

10. **OLD BUSINESS**

a. Water Quality Issues

1. Reports from City Council members

- ii. Letter from Colonel Grosskruger to Mayor Denham regarding the Caloosahatchee River Basin Storage Reservoir



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

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

JAN 18 2008

RECEIVED BY
08 JAN 28 AM 11:26
CITY OF SANIBEL
ADMIN./LEGIS.

Everglades Division
South Florida Restoration Branch

Honorable Mike Denham
Mayor of Sanibel
800 Dunlop Road
Sanibel, Florida 33957-4096

Dear Mayor Denham:

Thank you for taking the time to comment on the Caloosahatchee Basin Storage Reservoir Project. The Corps has considered your comments and would like to offer the following responses:

Your letter indicates that the Caloosahatchee River West Basin Storage Reservoir (CRWBSR) PIR and Final EIS and the Revised Draft SEIS for the Lake Okeechobee Regulation Schedule seem to be “viewed in isolation” and display “irreconcilable differences.” In fact, the projects have similar goals and objectives and there are several staff members from the Jacksonville District who worked on both of these projects.

Part of the apparent inconsistency may be related to the assumptions in the models. Although similar models were used for both projects, when the reservoir evaluation was completed the newly proposed Lake Okeechobee Regulation schedule was not yet available to be modeled. Therefore, the “future without project” conditions for the CRWBSR PIR assumed the current WSE regulation schedule to be in effect, since final action has not yet occurred on the new regulation schedule.


The CRWBSR PIR does identify the future Lake Okeechobee Regulation Schedule as a related project which will affect the estuary. Please see page 1-16 as well as page 6-44 of the FPIR. However, since these projects were being formulated concurrently, it was not feasible to incorporate the other project’s recommended plan into the formulation process. The CRWBSR had to use the old WSE for future without project conditions, as the new WSE did not yet exist.

The CRWBSR FPIR has provided a comprehensive and consistent evaluation of the regional impacts. Related CERP and non-CERP projects were discussed in the cumulative impacts analysis, and the best information available at the time of analysis was used in the review of alternatives.

With respect to your comment recommending consideration of a storm water treatment area (STA), the intent of this project was to focus on meeting salinity targets in the estuary. Future CERP planning efforts will focus on other problems, including water quality, identified in the Caloosahatchee River Basin. Additionally, the Caloosahatchee River will benefit from a South Florida Water Management District and Lee County plan to jointly finance a 1,770-acre Glades County acquisition at least 1,335 acres of which will be used for a water quality treatment facility.

Please contact Beth Marlowe, CRWBSR Project Manager, Jacksonville District at 904-232-2074 if you wish to discuss your concerns further.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul L. Grosskruger", written over a horizontal line.

Paul L. Grosskruger
Colonel, U.S. Army
District Commander