



City of Marco Island

November 12, 2009

Joan M. Colfer, M.D., M.P.H.
Director – Collier County Health Department
3301 Tamiami Trail East Bldg H-2
Naples, FL 34112

Re: Septic Tank to Cistern Conversion – Permit Fee Refund

Dear Dr. Colfer:

The City of Marco Island fully supports the State of Florida Health Department change in the septic tank abandonment program. We also actively support any water conservation option that allows the conversion of a septic tank into a cistern. The City is committed to conservation and views this as another tool available to our community.

We would first like to thank you for allowing your Environmental Health staff to work with our City staff to create a unified process for the conversion of septic tanks to cisterns on Marco Island. These efforts have created a step-by-step procedure to allow any property owner to understand and comply with both state and local requirements to safely convert a septic tank to a cistern. We hope this will lead to increased water conservation efforts on Marco Island and within Collier County.

Although we have yet to experience a successful cistern conversion on Marco Island, we are aware of several local active Health Department permits for this process.

To further promote water conservation by converting septic tanks to cisterns, City Council has committed to refund the City inspection fee or permit upon successful completion of a residential cistern conversion effort. This \$105 refund will encourage more septic tank to cistern conversions. City Council recognizes that it can only address the local permit fees.

The City of Marco Island is asking that the Collier County Health Department consider adopting a similar septic to cistern permit fee (\$295) refund process for the same cost saving and water conservation reasons. To do so will demonstrate that

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the County also values this conservation effort. We look forward to a positive response to our request.

The City of Marco Island will continue to work closely with the Collier County Health Department on this issue to ensure that any septic to cistern conversions on Marco Island are completed safely and in compliance with all state and local rules.

Sincerely,

Rob Popoff
City Council Chairman

cc: Collier County Commission Chairman Donna Fiala
City Council
Steve Thompson, City manager
Gerald Briggs – DOH, Tallahassee