



## South Florida Water Management District

P.O. Box 24680 • 3501 Gun Club Road • West Palm Beach, FL 33416-4680 • (407) 686-8800 • FL WATS 1-800-432-2045

ORA/0023

March 15, 1989

Ms. Carole Helene, President  
Arch Creek Trust  
431 N.W. 146th Street  
Miami, FL 33168

Dear Ms. Helene:

Over the years, Arch Creek has been the subject of many complaints with regard to aquatic weeds such as alligator weed, torpedo grass and duckweed. While everyone would like to see these nuisance weeds controlled, there has never been a true consensus as to the best method for accomplishing that goal. Countless efforts have been devoted to evaluating alternative methods for the control of these weeds in Arch Creek.

In July of 1988 this agency initiated a chemical treatment program for Arch Creek that met opposition from the Arch Creek Trust which continues to voice concern about the environmentally sensitive nature of this area. After months of reevaluation and extensive coordination with other agencies the District is excited about a new approach to the duckweed dilemma.

In April, the District will introduce sterile grass carp into Arch Creek to help control the growth of duckweed and reduce the need for chemical treatment of aquatic weeds in the future. The grass carp is a herbivorous fish that tends to feed on the surface and in shallow water. Its preferred diet is duckweed.

This biological approach to weed control has been successful in other areas within the state and Dade County. The grass carp may reduce the need for chemical treatment of aquatic weeds in Arch Creek, however it will not totally eliminate this method. In fact, prior to stocking the Creek with grass carp, it will need to be chemically treated to reduce the intensity of the duckweed. This will greatly improve the effectiveness of the grass carp.

It is anticipated that the Creek will be treated no more than twice before stocking it with the grass carp. The first treatment is scheduled for March 22, 1989. The canal will be posted the day of treatment and each condominium association and single-family residence adjacent to the treated area of the canal will receive an additional notice the day of treatment.

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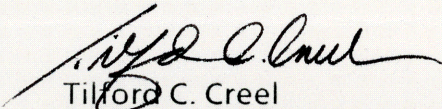
John R. Wodraska, Executive Director  
Tilford C. Creel, Deputy Executive Director

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Our staff has worked hard to develop an aquatic weed control method that is sensitive to the environmental qualities of the Arch Creek area while still meeting the maintenance and operational responsibilities of this agency. Your cooperation and support of this approach will be greatly appreciated.

If you have any questions please contact Kathy Copeland, 1-800-432-2045 or 407-8800, extension 6303.

Sincerely,



Tilford C. Creel  
Deputy Executive Director  
South Florida Water Management District

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