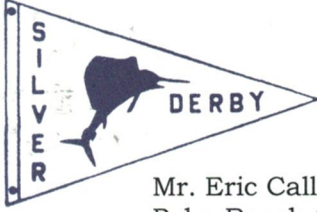




WEST PALM BEACH FISHING CLUB

~ Established 1934 ~



February 19, 2016

Mr. Eric Call, Director
Palm Beach County Parks and Recreation Department
2700 6th Avenue South
Lake Worth, FL

RE: 2016 FBIP Application for the Bert Winters Park Expansion Project

Dear Mr. Call:

The 1,300 member West Palm Beach Fishing Club is pleased to support Palm Beach County's Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission - Florida Boating Improvement Program grant application, requesting funding for the renovation and expansion of the boating facilities at Bert Winters Park.

The construction of a second entrance road along the northern portion of the Park will go a long way to improve traffic flow and circulation, something that has become increasingly more difficult at older ramp facilities since the size of trucks and trailers has increased over the years. We support reconfiguring the layout of the existing 24 car/trailer parking spaces and increasing the spaces to 45. The addition of 3 new staging docks and the renovation of the existing boat ramps will be a welcomed improvement, along with a new restroom facility.

The County is requesting \$200,000 in FBIP grant funds for this project. If awarded, the FBIP grant will be matched with monies from the 2004 Waterfront Access and Preservation Bond. The County is also submitting a Florida Inland Navigation District - Waterway Assistance Program grant application requesting \$1 million in grant funding.

There are over 37,000 registered vessels in the County, and only three public boat launching facilities serving the Jupiter Inlet; Bert Winters, Burt Reynolds, and Juno Park. Demand for facilities like this is only expected to increase in the future. All of the ramps in northern Palm Beach County are overcapacity on most weekends and holidays, resulting in congestion and sometime unsafe launching conditions.

This renovation/expansion project provides direct access to the Intracoastal Waterway, nearby waterfront restaurants, the Juno Dunes Natural Area, Jupiter Inlet, and ultimately, the Atlantic Ocean. The positive economic impact of boating is well documented. We believe this boating facility project will benefit both residents and visitors to Palm Beach County. The Bert Winters Park Expansion project has the full support of the West Palm Beach Fishing Club.

Sincerely,

Tom Twyford
President

Cc: Pete Schulz, WPBFC Chairman