



August 03, 2021

Colonel Andrew Kelly
Jacksonville District Commander
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
701 San Marco Boulevard
Jacksonville, Florida 32207

Letter submitted electronically via Kelly, Andrew D (Drew) COL USARMY CESAJ (USA)
Andrew.D.Kelly@usace.army.mil

Re: LOSOM

Colonel Kelly,

On behalf of the Lee County Board of County Commissioners, I would like to thank you for meeting with us on July 26th to review the tentatively selected LOSOM alternative and our suggestions for optimization. As you heard in the meeting, water quality is of the utmost importance to us. The tourism and development industries are central to our economy, and neither can thrive without clean water and a healthy environment.

As you heard in our meeting, we have significant concerns with Alternative CC in its current form. As it stands now, the overall burden of flood control releases to the Caloosahatchee would increase over LORS 08 as would the total volume of water pushed into our estuary. Furthermore, our evaluation shows that this management proposal would burden the Caloosahatchee with stressful and damaging discharges over extended periods of consecutive months causing irreparable harm to our fisheries and estuarine ecology.

Based on these outcomes, it is imperative that through the optimization process that the plan produced for "Iteration 3" must contain the following:

1. To more accurately report the actual contribution of fresh water to the CRE, total releases should be measured at S-79.
2. Future lake operations should be limited to discharges of no more than 2,100 CFS at S-79 wherever possible and when not possible a fair distribution at all outlets.

3. Zone D must include releases to the SLE and the same east/west proportion as under LORS 08. Benefits of sending water south and storing water in Lake Okeechobee must be shared.
4. Army Corps should look to SFWMD modeling and improve upon it to find improvements to address our concerns. The modeling conducted by the SFWMD presented on July 15th showed that substantial reductions in harmful discharges can be made, along with increased flows to the south.
5. In analyzing impacts to the Caloosahatchee, the Corps needs to look at metrics in addition to the 14-day moving average, such as daily flow, mean monthly flow and total volume.

We look forward to seeing the above changes made and our continued involvement with you through this process.

Sincerely,



Kevin Ruane, Chairman