

**Central and Southern Florida Project
Modified Water Deliveries to
Everglades National Park, Florida
8.5 Square Mile Area**

**Appendix B
Pertinent Correspondence**

DRAFT

**Department of the Army
Jacksonville District, Corps of Engineers
Jacksonville, Florida**

April 2000

To: Mr. Elmar Kurzbach
Date: June 14, 1999
Re: SWFRPC #99-226
Page: 2

Regionally Significant and Inconsistent project is of regional importance and does not appear to be consistent with Regional goals, objectives, and policies. Council will oppose the project as submitted, but is willing to participate in any efforts to modify the project to mitigate the concerns.

The above referenced document has been reviewed by this office, based on the information contained in the document, and on local knowledge, staff has **No Comment At This Time.**

Should you or any other party request this finding to be reconsidered, please contact Nichole L. Gwinnett, IC&R Coordinator, with this request, or any questions concerning staff review of this item. This recommendation will be discussed at the next scheduled Council meeting. Should Council action differ from the staff recommendation, you will be notified.

Sincerely,

SOUTHWEST FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL



hu Wayne E. Daltry
Executive Director

WED/NLG

cc: Cherie Trainor, Florida State Clearinghouse



Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council

4980 Bayline Drive, 4th Floor, N. Ft. Myers, FL 33917-3909 (941) 656-7720

P.O. Box 3455, N. Ft. Myers, FL 33918-3455 SUNCOM 749-7720

FAX 941-656-7724

June 14, 1999

Mr. Elmar Kurzbach
USACOE - Jacksonville District
P.O. Box 4970
JACKSONVILLE, FL 32232-0019

RE: IC&R Project #99-226
State Clearinghouse #FL9212241915CR3

USACOE - Jacksonville District, National Park Service and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service - Preparation of supplement to the 1992 Final EIS on modified water deliveries to Everglades National Park - Construction modifications to the Central and Southern Florida project to improve water deliveries into Everglades National Park.

Dear Mr. Kurzbach:

The staff of the Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council reviews various proposals, Notifications of Intent, Preapplications, permit applications, and Environmental Impact Statements for compliance with regional goals, objectives, and policies, as determined by the Strategic Regional Policy Plan. The staff reviews such items in accordance with the Florida Intergovernmental Coordination and Review Process (Chapter 29I-5, F.A.C.), and adopted regional clearinghouse procedures.

These designations determine Council staff procedure in regards to the reviewed project. The four designations are:

Less Than Regionally Significant and Consistent no further review of the project can be expected from Council.

Less Than Regionally Significant and Inconsistent Council does not find the project of regional importance, but will note certain concerns as part of its continued monitoring for cumulative impact within the noted goal area.

Regionally Significant and Consistent project is of regional importance, and appears to be consistent with Regional goals, objectives, and policies.

Motion Before the Governing Board of the South Florida Water Management District:

1. Approve settlement of pending litigation regarding 8 ½ SMA pursuant to the Settlement Agreement presented by staff.
2. Request the Corps of Engineers to evaluate, as part of the ongoing Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement process, a full array of locally preferred options to Mod. Waters in the development of a preferred alternative, including an Operational Component to the EIS.
3. Direct the staff to add the 8 ½ SMA expansion area to the District's current Save Our Rivers list update cycle for the 5 year plan in full compliance with the District's policies & procedures & all applicable public meeting & other legal requirements.

Motion approved by unanimous vote June 23, 1999.



South Florida Water Management District

PRO EVR 20

July 22, 1999

James C. Duck
Chief, Planning Division
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Jacksonville District
P.O. Box 4970
Jacksonville, FL 32232-0019

Dear Mr. Duck:

Subject: Comments on Scoping for 8.5 Square Mile Area SEIS

We wish to thank the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (ACE) for their efforts in conducting the recent public scoping meeting for the 8.5 Square Mile Area (SMA) Environmental Impact Statement. The South Florida Water Management District (District) staff will propose an alternative mitigation plan for your consideration during the technical alternatives formulation process.

Pursuant to District Governing Board action on June 23, 1999 (see enclosed), we request ACE evaluate a full array of locally preferred options for the mitigation of any additional flooding of the 8.5 square mile area (SMA) related to the implementation of the Modified Water Delivery Project as authorized by Congress. As discussed at the June 23 board meeting, it is additionally requested that the ACE present the findings of these evaluations to the Governing Board at the earliest convenience following the completion of the required analysis.

If you have any questions, please call me or have your staff contact our project manager, Dewey Worth, at 561-682-2711.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive that reads "Dewey Worth for".

