



South Florida Water Management District

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PUB 08 RF 94090

January 25, 1994

Ms. Carol Helene
President
Arch Creek Trust
1855 N.E. 135 Street
North Miami, Florida 33181

Dear Ms. Helene:

Thank you for your letter dated November 21, 1993. The South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) fully supports the restoration and preservation of Arch Creek. Originally the Arch Creek water control structure (G-58) at 135th street was installed to prevent the loss of fresh water to tide and protect the old North Miami municipal wellfields. The SFWMD initiated, through the Biscayne Bay Surface Water Improvement and Management (SWIM) Plan, an assessment of the nature and quantification of contamination sources in the Arch Creek drainage basin.

The results of this preliminary assessment conducted by Dade County Department of Environmental Resource Management (DERM) indicate that the area's stormwater drainage system is a contributor to the contamination of Arch Creek. Nearly all of the water samples taken from Arch Creek showed levels that did not meet regulatory or recommended surface water quality standards. Total coliform bacteria showed concentration levels between one to three orders of magnitude higher than the standard. Phosphorous and nitrogen loading, possibly from septic tanks and fertilizer runoff, have also contributed to the creek's eutrophication. Additionally, studies on munisport landfill show the projected groundwater plume from this site intersecting Arch Creek. This raises questions regarding the impacts of the landfill site on Arch Creek. The Environmental Protection Agency and the City of North Miami are the lead agencies working to clean up the munisport landfill (see enclosed executive summary).

Metropolitan Dade County and the City of North Miami through their stormwater utilities and master planning efforts are in the process of developing projects to resolve the stormwater and contamination situations facing their area of jurisdiction. Dade County DERM staff is aware of the situation in Arch Creek and will be using the above mentioned data in the development of the stormwater plans for the basin. This information will be made available to the City of North Miami for their use in the development of the city's stormwater master plan.

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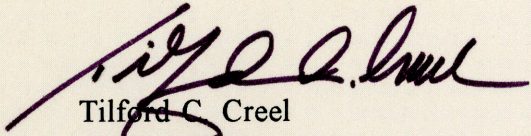
Tilford C. Creel, Executive Director
Thomas K. MacVicar, Deputy Executive Director

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The SFWMD does not have the resources to develop and implement the clean-up required at Arch Creek. However, the District is committed to assist the Arch Creek Trust to work with local governments on the water quality enhancement and restoration of Arch Creek.

If you have further questions please contact Julio Fanjul at 305-663-6622.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Tilford C. Creel", written over the typed name.

Tilford C. Creel
Executive Director
South Florida Water Management District

TCC\jf

Enclosure