.