Trevor Campbell
Deputy Executive Director

c: Dick Ring, Everglades National Park
Steve Forsythe, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Dewey Worth, SFWMD

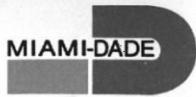
Governing Board:

Michael Collins, *Chairman*
Michael D. Minton, *Vice Chairman*
Mitchell W. Berger

Vera M. Carter
Gerardo B. Fernandez
Patrick J. Gleason

Nicolas J. Gutierrez, Jr.
Harkley R. Thornton
Trudi K. Williams

Frank R. Finch, P.E., *Executive Director*
Michael Slayton, *Deputy Executive Director*
Trevor Campbell, *Deputy Executive Director*



ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT
NATURAL RESOURCES DIVISION
33 S.W. 2nd AVENUE
MIAMI, FLORIDA 33130-1540
(305) 372-6789
FAX (305) 372-6630

Mr. James C. Duck, Chief
Planning Division
Department of the Army
Jacksonville District Corps of Engineers
P. O. Box 4970
Jacksonville, FL 32232-0019

July 20, 1999

RE: Supplement to the 1992 Final Environmental Impact Statement on Modified Water Deliveries to Everglades National Park for the 8.5 Square Mile Area

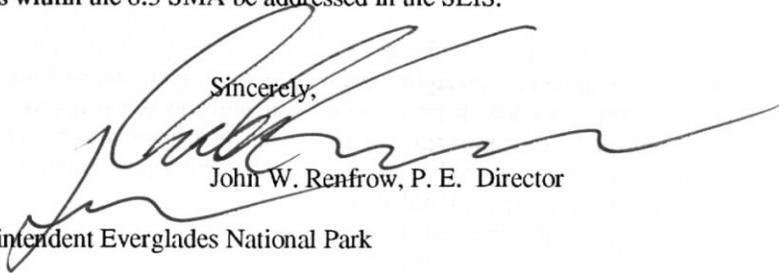
Dear Mr. Duck:

This letter is being sent in response to the scoping letters dated June 3 and July 9, 1999 on the above referenced topic. The June 3rd letter identified several important issues that should be addressed by the supplemental EIS. Of primary concern to Miami-Dade County is the inclusion of secondary, cumulative impacts that may be associated with providing flood protection beyond the level that was provided by the flood mitigation plan. During 1998, Miami-Dade County compiled information on existing and potential land uses in the 8.5 SMA based upon the six alternatives that were identified in the PEER Report. We estimated that it would cost approximately \$155,000,000 or \$146,000 per residential unit to construct a secondary drainage system and roads that would meet minimum county standards if the 8.5 SMA were to be developed at a density of one unit per five acres. We also estimated the amount of local, Countywide and other tax revenue that would be generated to pay for annual O&M costs and special taxing district revenue that could be bonded to pay for the projected capital costs.

During the coming months, Miami-Dade County staff will reevaluate land use information for the 8.5 SMA based upon 1999 aerial photography, 1998 property assessments, building permit data and field verification. We will also recalculate projected capital and annual O&M costs for each of the alternatives that are included in the SEIS, based upon a build out of one unit per five acres. We will provide these data to the Department of the Interior and to the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers and we respectfully request that these updated data be included in the SEIS evaluation of alternatives.

Our 1998 land use data indicate that 28 % (1,575 acres) of the 8.5 SMA is wetlands. Depending upon the alternative that is selected, these lands will be destroyed, impacted or preserved. In addition, there are about 900 acres of vacant lands below the seven foot contour that could potentially be restored to wetlands, depending upon the alternative that is selected. We also request that the potential and cumulative impacts to the existing and potentially restorable wetlands within the 8.5 SMA be addressed in the SEIS.

Sincerely,


John W. Renfrow, P. E. Director

CC: Mr. Richard Ring, Superintendent Everglades National Park



FLORIDA GAME AND FRESH WATER FISH COMMISSION



THOMAS B. KIBLER
Lakeland

JAMES L. "JAMIE" ADAMS Jr.
Bushnell

JULIE K. MORRIS
Sarasota

QUINTON L. HEDGEPEETH, DDS
Miami

EDWIN P. ROBERTS, D.C.
Pensacola

ALLAN L. EGBERT, Ph.D., Executive Director
VICTOR J. HELLER, Assistant Executive Director

June 17, 1999

OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES
BRADLEY J. HARTMAN, DIRECTOR
FARRIS BRYANT BUILDING
620 South Meridian Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1600
(850) 488-6661
SUNCOM 278-6661
FAX (850) 922-5679
TDD (850) 488-9542

Mr. Elmar Kurzbach
Planning Division, Environmental Branch
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
P.O. Box 4970
Jacksonville, Florida 32232-0019

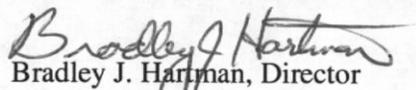
Re: Scoping Notification, SEIS for Modified Water
Deliveries to Everglades National Park, Dade
County

Dear Mr. Kurzbach:

The Office of Environmental Services of the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission has received the notification that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is soliciting input on issues to be considered during the development of the Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) to the 1992 EIS for Modified Water Deliveries to Everglades National Park. Specifically, the SEIS will assess the extent to which information obtained, and decisions made, since 1992 might affect the future of the 8.5 Square Mile Area.

