

# SAVE OUR INDIAN RIVER SANCTUARY

- **Loss of a 12.9-acre Conservation Easement on the Indian River**  
Communications continue with the FL DEP to remove the existing River Watch Conservation Easement on the Indian River to allow dredging, removal of mangroves and gasoline powered engines which would be devastating to the manatee population that frequent the area to give birth in this protective environment.
- **A multi-family development on a 9.91-acre wetland parcel**  
Plans have been submitted to build on a site next to the Conservation Easement and a 150-acre wetland preserve on the Indian River.

Marine experts and Environmental organizations speak out:

- **Dr. Grant Gilmore, Senior Scientist, Estuary and Coastal Science, Inc. researched the area and stated, “The barrier island habitat in this region of the Lagoon is the only nursery habitat for marine mangrove fishes, Goliath grouper, gray snapper, snook and tarpon included.”**
- **. Andreas Mager, Jr., of the National Marine Fisheries Service, wrote of the mangroves which border the Conservation Easement “The site includes area identified as Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) by the South Atlantic Fish Hatchery Council.”**
- **Amy Griffin, Director of the St. Lucie County Environmental Resources Department, requested that the DEP “...deny any such request that could harm our local aquatic resources and contradict our local regulations protecting this valuable resource.”**
- **Shari Anker, President- Conservation Alliance of St. Lucie County, wrote, “The site (mangrove wetlands and submerged lands) provides important nursery and foraging areas for a variety of commercially important fish and shellfish species.”**

**Re: River Watch Conservation Easement: Section 11, Range 41 E, St. Lucie, FL**

**Re: Sopotnick Duplex Parcel ID: 4511-444-0001-000-2**

# **SOS** RiverWatch Conservation Easement



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