



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

FEB 28 2006

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

Restoration Program Division

FYI
FROM JOHN FUMERO

Ms. Tammara Hall, Chairwoman
Lee County Board of County Commissioners
Post Office Box 398
Ft. Myers, Florida 33902

Dear Ms. Hall:

It was a pleasure to meet with you and your staff on January 27, 2006, at the Everglades Coalition Conference and discuss issues related to the Caloosahatchee River and Lee County.

Mr. John Paul Woodley, Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works, who also attended the meeting, was very interested in potential solutions to the many water resource related issues affecting the C-43 Basin and the Caloosahatchee River and Estuary. As discussed at the meeting, there are many challenges in the basin that need to be addressed. The current Project Implementation Report (PIR) is focused on the first phase of improvements, the C-43 Reservoir, which is needed to address immediate concerns in the basin. We are working closely with the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) to ensure rapid completion of this report and subsequent implementation of the reservoir under the State's Acceler8 program.


We also noted that the Southwest Florida Feasibility Study is underway as a part of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan, with completion scheduled for December 2008. That study will be addressing more comprehensive problems throughout the entire southwest Florida region, including the Caloosahatchee Basin. As we discussed, I understand and share your concerns about the current needs of the area. I also understand and share the concern over the length of time needed to complete the Feasibility Study and actually implement solutions via that approach.

To address your concerns regarding more timely solutions to problems in the basin that are not being addressed by the C-43 Reservoir, we discussed a potential way to bridge the timeline and gap between the C-43 Reservoir PIR and the Feasibility Study. One way that seemed most promising involves the completion of the C-43 Reservoir PIR as an interim step, with the final PIR addressing additional

-2-

needs related to water supply and water quality in the basin, including: additional reductions in damaging regulatory discharges, additional water supply for other related needs, additional water quality treatment consistent with identified nutrient reduction goals and minimize overall economic impacts. After further consideration, we believe this concept will provide a faster solution to basin-wide problems while maintaining the current schedule for completion of the PIR for the C-43 Reservoir. Thus, I have tasked our team members to proceed with the preparation of a schedule and cost estimate for this effort. My staff will continue to work with your staff and the SFWMD to develop and move forward with that plan.

Sincerely,


Robert M. Carpenter
Colonel, U.S. Army
District Commander

Erik L. Star
Major, U.S. Army
Deputy District Engineer