In addition to the seven issues identified in the notification, we request that the SEIS also consider potential impacts of water management as it relates to (1) protection and restoration of the Water Conservation Areas (WCAs), particularly WCAs-3B and southern -3A; and (2) potential impacts to the recreational amenities that these areas currently provide. Staff of the Office of Environmental Services will be available to assist you in this aspect of the evaluation; however, we are not planning at this time to provide the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers with a Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act report independent from that of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Sincerely,


Bradley J. Hartman, Director
Office of Environmental Services

BJH/MAP
ENV 2-16/5/3
smascope.coe

cc: Col. Joe Miller, COE, Jacksonville
Mr. Steven Forsythe, USFWS, Vero Beach



STATE OF FLORIDA

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

"Helping Floridians create safe, vibrant, sustainable communities"

JEB BUSH
Governor

STEVEN M. SEIBERT
Secretary

July 6, 1999

Mr. Elmar Kurzbach
Jacksonville District Corps of Engineers
Post Office Box 4970
Jacksonville, Florida 32232-0019

RE: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Jacksonville District,
National Park Service and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- Flood Control Projects - Preparation of Supplement to the
1992 Final Environmental Impact Statement on Modified Water
Deliveries to Everglades National Park - Construction
Modifications to the Central and Southern Florida Project
to Improve Water Deliveries into Everglades National Park
and to Take Steps to Restore the Natural Hydrological
Conditions within the Park
SAI: FL9212241915CR3

Dear Mr. Kurzbach:

The Florida State Clearinghouse has been advised that our reviewing agencies require additional time to complete the review of the above-referenced project. Pursuant to the July 6, 1999, telephone conversation with your office, additional time has been agreed upon for completion of the state's consistency review in accordance with 15 CFR 930.41(b). We will make every effort to conclude the review and forward the consistency determination to you on or before July 9, 1999.

Thank you for your understanding. If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Ms. Cherie Trainor, Clearinghouse Coordinator, at (850) 922-5438.

Sincerely,

Ralph Cantral, Executive Director
Florida Coastal Management Program

RC/cc

2555 SHUMARD OAK BOULEVARD • TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA 32399-2100
Phone: (850) 488-8466/Suncom 278-8466 FAX: (850) 921-0781/Suncom 291-0781
Internet address: <http://www.state.fl.us/comaff/>

FLORIDA STATE CLEARINGHOUSE
RPC INTERGOVERNMENTAL COORDINATION
AND RESPONSE SHEET

55-F9-99-C05

SAI #: FL9212241915CR3

DATE: 06/04/1999

COMMENTS DUE TO CLEARINGHOUSE: 07/04/1999

RECEIVED JUN 8 1999

AREA OF PROPOSED ACTIVITY: COUNTY: State

FEDERAL ASSISTANCE DIRECT FEDERAL ACTIVITY FEDERAL LICENSE OR PERMIT OCS

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Jacksonville District, National Park Service and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service - Preparation of Supplement to the 1992 Final Environmental Impact Statement on Modified Water Deliveries to Everglades National Park - Construction Modifications to the Central and Southern Florida Project to Improve Water Deliveries into Everglades National Park

ROUTING:

RPC

- E. Central FL RPC
- Central FL RPC
- Tampa Bay RPC
- SW Florida RPC
- Treasure Coast RPC
- South FL RPC
- X Withlacoochee RPC

RECEIVED
JUN 11 1999
State of Florida Clearinghouse

PLEASE CHECK ALL THE LOCAL GOVERNMENTS BELOW FROM WHICH COMMENTS HAVE BEEN RECEIVED; ALL COMMENTS RECEIVED SHOULD BE INCLUDED IN THE RPC'S CLEARINGHOUSE RESPONSE PACKAGE. IF NO COMMENTS WERE RECEIVED, PLEASE CHECK "NO COMMENT" BOX AND RETURN TO CLEARINGHOUSE.

COMMENTS DUE TO RPC: 06/25/1999

NO COMMENTS: _____

(IF THE RPC DOES NOT RECEIVE COMMENTS BY THE DEADLINE DATE, THE RPC SHOULD CONTACT THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT TO DETERMINE THE STATUS OF THE PROJECT REVIEW PRIOR TO FORWARDING THE RESPONSE PACKAGE TO THE CLEARINGHOUSE.)

NOTES: 6/8/99:
The WRPC has no comments with reference to this project.

ALL CONCERNS OR COMMENTS REGARDING THE ATTACHED PROJECT (INCLUDING ANY RPC COMMENTS) SHOULD BE SENT IN WRITING BY THE DUE DATE TO THE CLEARINGHOUSE. PLEASE ATTACH THIS RESPONSE FORM AND REFER TO THE SAI # IN ALL CORRESPONDENCE.

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS REGARDING THE ATTACHED PROJECT, PLEASE CONTACT THE STATE CLEARINGHOUSE AT (904) 922-5438 OR SUNCOM 272-5438.

