



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

FEB 17 2016

To Whom It May Concern:

Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) Regulation (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 to Alleviate High Water Levels in Water Conservation Area 3A (WCA 3A). Due to the very strong El Nino this dry season, WCA 3A has experienced unseasonably high water levels. In addition, the operational limitations of the current approved Water Control Plan severely limits releases at the southern boundary of WCA 3A for the protection of the Cape Sable Seaside Sparrow. Therefore, the Jacksonville District is initiating a temporary deviation for 90 days to increase the operational trigger level in the L-29 Borrow Canal to elevation 8.5 feet, National Geodetic Vertical Datum 1929 between structure S-333 and S-334 and other necessary changes to the Central and Southern Florida Project operations that are required to support this change. These operational changes will allow for the full discharge capacity through S-333 helping to mediate the high water in WCA 3A. The other operational changes will mediate any concern with increased seepage from Everglades National Park into the South Dade Conveyance System.

The emergency deviation within the EA would occur within Broward and Miami-Dade Counties, Florida. This EA is being provided for public review pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Regulation (33 CFR 230.11). The EA and FONSI are available for your review on the Corps Environmental planning website, under Miami Dade County:

<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. The EA and FONSI (dated 12 February 2016) was for an emergency purpose. A supplemental National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) document will be completed to supplement the EA and FONSI (dated 12 February 2016), providing additional discussion of the actions proposed as appropriate. Completion of the draft document is expected by the end of February (approximately 10 – 15 days), upon which members of the public will receive an additional 30 day comment period. 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,



Jason Spinning
Chief, Environmental Branch