

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION

CESAJ-PD-ES

7 March 2008

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Tree Removal and Ditch Clearing Within Right of Way in Reach 2 of the Herbert Hoover Dike (HHD)

1. The Corps of Engineers has made a categorical exclusion determination for the removal of trees and ditch clearing within the Right Of Way in Reach 2 of Herbert Hoover Dike. The trees to be removed are mainly composed of dead Melaleuca which is an exotic tree. Reach 2 is 20.42 miles long and extends from the Caloosahatchee River at Moore Haven to the Miami Canal near Lake Harbor. These activities are considered routine operation and maintenance actions.

2. Actions listed below when considered individually and cumulatively do not have significant effects on the quality of the human environment and are categorically excluded from NEPA documentation. Reference 33 CFR Ch. 11. Sec. 230.9 (b)-Activities at completed Corps projects which carry out the authorized project purposes. Examples include routine operation and maintenance actions, general administration, equipment purchases, custodial actions, erosion control, painting, rehabilitation, replacement of existing structures and facilities such as buildings, roads, levees, groins and utilities and installation of new buildings utilities, or roadway in developed areas.

3. Trees on or adjacent to an embankment pose safety issues because the root system, (especially decaying root systems) provides voids within the embankment that can promote seepage and piping. Trees and vegetation on the embankment and the area immediately adjacent to the toe obscure these areas which prevents adequate and thorough inspections. This is very important in cases with known dam safety deficiencies such as on the HHD.