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05/11/2010
News-Press
Editorial

Some environmentalists fear the current releases of water from Lake Okeechobee will be a disaster for Lee County's estuaries, the way similar releases were in 2004 and 2005.

Today, you will have a chance to hear a presentation and get questions answered about the releases.

Unusually heavy rains this spring have left the lake level too high for comfort, with the real rainy season coming soon. To prevent the lake from getting any higher and endangering the dike protecting lakeside communities, water has to be released now - at least that's what the water managers say.

Critics say too large a share of excess water is being dumped on the estuaries, where polluted water had devastating impacts in the hurricane years five and six years ago. They say not enough is being done to find alternative storage for the water. Also crucial is completion of land buys that would allow high water to flow south, as it did naturally.

Attend today's Army Corps of Engineers meeting in Fort Myers, and sound off for Southwest Florida's estuaries.