C

To: Mr. Elmar Kur. h
Date: June 14, 1999
Re: SWFRPC #99-226
Page: 2

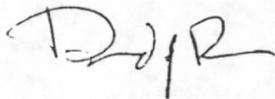
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Executive Director

WED/NLG

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State Clearinghouse #FL9212241915CR3

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11-226

**FLORIDA STATE CLEARINGHOUSE
RPC INTERGOVERNMENTAL COORDINATION
AND RESPONSE SHEET**

SAI #: FL9212241915CR3

DATE: 06/04/1999

COMMENTS DUE TO CLEARINGHOUSE: 07/04/1999

AREA OF PROPOSED ACTIVITY: COUNTY: State

FEDERAL ASSISTANCE DIRECT FEDERAL ACTIVITY FEDERAL LICENSE OR PERMIT OCS

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Jacksonville District, National Park Service and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service - Preparation of Supplement to the 1992 Final Environmental Impact Statement on Modified Water Deliveries to Everglades National Park - Construction Modifications to the Central and Southern Florida Project to Improve Water Deliveries into Everglades National Park

ROUTING:

RPC

- E. Central FL RPC
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- Tampa Bay RPC
- X SW Florida RPC
- Treasure Coast RPC
- South FL RPC
- Withlacoochee RPC

RECEIVED
JUN 9 1999

S.W. FLORIDA REGIONAL
PLANNING COUNCIL

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COMMENTS DUE TO RPC: 06/25/1999

RECEIVED
JUN 17 1999
State of Florida Clearinghouse

NO COMMENTS: _____

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IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS REGARDING THE ATTACHED PROJECT, PLEASE CONTACT THE STATE CLEARINGHOUSE AT (904) 922-5438 OR SUNCOM 272-5438.

C

194-99

FIE
AIR

FLORIDA STATE CLEARINGHOUSE RPC INTERGOVERNMENTAL COORDINATION AND RESPONSE SHEET

SAI #: FL9212241015CR3

DATE: 06/04/1999

COMMENTS DUE TO CLEARINGHOUSE: 07/04/1999

AREA OF PROPOSED ACTIVITY: COUNTY: State

FEDERAL ASSISTANCE DIRECT FEDERAL ACTIVITY FEDERAL LICENSE OR PERMIT OCS

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Jacksonville District, National Park Service and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service - Preparation of Supplement to the 1997 Final Environmental Impact Statement on Modified Water Deliveries to Everglades National Park - Construction Modifications to the Central and Southern Florida Project to Improve Water Deliveries into Everglades National Park

ROUTING:

RPC

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**FLORIDA STATE CLEARINGHOUSE
RPC INTERGOVERNMENTAL COORDINATION
AND RESPONSE SHEET**

SAI #: FL9212241915CR3

DATE: 06/04/1999

COMMENTS DUE TO CLEARINGHOUSE: 07/04/1999

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COUNTY: State

DATE: 06/04/1999

COMMENTS DUE-2 WKS: 06/18/1999

Message: ARMY CORPS DUE DATE

CLEARANCE DUE DATE: 07/06/1999

SAI#: FL9212241915CR3

STATE AGENCIES

WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICTS

OPB POLICY UNITS

Agriculture
 Community Affairs
 Environmental Protection
 Game and Fresh Water Fish Comm
 State
 Transportation

South Florida WMD
 Southwest Florida WMD
 X St. Johns River WMD

Environmental Policy/C & ED

RECEIVED
 JUN 14 1999

State of Florida Clearinghouse

The attached document requires a Coastal Zone Management Act/Florida Coastal Management Program consistency evaluation and is categorized as one of the following:

- Federal Assistance to State or Local Government (15 CFR 930, Subpart F). Agencies are required to evaluate the consistency of the activity.
- X Direct Federal Activity (15 CFR 930, Subpart C). Federal Agencies are required to furnish a consistency determination for the State's concurrence or objection.
- Outer Continental Shelf Exploration, Development or Production Activities (15 CFR 930, Subpart E). Operators are required to provide a consistency certification for state concurrence/objection.
- Federal Licensing or Permitting Activity (15 CFR 930, Subpart D). Such projects will only be evaluated for consistency when there is not an analogous state license or permit.

