



December 9, 2019

Kendall Carson  
Coordinator, Agricultural Programs  
South Florida State College

Florida Fish  
and Wildlife  
Conservation  
Commission

Subject: Industrial hemp hydroponic pilot project

Dear Ms. Carson,

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission Invasive Plant Management Section has no opposition to the industrial hemp hydroponic pilot project as currently proposed in the provided December 5, 2019 Project Plan. Alternations to this plan would require a rereview.

It is the responsibility of the Invasive Plant Management Section to direct the Aquatic Plant Management Permitting program that authorizes the management and control of aquatic plants in waters of the state. This program is designed to ensure that beneficial native aquatic plants are protected and that activities under a permit or permit exemption do not cause adverse impacts to Florida's freshwater systems. Our rules and regulations pertain to the control, eradication, removal, or other alteration of aquatic plant species, as well as revegetation with aquatic plant species.

There are no issues found with the pilot project that conflict with Florida statute or rule (F.S. 360.20 and Chapter 68F-20, F.A.C.), provided that:

- 1) permission has been obtain from the adjacent riparian owner (South Florida State College) to locate the project along their shoreline,
- 2) the hydroponic mats will be placed in an area where they do not compete directly with existing native aquatic vegetation for resources, and
- 3) the hemp plants will not be planted into the hydrosol.

Should you like to discuss further, please do not hesitate to contact me at [Geoffrey.Lokuta@MyFWC.com](mailto:Geoffrey.Lokuta@MyFWC.com) or 863-578-1122.

Best,

Geoffrey Lokuta  
Biological Scientist III  
Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission  
Invasive Plant Management Section

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