

PERMIT COMPLIANCE SEASIDE CONDOMINIUMS Key West, FL

SWC (Sandra Walters Consultants, Inc.) worked with the owners of the condominium complex on South Roosevelt Boulevard in Key West and South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) staff to settle issues regarding the status of compliance with the property's environmental resource permit. Non-compliance proved to be largely procedural, but the client chose to "go the extra mile" and offered to make a significant improvement to the adjacent, environmentally-sensitive Salt Ponds.

A meeting with local environmental activists resulted in identification of a project—installation of a culvert under a City road that would restore the hydrologic connection between the Riviera Canal and western Salt Ponds. SWC worked with the District to develop a consent agreement that spelled out in detail all further work required on the client's property as well as the offsite project. The agreement was adopted unanimously by the SFWMD governing board and was also accepted by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Following installation of the Salt Ponds culvert, the SFWMD held a ceremony awarding a plaque of appreciation to the property owners for being so cooperative in settling the agency's concerns and being proactive for the environment, and a front-page article in the local newspaper commemorated the event.



Key West Golf Club back in full swing Friday — Page 1B

Salt Ponds project improves tidal flow



Environmental Auditor Sandy Miller explains the recently completed Salt Ponds mitigation project Sunday.

Developer bankrolls culvert as mitigation effort

BY WENDY BOLEN
Staff Writer
 A Key West developer received accolades Tuesday for doing the right thing when spending \$2.5 million to restore tidal flow to the city's Salt Ponds by installing a culvert under Government Road, off Highway Avenue.
 The Salt Ponds developer of the Seaside community along South Roosevelt Boulevard, which includes Ocean View, apartments, Lofts and condominiums and Salt Ponds residences, had no corporate mitigation work to make up for environmental impacts caused by building on those wetlands.
 The project included paying a variety of or completing a variety of small environmental projects on the site of the condominium development.
 Miller and staff, along with Sandy Miller, Environmental Consultants, South Florida Water Management District and Army Corps of Engineers, selected an off-site project that cost nearly double what the other mitigation would have cost.
 "They agreed to do some mitigation for existing wetlands, and agreed to some really strategic mitigation," Seaside City Manager John Basso said on Tuesday. "That culvert means a whole new environment for those. District went way beyond what he was required to do."
 "This is the first major initiative toward mitigation and enhancement of the Salt Ponds," said Stacy Myers, SFWMD's who attended a luncheon Tuesday to recognize Miller's efforts. After meeting with Guardians of the Salt Ponds, a non-ribotical environmental group that focused on preserving the wetlands area, Basso said he knew a new culvert was needed to restore the historical flow of water, Sandy Walters said.
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 The Salt Ponds area of Key West has become a hotbed for development, with large houses and homes, hyper-culvert, connecting wetlands with salt, then bringing the water to the surface there.
 "That culvert was one of the main items on our wish list," said Ron Trapp, a founding member of Guardians of the Salt Ponds. "We're getting a lot of good things through this one. The culvert is excellent."
 The city also is working on several other mitigation projects to further restore tidal flow through the Salt Ponds, Basso said.
miller@swcinc.com

