

CITY OF  
**SEBASTIAN**  
  
HOME OF PELICAN ISLAND

1225 MAIN STREET • SEBASTIAN, FLORIDA 32958  
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October 15, 2007

Richard Baker, President  
Pelican Island Audubon Society  
PO Box 1833  
Vero Beach, Florida 32961


Dear Mr. Baker:

At their Regular Meeting on Wednesday, October 10, 2007, the Sebastian City Council unanimously voted to inform the State of Florida that a 1,265 acre parcel, located in Indian River County and also known as "Berry Groves", should stay conservation and in ownership of the St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD). Further, the City of Sebastian urges that the State of Florida reverse the land exchange between SJRWMD and the Pat Corrigan Family Partnership and Hugh Corrigan Family Partnership.

The Berry Groves property was purchased by SJRWMD utilizing the Preservation 2000 Conversation Lands program. As a mark of its environmental significance this property contains abundant wetlands, native uplands and is habitat to many protected Florida scrub-jays. This land was further identified at the state level for its importance as a wildlife corridor connecting the Upper St. Johns River Basin Project with the St. Sebastian River Preserve State Park. Moreover, to exchange this property, not only sets poor precedent by releasing sensitive conservation lands that had been surplus, it violates the public trust.

Therefore on behalf of the City Council of the City of Sebastian Florida, I urge that the State of Florida take action and keep this parcel in public ownership for the purpose of land conservation.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Andrea B. Coy  
Mayor

Cc: Charlie Crist, Governor  
Bill McCollum, Attorney General  
Alex Sink, Chief Financial Officer  
Charles Bronson, Agricultural Commissioner  
Mike Haridopolos, Senator  
Ralph Poppell, Representative  
Stan Mayfield, Representative  
Members of the Sebastian City Council