UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 4
ATLANTA FEDERAL CENTER
61 FORSYTH STREET, SW
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303-3104

December 16, 2020

Office of Governor Ron DeSantis
State of Florida
The Capitol
400 South Monroe St.
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0001

Subject: Notice of Approval of Florida's Assumption of the Clean Water Act Section 404 Program

Dear Governor DeSantis:

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has concluded its review of Florida's request to assume administration of a Clean Water Act (CWA) Section 404 program. After review of the program and consideration of all comments received, the EPA has concluded that Florida's program has the necessary authority to operate a CWA Section 404 program in accordance with the requirements found in CWA Sections 404(g-l) and EPA's implementing regulations. Therefore, I am very pleased to inform you that Florida's assumption of the CWA Section 404 program is approved. Florida will begin permitting responsibility for these discharges upon publication of EPA's approval in the Federal Register.

We appreciate the significant effort by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection in developing this program and memoranda of agreement that were enclosed with your submission, in coordination with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. National Marine Fisheries Service, the State Historic Properties Officer, Tribes, and my staff. EPA looks forward to working with you as you take on this additional responsibility managing the State's waters.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call me at (404) 562-8357 or have a member of your staff contact Ms. Jeaneanne M. Gettle, Director of the Water Division, at (404) 562-9345.

Sincerely,

Mary S. Walker
Regional Administrator

cc: The Honorable Noah Valenstein, Secretary
Florida Department of Environmental Protection

Mr. John Truitt, Deputy Secretary for Regulatory Programs
Florida Department of Environmental Protection