



# St. Johns River Water Management District

Kirby B. Green III, Executive Director • David W. Fisk, Assistant Executive Director

*Yere Caputo  
JES*

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On the Internet at [www.sjrwmd.com](http://www.sjrwmd.com).

May 10, 2006

Mr. Skip Goerner, Chairman  
Harris Chain of Lakes Council  
05101-60 Eagles Nest Road  
Fruitland Park, FL 34731

Re: Spillway Park Marina Seawall

Dear Chairman Goerner:

At their April 7, 2006 meeting, the Council requested the SJRWMD evaluate the structural problems associated with the seawall at the Spillway Park Marina owned by Mr. Richard Howley.

District staff have made several visits to the marina to inspect the seawall and surrounding area both above and below the waterline. They found no evidence of scour or undermining near the seawall that would indicate impacts due to discharge from the Burrell spillway. Staff have also interviewed Mr. Howley regarding the seawall. We learned the current seawall is approximately 22 years old, built during the 1984 Lake Griffin drawdown. It was made from concrete blocks anchored 8-inches below a hardpan bottom, with steel reinforcing rods and concrete fill in the block cells. Earthen fill was placed behind the seawall to create the grade for the concrete walkway. The seawall was likely not constructed with tiebacks or weep holes. On March 3, 2006, the Council meeting included a field trip to the marina, where John Richmond, a professional engineer on my staff, gave a presentation of his findings that included the information mentioned above.

Based upon my staff's observations and information provided by Mr. Howley, I believe discharges from the Burrell structure have not impacted the seawall. It is likely suffering from deterioration due to its age. Also, the seawall may have been constructed without some key elements that would help overcome forces from the backfill and groundwater trying to tip it over.

This is a privately owned structure. It would not be appropriate to use public funds to repair it, especially since the problems with the structure appear to be due to its design and construction. The owner of this structure is responsible for this structure.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey C. Elledge, P.E., Director  
Department of Water Resources

JE/drw

C: Mr. Richard Howley  
Kirby B. Green III

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