



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
JACKSONVILLE DISTRICT CORPS OF ENGINEERS
701 San Marco Boulevard
JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA 32207-8175

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

Planning and Policy Division
Environmental Branch

18 APR 2016

To Whom It May Concern:

Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) regulations at 33 CFR 230.11, this letter constitutes the Notice of Availability of the Environmental Assessment (EA) and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for a temporary emergency deviation at Structure 344 (S-344) to alleviate high water levels in Water Conservation Area 3A (WCA 3A). The Corps initiated a temporary emergency deviation to the current operating constraint of 7.5 feet National Geodetic Vertical Datum (of 1929 NGVD) in the L-29 Canal for purposes of providing high water relief in WCA 3A on February 15, 2016. Due to the continued critical nature of elevated water levels in WCA 3A and in compliance with the existing request by the Governor to maximize water releases, a second emergency EA has been prepared to deviate from the current water control plan for S-344 on the L-28 Levee.

The purpose of S-344 and associated features located along the L-28 Levee and Borrow Canal, are to restore overland flow to an area of Big Cypress National Preserve (BCNP) just south of the L-28 Tieback Levee; prevent over drainage of eastern BCNP under dry conditions; and provide a means of making regulatory releases from WCA 3A into BCNP. This temporary emergency deviation would open S-344 immediately instead of waiting for July 15, 2016 which is the normal opening date in the approved water control plan. The opening would allow water to be released from WCA 3A into BCNP and the L-28 Canal.

The emergency deviation would occur within portions of Broward, Collier, and Miami-Dade Counties, Florida. The EA and FONSI are available on the Corps Environmental planning website:

<http://www.saj.usace.army.mil/About/DivisionsOffices/Planning/EnvironmentalBranch/EnvironmentalDocuments.aspx>

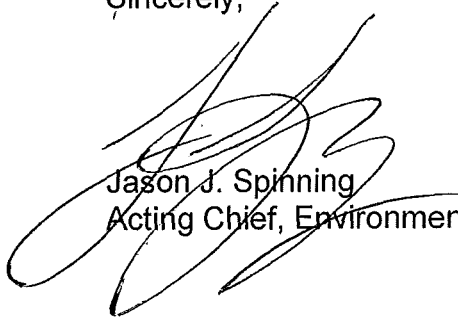
A copy of the report is also available at the following libraries:

Miami-Dade Public Library
Main Branch
101 West Flagler Street
Miami, FL 33130

Miami-Dade Public Library
Homestead Branch
700 N Homestead Blvd.
Homestead, FL 33030

Any comments you may have must be submitted in writing to the letterhead address within 30 days of the date of this letter. Questions concerning the emergency deviation can be submitted to Mrs. Melissa Nasuti at the letterhead address or to Melissa.A.Nasuti@usace.army.mil. Mrs. Nasuti may also be reached by telephone at 904-232-1368.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jason J. Spinning". The signature is stylized with large, sweeping loops and a long horizontal stroke at the bottom.

Jason J. Spinning
Acting Chief, Environmental Branch