BRIAN J. MAST 21st District, FLORIDA

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Congress of the United States House of Representatives

Item 14

2182 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

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Washington, DC 20515-0918

May 15, 2025

The Honorable Maria G. Marino Mayor Palm Beach County Board of Commissioners 301 N. Olive Avenue, Suite 1201 West Palm Beach, Florida 33401

Dear Mayor Marino,

As you know, Phillips and Jordan has proposed an 8,000-acre project to the South Florida Water Management District called the Southland Water Resource Project that is under consideration for your approval.

The federal government has invested billions of dollars into the Everglades Agricultural Area Reservoir and other Everglades restoration infrastructure that could be put at risk by this project. As a result, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is currently conducting an analysis to ensure that the Southland project will not jeopardize progress on Everglades restoration or risk the health and safety of the community.

I am writing to urge you to delay a decision on approval of this project until after the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has conducted their analysis to ensure that this project will not interfere with federally authorized restoration initiatives, waste taxpayer dollars or put lives at risk.

I appreciate your immediate attention to this matter prior to the scheduled vote. If you have any questions, please contact Ross Dietrich in my office at ross.dietrich@mail.house.gov.

Sincerely

Brian Mast

Member of Congress

cc:

Vice Mayor Sara Baxter Commissioner Marci Woodward Commissioner Maria Sachs Commissioner Bobby Powell Jr. Commissioner Gregg K. Weiss

Commissioner Gregg R. Weiss

Commissioner Joel G. Flores

Drew Bartlett, Executive Director, South Florida Water Management District