

PORT MANATEE EXPANSION PROJECT Manatee County, Florida



DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT

The Port Manatee Expansion Project resulted in the dredging of 7 acres of bay bottom of which seagrass communities comprised 5.3 acres. The Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) and United States Army Corp of Engineers (USACE) permits stipulated that all mitigation construction had to be complete prior to the Port being able to utilize the newly dredged berths. The permit also mandated that all of the seagrass mitigation efforts be reviewed and supervised by a state-approved Seagrass Mitigation Supervisor. Scheda was awarded this task upon the designation of Mr. Thomas Ries (Scheda's VP) as the approved Seagrass Mitigation Supervisor. Mr. Ries currently oversees this regionally significant mitigation project. Part of the mitigation area includes a 460-acre seagrass protection zone and the remainder and consists of the restoration or creation of approximately 25 acres of seagrass communities at the Port. Scheda scientists have monitored and coordinated all of the seagrass mitigation activities since 2003 and recently certified the 2007 seagrass monitoring report, which documented that 15.2 seagrass credits had been successfully achieved. These seagrass credits exceed the state's 12.7-credit requirement. Both FDEP and the USACE have deemed this project complete and a success. Scheda scientists now oversee the long-term monitoring activities to demonstrate persistence within the seagrass mitigation areas.

