

December 12, 2013

To whom it may concern:

I am writing to verify, to the best of my knowledge, that the USF/Busch Gardens tree trimming re-use program qualifies for the STARS Innovation Credits. Under an agreement that started in March 2013, the University of South Florida delivers campus tree trimmings to Busch Gardens for use as fresh food (i.e., green leaves) for the animals who live at the park. In addition, woody materials from trimmings are integrated into animal enclosures.

This is a new and innovative program that provides a much more sustainable method of handling the products (i.e., waste) of tree trimming activities. Waste from such activities are generally handled either by disposal in landfills and waste incinerators, or by composting using energy intensive processes (e.g., fossil-fuel driven mixing and grinding equipment). These traditional methods result in the release of CO₂ from the required energy inputs in the case of incineration or composting, or result in the loss of valuable nutrients from the green vegetation in the case of landfill disposal.

This innovative partnership between USF and Busch Gardens results in a much more sustainable solution for a few reasons. First, the nutrients from the green vegetation are utilized first by the animals that eat the material. The use of this source of food allows the theme park to avoid the use of other non-sustainable fresh food sources. Second, the remaining nutrient value, in the form of animal wastes, is further utilized as organic fertilizer for the growing of food crops for human consumption. As president of the Board of Directors of Sweetwater Organic Community Farm (sweetwater-organic.org), I can verify that the farm uses "Zoo Poo" as the primary input to its own composted fertilizer used to produce CSA food shares for over 400 local families. Therefore, the trimmings of USF trees are used as valuable inputs to the feeding of animals and the feeding of humans. Finally, the integration of woody material trimming waste into the construction of animal enclosures results in the avoidance of the use of harvested (i.e., non-waste) wood products.

My qualifications to verify that this program meets the criteria for the STARS Innovation Credits stem from my research experience in the field of urban forest management, my doctorate in Environmental Science and Geography, my undergraduate and master's degrees in plant science and botany, and my experience designing the campus recycling program in my former job as campus recycling program coordinator for the University of New Hampshire.

Sincerely,

Shawh M. Landry, Ph.D. Research Associate Professor and Program Director

FLORIDA CENTER FOR COMMUNITY DESIGN AND RESEARCH • SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE AND COMMUNITY DESIGN University of South Florida • 4202 East Fowler Avenue, HMS301 • Tampa, FL 33620-9951 (813) 974-4590 • Fax (813) 974-6023 • Landry@usf.edu • www.fccdr.usf.edu Mr. Jeff Andrews V.P. of Zoological Operations Busch Gardens Tampa 3605 E. Bougainvillea Avenue Tampa, FL 33612

Dear Mr. Andrews:

This Letter of Agreement ("LOA") is intended to memorialize the agreement between Busch Gardens Tampa ("Busch") and the University of South Florida ("USF"), collectively the "Parties" or "Party" concerning the provision of browse by USF to Busch. This LOA will be for a term of one (1) year from the date of the last signature hereto, and may be renewed for successive one (1) year terms upon the mutual agreement of the Parties. This LOA may be terminated by either Party upon no less than ten calendar (10) days' notice.

In consideration of Ten-Dollars (\$10) paid on a per year basis by Busch to USF, Busch will be permitted to place a trailer, of a size and type mutually agreed to by the Parties, within the secured compound accessed via Lot 14 on the USF campus. Busch acknowledges that USF assumes no liability for the safe keeping of the trailer while on the USF campus. Periodically, employees of the USF Division of Physical Plant will place browse, consisting of tree trimmings from live oaks and palm fronds, within the trailer. During normal working hours, and at such other times as may be agreed to by the Parties, Busch will have the browse removed from the USF campus and transported to the Busch facility. Busch acknowledges that USF is providing the browse "asis" with no warranty as to its fitness for a particular use. Upon notice of termination of this LOA given by either Party, Busch will remove the trailer from the USF site on, or prior to, the termination date.

Busch will maintain comprehensive general liability insurance in amounts standard in the industry. Said insurance will name the State of Florida, the Florida Board of Governors and the USF Board of Trustees as additional insured's for any activities taking place on the USF campus pursuant to this LOA.

If these terms as stated above are agreeable to you, please sign both copies of this LOA where indicated below, returning one original to my attention and maintain one original for your records.

Jeff Andrews V.P. of Zoological Operations Busch Gardens Tampa

Date: 12/13/12

Nick Trivunovich Vice President Business & Finance University of south Florida System

Date: 2/15/13

Approved as to Form and W. Lavandera Attorney USF

University of South Florida Attention: Nick Trivunovich, Vice President Business & Finance 4202 E. Fowler Ave CGS 401 Tampa, Florida-33620

RE: USF Campus - Removal of Trees for use by Busch Gardens Tampa

Dear Mr. Trivunovich:

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Reference is hereby made to the Letter Agreement between Busch Gardens Tampa ("BGT") and The University of South Florida ("USF") dated August 8, 2012 and signed February 15, 2013. In addition to the items described therein, BGT will be permitted to collect tree material designated for removal by USF from the USF campus property between April 8, 2013 and February 15, 2014. BGT will assume all responsibility for the collection of such items pursuant to the Terms of the letter.

Please signify your agreement with these terms by signing 2 copies of this Letter Agreement and return the 2 originals to BGT for signature. BGT will return one original signed copy to you

AGREED TO AND ACCEPTED

this	day of	, 2013.
THE T	NIVERSI	TY OF SOUTH FLORIDA
Name:	Nick Triv	unovich
Title:	Vice Presi	ident Business & Finance
	University	of South Florida
Date Si	gned: 04	4/23/13
BUSCI	I GARDE	NS TAMPA
By:		M
Name:	Jeff Andre	WS
Title:	Vice Presi Busch Gar 3605 E. Bo Tampa Flo	dent of Zoological Operation dens Tampa pugainvillea Avenue rida 33612
Date Si	gned:	0 113 113
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Approved as to Form and Legal Sufficiency Henry W!Lavandera Attorney USF

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Re: Evidence of SeaWorld insurance supple	d to University	of South Fl	orida in support of BGT-USF browse	e collection	program				
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CERTIFICATE HOLDER					ELLATION				
University of South Florida Attn: Nick Trivunovich, VP Business & Finance 4202 E. Fowler Avenue, STOP CGS401 Tamme EL 33620					SHOULD ANY OF THE ABOVE DESCRIBED POLICIES BE CANCELLED BEFORE THE EXPIRATION DATE THEREOF, NOTICE WILL BE DELIVERED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE POLICY PROVISIONS.				
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						AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE of Marsh USA Inc.					
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							© 19	88-2010 AC	ORD CORPORATION.	All rig	hts reserved.

DATE (MM/DD/YYYY)

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BUSCI	I GARDE	NS TAMPA
By:		M
Name:	Jeff Andre	WS
Title:	Vice Presi Busch Gar 3605 E. Bo Tampa Flo	dent of Zoological Operation dens Tampa pugainvillea Avenue rida 33612
Date Si	gned:	0 113 113
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Approved as to Form and Legal Sufficiency Henry W!Lavandera Attorney USF