Project Description:

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Jacksonville District, National Park Service and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service - Preparation of Supplement to the 1992 Final Environmental Impact Statement on Modified Water Deliveries to Everglades National Park - Construction Modifications to the Central and Southern Florida Project to Improve Water Deliveries into Everglades National Park and to Take Steps to Restore the Natural Hydrological Conditions within the Park

To: **Florida State Clearinghouse**
 Department of Community Affairs
 2555 Shumard Oak Boulevard
 Tallahassee, FL 32399-2100
 (850) 922-5438 (SC 292-5438)
 (850) 414-0479 (FAX)

EO. 12372/NEPA

Federal Consistency

- No Comment
- Comments Attached
- Not Applicable

- No Comment/Consistent
- Consistent/Comments Attached
- Inconsistent/Comments Attached
- Not Applicable

From:

NOT IN SJRWMD

Division/Bureau: SJRWMD/OPB

Reviewer: RTelantony 6/8/99

Date: _____

JUN - 9 1999



An Equal Opportunity Employer

Southwest Florida Water Management District

2379 Broad Street, Brooksville, Florida 34609-6899
(352) 796-7211 or 1-800-423-1476 (FL only)
SUNCOM 628-4150 TDD only 1-800-231-6103 (FL only)
World Wide Web: <http://www.swfwmd.state.fl.us>

Tampa Service Office
7601 Highway 301 North
Tampa, Florida 33637-6759
(813) 985-7481 or
1-800-836-0797 (FL only)
SUNCOM 578-2070

Bartow Service Office
170 Century Boulevard
Bartow, Florida 33830-7700
(941) 534-1448 or
1-800-492-7862 (FL only)
SUNCOM 572-6200

Venice Service Office
115 Corporation Way
Venice, Florida 34292-3524
(941) 486-1212 or
1-800-320-3503 (FL only)
SUNCOM 526-6900

Lecanto Service Office
3600 West Sovereign Path
Suite 226
Lecanto, Florida 34461-8070
(352) 527-8131
SUNCOM 667-3271

Ronald C. Johnson
Chair, Lake Wales

Brenda Menendez
Vice Chair, Tampa

Sally Thompson
Secretary, Tampa

Ronnie E. Duncan
Treasurer, Safety Harbor

Monroe "Al" Coogler
Lecanto

Joe L. Davis, Jr.
Wauchula

Rebecca M. Eger
Sarasota

John P. Harlee, IV
Bradenton

Watson L. Haynes, II
St. Petersburg

John K. Renke, III
New Port Richey

Pamela Stinnette-Taylor
Tampa

E. D. "Sonny" Vergara
Executive Director

Gene A. Heath
Assistant Executive Director

Edward B. Helvenston
General Counsel

June 14, 1999

Ms. Cherie Trainor
Florida State Clearinghouse
Department Community Affairs
2555 Shumard Oaks Boulevard
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-2100

Subject: US Army Corps of Engineers/National Park Service - Preparation of Supplement to the 1992 Final EIS on Modified Water Deliveries to Everglades National Park: Construction Modifications to C&SF Project

SAI#: FL9212241915CR3

Dear Ms. Trainor

The staff of the Southwest Florida Water Management District (District) has conducted a consistency evaluation for the project referenced above. Consistency findings are divided into four categories and are based solely on the information provided in the subject application.

FINDING	CATEGORY
X	Consistent/No Comment
	Consistent/Comments Attached
	Inconsistent/Comments Attached
	Consistency Cannot be Determined Without Additional Information/ No Comments Attached

This review does not constitute permit approval under Chapter 373, Florida Statutes, or any rules promulgated thereunder, nor does it stand in lieu of normal permitting procedures in accordance with Florida Statutes and District rules. If you have any questions or if I can be of further assistance, please contact me in the District's Planning Department.

Sincerely,

Ian G. McDonald, AICP
Government Planning Coordinator

RECEIVED
JUN 17 1999

State of Florida Clearinghouse

DATE: 06/04/1999
COMMENTS DUE-2 WKS: 06/18/1999
CLEARANCE DUE DATE: 07/06/1999
SAI#: FL9212241915CR3

Message: ARMY CORPS DUE DATE

STATE AGENCIES

WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICTS

OPB POLICY UNITS

Agriculture
Community Affairs
Environmental Protection
Game and Fresh Water Fish Comm
State
Transportation

X South Florida WMD
Southwest Florida WMD
St. Johns River WMD

Environmental Policy/C & ED

The attached document requires a Coastal Zone Management Act/Florida Coastal Management Program consistency evaluation and is categorized as one of the following:

- Federal Assistance to State or Local Government (16 CFR 930, Subpart F). Agencies are required to evaluate the consistency of the activity.
- X Direct Federal Activity (15 CFR 930, Subpart C). Federal Agencies are required to furnish a consistency determination for the State's concurrence or objection.
- Outer Continental Shelf Exploration, Development or Production Activities (15 CFR 930, Subpart E). Operators are required to provide a consistency certification for state concurrence/objection.
- Federal Licensing or Permitting Activity (15 CFR 930, Subpart D). Such projects will only be evaluated for consistency when there is not an analogous state license or permit.

