



June 21, 2013

Mr. Thomas Colios, Section Leader
South Florida Water Management District
PO Box 24680
West Palm Beach, Florida 33416

Mr. Steve Spencer, Professional Geologist
Florida Department of Environmental Protection
Oil & Gas Program
2051 East Paul Dirac Drive - M.S. 715
Tallahassee, Florida 32310

Re: FDEP and SFWMD Permits for Oil Drilling in the Camp Keais Agricultural Development
(Collier 22-3H)

Dear Mr. Colios and Mr. Spencer,

The Friends of the Florida Panther Refuge is a non-profit volunteer organization that works to support the 26,400-acre National Wildlife Refuge that was established in Collier County to protect the critically endangered Florida panther and its habitat. We are writing in regards to the application through the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) to permit Service Well Collier 22-5 SWDW and Drill Well Collier 22-3H, as well as the application for a general water use permit to support this operation through the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) #130325-12.

The Florida Panther National Wildlife Refuge strives to provide optimum habitat for the Florida panther and its prey, as well as to conserve the natural diversity, abundance, and ecological function of plants and animals found on the Refuge and within the South Florida ecosystem. Our organization's mission echoes these goals.

Concerns and Questions Regarding Water Resources

The well site is less than a mile away from the Refuge's western boundary. We are concerned that the drilling at this site, particularly with the pumping of five million gallons of water per month, will adversely affect the adjacent wetlands. Modeling of the water withdrawal indicates a drawdown of several inches of parts of the regionally-significant Stumpy Strand wetland

