



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
JACKSONVILLE DISTRICT CORPS OF ENGINEERS
P. O. BOX 4970
JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA 32232-0019

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

Regulatory Division

15 August 2005

PUBLIC NOTICE

**Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan
Accelerated Permit Process**

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN. The purpose of this public notice is to inform the public that this district has decided that acceptance and expenditure of certain funds from the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) would be in compliance with Section 214(a) of the Water Resources Development Act of 2000 (Public Law 106-541). These funds will be used to provide services to improve the efficiency of processing SFWMD's Department of the Army permit applications for the Accelerated Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan projects. The permits will be those pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344.) The public notice dated June 13, 2005, described the proposal in detail.

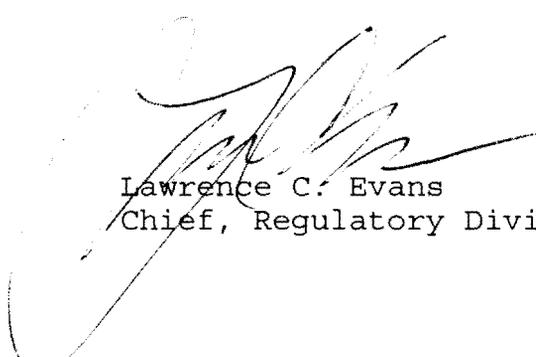
The funds will expedite the exchange of concerns and information between the Corps, SFWMD, and other agencies, including initiation of such dialogs prior to the submission of the application. The funds will also provide for additional tasks that would facilitate the analysis of the proposed project. The permit decision itself will not be affected by the funds and this new process. The Corps' decision whether to issue or deny the permit is and will continue to be based on the analysis of the proposed project, SFWMD's submittals, comments from the public and other information. Procedures to ensure that the funds will not impact impartial decision-making include the following.

- a. All final permit decisions for cases where these funds are used will be reviewed by at least one level above the decision maker, unless the decision maker is the Commander of the Jacksonville District.
- b. All final permit decisions for cases where these funds are used will be made available on the Jacksonville District Regulatory web page.
- c. The District will not eliminate any procedures or decisions that would otherwise be required for that type of project and permit application under consideration.

d. The District will comply with all applicable laws and regulations.

e. Funds will only be expended to expedite the final decision on the permit application. Funds will not be expended for the review of the decision maker's decision. If contracts are used to develop decision documents, such decision documents will be drafts only and be reviewed and adopted by the Corps Regulatory Program employees, before the decision is made.

If you have any questions, you may contact Tori White of this office either by letter, by telephone at 561-472-8888, by e-mail at tori.white@saj02.usace.army.mil, or by fax at 561-683-2418.



Lawrence C. Evans
Chief, Regulatory Division