Project Description:

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Jacksonville District, National Park Service and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service - Preparation of Supplement to the 1992 Final Environmental Impact Statement on Modified Water Deliveries to Everglades National Park - Construction Modifications to the Central and Southern Florida Project to Improve Water Deliveries into Everglades National Park and to Take Steps to Restore the Natural Hydrological Conditions within the Park

To: Florida State Clearinghouse
Department of Community Affairs
2555 Shumard Oak Boulevard
Tallahassee, FL 32399-2100
(850) 922-5438 (SC 292-5438)
(850) 414-0479 (FAX)

EO. 12372/NEPA

Federal Consistency

- No Comment
- Comments Attached
- Not Applicable

- No Comment/Consistent
- Consistent/Comments Attached
- Inconsistent/Comments Attached
- Not Applicable

From:

Division/Bureau: SFWMD/PLA
Reviewer: DAVID HUBBARD
Date: 6/22/99

C

COUNTY: State

DATE: 06/04/1999

COMMENTS DUE-2 WKS: 06/18/1999

CLEARANCE DUE DATE: 07/06/1999

Message: ARMY CORPS DUE DATE

SAI#: FL9212241915CR3

STATE AGENCIES

WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICTS

OPB POLICY UNITS

Agriculture
 Community Affairs
 Environmental Protection
 Game and Fresh Water Fish Comm
 X State
 Transportation

South Florida WMD
 Southwest Florida WMD
 St. Johns River WMD

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 JUN 21 1999

State of Florida Clearinghouse

Environmental Policy/C & ED

AIKLA
SAD-Corp
994058

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 HISTORICAL PRESERVATION
 JUN - 8 PM 3:04

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- Inconsistent/Comments Attached
- Not Applicable

From:

Division/Bureau: HISTORICAL RESOURCES
 Reviewer: [Signature] Laura A. Kammerer
 Date: 6-18-99 6-18-99



FLORIDA GAME AND FRESH WATER FISH COMMISSION

THOMAS B. KIBLER
Lakeland

JAMES L. "JAMIE" ADAMS Jr.
Bushnell

JULIE K. MORRIS
Sarasota

QUINTON L. HEDGEPETH, DDS
Miami

EDWIN P. ROBERTS, D.C.
Pensacola

ALLAN L. EGBERT, Ph.D., Executive Director
VICTOR J. HELLER, Assistant Executive Director

June 17
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JUN 21 1999

OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES
BRADLEY J. HARTMAN, DIRECTOR
FARRIS BRYANT BUILDING
620 South Meridian Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1600
(850) 488-6661
SUNCOM 278-6661
FAX (850) 922-5679
TDD (850) 488-9542

Ms. Cherie Trainor
Florida State Clearinghouse
Florida Department of Community Affairs
2555 Shumard Oak Boulevard
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-2100

State of Florida Clearinghouse

Re: SAI #FL9212241915CR3 (Scoping
Notification, SEIS for Modified Water
Deliveries to Everglades National Park),
Dade County

Dear Ms. Trainor:

The Office of Environmental Services of the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission has reviewed the referenced document, and has provided recommendations to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Please refer to our June 17, 1999 letter (attached).

Sincerely,


Bradley J. Hartman, Director
Office of Environmental Services

BJH/MAP
ENV 1-3-2
Attachment
SMASCOPE.SAI



FLORIDA GAME AND FRESH WATER FISH COMMISSION

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VICTOR J. HELLER, Assistant Executive Director

June 17, 1999

OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES
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620 South Meridian Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1600
(850) 488-6661
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FAX (850) 922-5679
TDD (850) 488-9542

Mr. Elmar Kurzbach
Planning Division, Environmental Branch
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
P.O. Box 4970
Jacksonville, Florida 32232-0019

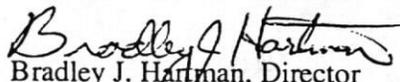
Re: Scoping Notification, SEIS for Modified Water
Deliveries to Everglades National Park, Dade
County

Dear Mr. Kurzbach:

The Office of Environmental Services of the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission has received the notification that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is soliciting input on issues to be considered during the development of the Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) to the 1992 EIS for Modified Water Deliveries to Everglades National Park. Specifically, the SEIS will assess the extent to which information obtained, and decisions made, since 1992 might affect the future of the 8.5 Square Mile Area.

In addition to the seven issues identified in the notification, we request that the SEIS also consider potential impacts of water management as it relates to (1) protection and restoration of the Water Conservation Areas (WCAs), particularly WCAs-3B and southern -3A; and (2) potential impacts to the recreational amenities that these areas currently provide. Staff of the Office of Environmental Services will be available to assist you in this aspect of the evaluation; however, we are not planning at this time to provide the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers with a Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act report independent from that of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Sincerely,


Bradley J. Hartman, Director
Office of Environmental Services

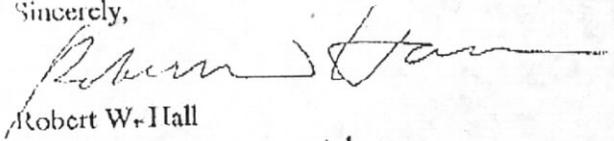
BJH/MAP
ENV 2-16/5/3
smascope.coe

cc: Col. Joe Miller, COE, Jacksonville
Mr. Steven Forsythe, USFWS, Vero Beach

Each alternative's impact upon compliance with Presidential Executive Orders 11988 and 11990 concerning the protection of wetlands and floodplains should be evaluated.

