

## **DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY**

JACKSONVILLE DISTRICT CORPS OF ENGINEERS P. O. BOX 4970 JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA 32232-0019

March 18, 2015

REPLY TO ATTENTION OF

Regulatory Division Special Projects & Enforcement Branch SAJ-2011-00287-TMF

Mr. Brett Cyphers, Executive Director Northwest Florida Water Management District 81 Water Management Drive Havana, Florida 32333

Dear Mr. Cyphers:

Reference is made to your proposal submitted to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), for the establishment of the Northwest Florida Water Management District In-Lieu-Fee Program (NWFWMD ILF Program). The NWFWMD ILF Program is located within the boundary of the Northwest Florida Water Management District, which covers 11,305 square miles and seven watershed areas and includes the following counties: Bay, Calhoun, Escambia, Franklin, Gadsden, Gulf, Holmes, Jackson, Leon, Liberty, Okaloosa, Santa Rosa, Wakulla, Walton, Washington and western Jefferson County, Florida.

The Corps, in consultation with the Interagency Review Team (IRT), has completed the evaluation of the NWFWMD ILF Program and hereby approves and endorses the final NWFWMD In-Lieu-Fee Program Instrument (ILF Instrument) submitted to this office on February 2, 2015. We have determined that NWFWMD ILF Program will serve to provide appropriate compensatory mitigation for future impacts to waters of the United States (U.S.) within the approved mitigation service area (MSA).

We are pleased to enclose a copy of the page bearing the Corps signature, which needs to be attached to your copy of the approved ILF Instrument. A copy of the approved ILF Instrument will also be available for review at the Regulatory In-Lieu Fee and Bank Information Tracking System (RIBITS) web address: <u>https://ribits.usace.army.mil</u>. To access the ILF Program information in RIBITS, select "Jacksonville" from the "ALL DISTRICTS" dropdown menu, click on "ILF Programs", select Northwest Florida Water Management District from the populated list, and click on the "Cyber Repository" link located on the menu bar above the General Information box then select ILF Program Instrument to view the ILF Instrument.

Thank you for your cooperation with the Jacksonville District Mitigation Review Team.

Should you have any questions concerning this matter, you may contact Ms. Teresa M. Frame by electronic mail at <u>Teresa.M.Frame@usace.army.mil</u>, at the letterhead address, or by telephone at 904-232-1677.Sincerely,

Sincerely,

for

Donald W. Kinard Chief, Regulatory Division

Enclosure

Copy Furnished: (w/o encl.)

- Ms. Rosemary Hall, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 4, 61 Forsyth Street, S.W., 9T25, Atlanta, Georgia 30303-8960
- Mr. Eric Somerville, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 4, 61 Forsyth Street, S.W., 9T25, Atlanta, Georgia 30303-8960
- Ms. Mary Mittiga, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, 1601 Balboa Avenue, Panama City, Florida 32405
- Mr. Mark Sramek, National Marine Fisheries Service, Habitat Conservation Division, 263 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue South, St. Petersburg, Florida 33701-5505
- Mr. Jason Hight, Office of Conservation Planning Services, Division of Habitat and Species Conservation, 620 S. Meridian Street, MS 5B5, Tallahassee, FL 32399-1600