

## VI. CONCLUDING REMARKS

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The ADG, through a series of eleven two-day meetings, has addressed the charge set forth by the Corps to support the creation of an EIS for southwest Florida. Specifically, the ADG was tasked with developing a series of alternatives that accommodate the range of environmental and socioeconomic interests in the region. In addition, the ADG developed a series of evaluation tools that embody the critical issues being faced in southwest Florida. These tools were used by the factor specialty groups to evaluate and rank the proposed alternatives. The alternatives and evaluation tools should be used to serve the appropriate section of the EIS. Thus, the ADG successfully completed its charge.

The ADG was successful in developing and evaluating alternatives. Given the evaluation tools created and the dialogue offered, it appears that a smaller set of alternatives is within reach. This smaller set of alternatives will be developed by the Corps and made part of the EIS. After public comment on the draft EIS, the ADG will reconvene to assist the Corps in responding to public comments on the alternatives.

The accomplishments of the ADG go beyond contribution to the standard EIS process. The activity of communicating the various perspectives and issues of a very environmentally complex region is an important by-product of the ADG. It is essential as southwest Florida continues to grow that it be done in a way that environment and economy are mutually supported and sustained. This can most readily be accomplished if collaborative examination of the issues, in a systemic way, continues to be conducted in the future.