Thank you for the opportunity of commenting on this proposal. If you have any questions regarding this letter please give me a call at (850) 487-2231.

Sincerely,



Robert W. Hall
Office of Intergovernmental
Programs

cc: Ernie Barnett
Herb Zebuth
Carolyn Ansay
John Outland

the park; specifically in the area adjacent to the 8.5 SMA. Impacts to downstream structures and facilities from water diverted from the 8.5 SMA must also be evaluated.

One of the findings of the Science Sub-group of the South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Working Group involved ecosystem impacts from the loss of over half of the historic area of the former Everglades. A resulting recommendation was that the extent and heterogeneity of the natural system should be increased. An evaluation should be made of the continued cumulative loss or possible addition of Everglades habitat which will result from the alternatives under consideration. This should include the evaluation of the loss of wetlands currently existing in the 8.5 SMA.

With implementation of the Modified Water Deliveries project water levels will return to a more natural higher elevation. Therefore, structural flood mitigation alternatives should be evaluated for their impact on the re-establishment of wetlands at all elevations.

One of the reasons for the endangered status of the Cape Sable Seaside Sparrow has been the loss of critical habitat. Impacts to the survival and recovery of the sparrow must be evaluated from the impacts associated with the induced development potential provided by structural flood mitigation alternatives.

A full "cost accounting" cost and benefit analysis of future development situations under the existing flood protection limits, structural flood protection alternatives and acquisition should be performed. This analysis must include secondary costs to other governmental entities. Providing limited flood protection (mitigation) may induce additional development in this flood prone area. Increased cost of property damages associated with each alternative should be evaluated. The analysis should also include the cost to the environment from the loss of wetlands and flood prone areas that provide fish and wildlife habitat, natural floodwater storage and water quality treatment benefits.

Potential water quality impacts are a major concern. Alternatives which increase development in the 8.5 SMA are of special concern since no water quality treatment system for the area currently exists. Even on low density residential lots of 1 acre or more there is plenty of room for agricultural activity (fruit trees, etc.) on the open space surrounding the house and septic tank. An unknown portion of pollutants contained in the groundwater under a fully or partially developed 8.5 SMA would have the potential to affect either directly or indirectly, the Outstanding Florida Waters of Everglades National Park and/or other water bodies. As an Outstanding Florida Water, the water quality standard for all parameters in Everglades National Park is non-degradation from the background level present in the year before designation (March 1978). There is also a settlement agreement between the state and federal government, which includes water quality requirements. A full evaluation of water quality impacts is necessary.



Jeb Bush
Governor

Department of Environmental Protection

Marjory Stoneman Douglas Building
3900 Commonwealth Boulevard
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-3000

David B. Scrubs
Secretary

July 9, 1999

Ms. Cherie Trainor
Florida State Clearinghouse
Department of Community Affairs
2555 Shumard Oak Boulevard
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-2100

Re: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Jacksonville District, National Park Service and the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Preparation of Supplement to the 1992 Final EIS on Modified Water Deliveries to Everglades National Park (ENP) -- Construction Modifications to the Central and Southern Florida Project to Improve Water Deliveries into ENP and to Take Steps to Restore the Natural Hydrological Conditions Within the Park.

SAI: FL9212241915CR3

Dear Ms. Trainor:

This Department has reviewed the above-described project proposal and based on the information provided, we submit the following comments and recommendations regarding the environmental aspects of the project.

The Corps of Engineers is asking the Department and other interested agencies to assist them in identifying issues associated with a proposed change to the locally preferred option for the 8.5 Square Mile Area (SMA) by the South Florida Water Management District as part of the Modified Water Deliveries project. In addition to the issues already identified by the Corps, the following issues are recommended for evaluation in the SEIS.

A primary objective of the Restudy of the Central and South Florida Flood Control Project was to reestablish natural hydropatterns within the remaining Everglades. Any evaluation should be done using water levels and other conditions which are expected to result from completion of the projects proposed in the Restudy and the resulting ecosystem restoration.

An evaluation must be made of the impact of each alternative on restoration efforts to reduce to the maximum extent possible, seepage currently drained from Everglades National Park. This should include an evaluation of changes to present and potential restoration hydropatterns within

"Protect, Conserve and Manage Florida's Environment and Natural Resources"

Printed on recycled paper.

Mr. Elmar Kurzbach
July 13, 1999
Page Two

Based on the information contained in the proposed project and the enclosed comments provided by our reviewing agencies, the state has determined that, at this stage, the above-referenced project is consistent with the Florida Coastal Management Program (FCMP). All subsequent environmental documents prepared for this project must be reviewed to determine the project's continued consistency with the FCMP. The state's continued concurrence with the project will be based, in part, on the adequate resolution of issues identified during this and subsequent reviews.

