

September 17, 2010



**VIA Electronic Mail to [jbroadwell@jekyllisland.com](mailto:jbroadwell@jekyllisland.com)**

Mr. Jim Broadwell

Jekyll Island Authority  
100 James Road  
Jekyll Island, Georgia 31527

Dear Mr. Broadwell:

The Georgia Conservancy is responding to the Jekyll Island Authority (JIA) Request For Information to assist in the refining of the Jekyll Island Master Plan.

Attached please find the Georgia Conservancy's updated statement on revitalization and master planning on Jekyll. This is substantially the same document submitted to the JIA in 2007. Since that time, we find that our priorities and concerns have not changed.

The Georgia Conservancy views the natural resources of Jekyll as its most valuable asset. We urge the Authority to complete and approve a Conservation Plan that will ensure that Jekyll's ecological systems, especially oceanfront sand-sharing areas, marshfront and upland buffers areas and maritime forests are protected.

Simply put, Jekyll is an opportunity for the State of Georgia to demonstrate the potential of environmentally sensitive, sustainable development. Indeed, we are pleased to see the incorporation of LEED certified standards and other greener aspects in a number of authority projects. We believe this reflects sound business as well as environmental practice, and we urge JIA to push the envelope in this respect whenever possible.

In delineating the exact definition of developable land under O.C.G.A. § 12-3-243 (a) and O.C.G.A. § 12-3-243.1 that comprise the 65/35 provision, we believe the JIA should apply nationally recognized planning policy with respect to golf courses, borrow pits and other unclear interpretations of the law. Working with stakeholders on refining the definition would be an excellent confidence-building measure.

With respect to coastal marshlands, we urge the Authority to consider that the only upland area reliably within the JIA's jurisdiction is landward of a marshland delineation conducted by Georgia Department of Natural Resource's Coastal Resources Division. We also note that the Authority needs to observe protective buffers at marshfront locations—adding an additional 100 feet from marshland boundary line.

We value our partnership with Jekyll Island Authority and appreciate the opportunity to provide input on the RFI. Thank you in advance for taking our concerns in for consideration and please contact me at [wberson@gaconservancy.org](mailto:wberson@gaconservancy.org) or 912-447-5910 x101 should you have any questions about our comments.

Will N. Berson  
Interim Director, Coast  
Georgia Conservancy