



## SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

January 1, 2019

The Honorable Rick Scott  
Governor, State of Florida  
PL05, The Capitol  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0001

Dear Governor Scott:

First, let me congratulate you on your election to the U.S. Senate. It has been an honor to serve as one of your gubernatorial appointees during your successful tenure as our Governor and I know you will take that knowledge and expertise to Washington and represent our great state efficiently, effectively, and eloquently.

As one of your Governing Board appointees to the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD), I have been proud to move your initiatives forward. We have finished more projects, allocated more dedicated funding toward restoration, and moved legislation forward that protects the environment and conserves for future generations to come during your eight years as our Governor.

As the largest water management district in the state that is also responsible for restoring America's Everglades, we have been met with many unique challenges. We have been able to overcome those challenges and move forward large-scale capital projects that could not have been possible without your understanding and support.

During my four-year tenure, I have focused on improving our communications directly with the public through our website, social media, and podcasts. We have been able to empower the taxpayers of our district with information direct from our many highly qualified and regarded scientists. I have enjoyed working closely with our field staff and land management team as the Chair of the Project and Lands Committee as we focused on the surplus lands that are not needed, putting them back on the tax rolls and dedicated those revenues for management of conservation lands that will benefit the region on the whole. And, lastly, I have enjoyed working with my fellow board members as we made landmark decisions that we believe will benefit future generations of Floridians.

It is with this sentiment I offer my formal resignation from the Governing Board effective January 1, 2019, as my businesses require more of my personal attention. I have the utmost confidence in our staff and the board to continue the good work that your initiatives have led us to accomplish thus far. I also know that with you as a partner in Congress, the SFWMD will have the voice and advocate it has needed for so long.

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Thank you for entrusting me with this great honor to serve on the board of the SFWMD.  
It is an experience I will cherish for many years to come.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'MPA', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Melanie Peterson

c: Governor's Appointments Office