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Ms. Cherie Trainor, Clearinghouse Coordinator, at (850) 922-5438.

Sincerely,

Chris McCay

for

Ralph Cantral, Executive Director
Florida Coastal Management Program

RC/cc

Enclosures

cc: Robert Hall, Department of Environmental Protection
Bradley Hartman, Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission



STATE OF FLORIDA

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

"Helping Floridians create safe, vibrant, sustainable communities"

JEB BUSH
Governor

STEVEN M. SEIBERT
Secretary

July 13, 1999

Mr. Elmar Kurzbach
Jacksonville District Corps of Engineers
Post Office Box 4970
Jacksonville, Florida 32232-0019

RE: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Jacksonville District,
National Park Service and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife
Service - Flood Control Projects - Preparation of
Supplement to the 1992 Final Environmental Impact
Statement on Modified Water Deliveries to Everglades
National Park - Construction Modifications to the
Central and Southern Florida Project to Improve Water
Deliveries into Everglades National Park and to Take
Steps to Restore the Natural Hydrological Conditions
within the Park
SAI: FL9212241915CR3

Dear Mr. Kurzbach:

The Florida State Clearinghouse, pursuant to Presidential Executive Order 12372, Gubernatorial Executive Order 95-359, Florida Statutes, the Coastal Zone Management Act, 16 U.S.C. §§ 1451-1464, as amended, and the National Environmental Policy Act, 42 U.S.C. §§ 4321, 4331-4335, 4341-4347, as amended, has coordinated a review of the above-referenced project.

The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) offers comments and recommendations regarding the environmental aspects of the project for evaluation in the Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement. Please refer to the enclosed DEP comments.

The Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission (GFWFC) notes that its June 17, 1999, recommendations, attached, were provided directly to the Army Corps of Engineers. Please refer to the enclosed GFWFC comments and attachment.

2555 SHUMARD OAK BOULEVARD • TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA 32399-2100
Phone: (850) 488-8466/Suncom 278-8466 FAX: (850) 921-0781/Suncom 291-0781
Internet address: <http://www.state.fl.us/comaff/>

FARMLAND CONVERSION IMPACT RATING

PART I (To be completed by Federal Agency) Date Of Land Evaluation Request
 March 10, 2000

Name Of Project: 8.5 Square Mile Area Supplemental EIS Federal Agency Involved: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers-JAX District

Proposed Land Use: Public land acquisition, canal-levee-flowway constr. County And State: Miami-Dade County, Florida

PART II (To be completed by SCS) Date Request Received By SCS

Does the site contain prime, unique, statewide or local important farmland? (If no, the FPPA does not apply – do not complete additional parts of this form).		Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Acres Irrigated	Average Farm Size
Major Crop(s)	Farmable Land In Govt. Jurisdiction Acres: %			Amount Of Farmland As Defined in FPPA Acres: %	
Name Of Land Evaluation System Used	Name Of Local Site Assessment System	Date Land Evaluation Returned By SCS			

PART III (To be completed by Federal Agency) Alternative Site Rating

	Alt. Site 1, 2, 3, 9	Alt. Site 4, 5, 7	Alt. Site 6 & 8	Site D
A. Total Acres To Be Converted Directly	0.0	128.3	587.5	
B. Total Acres To Be Converted Indirectly	0.0	0.0	0.0	
C. Total Acres In Site	2,808.0	2,808.0	2,808.0	

PART IV (To be completed by SCS) Land Evaluation Information

A. Total Acres Prime And Unique Farmland	
B. Total Acres Statewide And Local Important Farmland	
C. Percentage Of Farmland In County Or Local Govt. Unit To Be Converted	
D. Percentage Of Farmland In Govt. Jurisdiction With Same Or Higher Relative Value	

PART V (To be completed by SCS) Land Evaluation Criterion
 Relative Value Of Farmland To Be Converted (Scale of 0 to 100 Points)

PART VI (To be completed by Federal Agency)

Site Assessment Criteria (These criteria are explained in 7 CFR 658.5(b))	Maximum Points
1. Area In Nonurban Use	
2. Perimeter In Nonurban Use	
3. Percent Of Site Being Farmed	
4. Protection Provided By State And Local Government	
5. Distance From Urban Builtup Area	
6. Distance To Urban Support Services	
7. Size Of Present Farm Unit Compared To Average	
8. Creation Of Nonfarmable Farmland	
9. Availability Of Farm Support Services	
10. On-Farm Investments	
11. Effects Of Conversion On Farm Support Services	
12. Compatibility With Existing Agricultural Use	
TOTAL SITE ASSESSMENT POINTS	160

PART VII (To be completed by Federal Agency)

Relative Value Of Farmland (From Part V)	100
Total Site Assessment (From Part VI above or a local site assessment)	160
TOTAL POINTS (Total of above 2 lines)	260

Site Selected: _____ Date Of Selection: _____ Was A Local Site Assessment Used?
 Yes No

Reason For Selection: _____