

# Lake Okeechobee Phase II Technical Plan

Tom Teets, Program  
Implementation Manager  
Temperince Morgan, Lead  
Technical Program  
Specialist

Water Resources Advisory  
Commission and Lake  
Okeechobee Committee

January 3, 2007



# Comments Received on Draft Plan

- 
- **Seminole Tribe**
  - **Department of Interior**
  - **Corps of Engineers**
  - **Lee County**
  - **STOPR Group**
  - **Florida Farm Bureau Federation**
  - **Rivers Coalition**
  - **Audubon of Florida**
  - **Nature Conservancy**
  - **Arthur R. Marshall Foundation**
  - **Everglades Foundation**
  - **Friends of Istokpoga**
  - **Irene Kennedy Quincey**
  - **Clell Ford**
  - **Ted Guy**
  - **Matt Bokor**
  - **Robert Norton**

# Format for Response to Comments

<b>Comment No.</b>	<b>Response</b>
<b>DOI-1</b>	<p><b>As described in Section 6 and Appendix B the future base in this plan included Acceler8 projects, Kissimmee River Restoration, and a version of Modified Water Deliveries to Everglades National Park. Future updates of the plan will incorporate more full scale deliveries to the southern Everglades as those needs are better defined. It is not the intent of this plan process to preclude the necessary delivery of water to the Southern Everglades. Clarification on this constraint has been added to Section 3.4 Planning Constraints</b></p>

# Summary of Comments

- 
- **Phosphorus trends in Lake Istokpoga and Upper Kissimmee Subwatershed**
    - ***WQ improvement strategy for these sub-watersheds currently focuses on source control- BMP full scale implementation 2009-2015***
    - ***BMP effectiveness and need for regional projects will continue to be evaluated through the plan update process***

# Summary of Comments

- **Disagreement with the St. Lucie low and high flow performance measures**
  - ***Used CERP RECOVER performance measure, will be reviewed in RWPP***

# Summary of Comments

- **Questions on how the information related to the damaging discharges to tide was used to identify the water storage goal for the plan**
  - ***Information from the graphic was used as a general guideline as well as additional analysis of RSM information***
  - ***Adding storage scenarios based on Alt 2 to plan -supports the storage goal conclusion***

# Summary of Comments

- 
- **Concerns regarding affects of future land use changes**
    - ***Land use will be updated in future updates of plan***
    - ***New regulatory requirements for land use changes will include more stringent water quantity and quality requirements***

# Summary of Comments

- **Questions on intended use of Land Suitability Model**
  - *Intended to help identify relatively constraint-free acreage for STAs, Reservoirs, and RASTA (large civil works projects)*
  - *Will clarify intended use in report*

# Summary of Comments

- 
- **Concern about having adequate water for Southern Everglades restoration related to CERP**
    - *The intent was not to preclude the delivery of water south for restoration needs. Therefore this was included as a planning constraint. Will clarify this constraint in the report.*

# Summary of Comments

- 
- **Lack of an evaluation of a flow-way through the EAA**
    - *Outside of planning area*
    - *Corps plans to evaluate*
    - *Any new information can be incorporated into future updates of the plan*

# Summary of Comments

- **Concern that there will continue to be damaging regulatory releases to the St. Lucie and Caloosahatchee after the 900,000 to 1.3 million acre feet of storage have been implemented.**
  - *Magnitude of storage identified in plan significantly reduces but does not eliminate damaging discharges*
  - *Analysis showed that to totally eliminate regulatory discharges is impractical*
  - *Storage scenarios built from Alt 2 added to report*

# Summary of Comments

- 
- **Affects of large scale storage and treatment on endangered species north of Lake Okeechobee**
    - *This will be taken into consideration in siting facilities*

# Summary of Comments

- 
- **Need more emphasis on local scale storage, but not to the detriment of existing wetland functions**
    - ***Local storage that is proposed is intended to be compatible with improving wetland functions. Will add clarification in plan.***

# Summary of Comments

- 
- **Request to include a reservoir in the Upper Kissimmee Sub-watershed**
    - *A separate analysis is currently underway evaluating the potential for storage of excess surface water from the Upper Kissimmee sub-watershed*
    - *Clarification added to plan to indicate the flexibility to add a reservoir in the Upper Kissimmee if the Regional Study supports conclusion*

# Summary of Comments

- 
- **Concern about the difficulty in developing a feasible storage and water quality treatment facility in the Fisheating Creek Sub-watershed**
    - ***Challenges of identifying a storage and treatment facility in the Fisheating Creek Sub-watershed are recognized***
    - ***More planning will be conducted to determine the best approach or approaches for storage and water quality treatment***

# Summary of Comments

- **Adverse affects on water budget and Lake Okeechobee water levels from recirculating STAs and deep well injection**
  - ***The operations of these types of facilities would be affected by water availability and lake levels. This was factored into the RSM modeling.***

# Summary of Comments

- **Need to clearly identify the timeframes for initial, mid-term, and long-term implementation stage**
  - *Will add clarity on the timeframes in report*
  - *Initial Implementation Stage- projects initiated 2008-2010*
  - *Midterm Implementation Stage- projects initiated 2010-2015*
  - *Long Term Implementation Stage- projects initiated beyond 2015*

# Summary of Comments

- **Request for more detailed schedule and costs for projects in all implementation stages**
  - ***Adding list of projects for initial implementation stage***
  - ***Will add detail for mid and long- term implementation stages in future updates***

# Summary of Comments

- **Questions on the relationship of this planning process and the CERP process**
  
- **Questions on the relationship of this planning process and the LORSS process**
  - ***Phase II Tech Plan takes into account the CERP Lake Okeechobee Watershed Project features***
  - ***CERP process will provide information to better define the type of storage***
  - ***Future updates of the plan will use updated Lake regulation schedules and other applicable operational changes and CERP information***

# Summary of Comments

- **Questions on how the plan will take into consideration new information**
  - ***Plan will be updated at a minimum of every three years***
  - ***New information will also be incorporated into ongoing sub-watershed conceptual planning and more detailed design efforts***

# Phase II Lake Okeechobee Technical Plan Schedule

- 
- **Review comments and revise draft** **Dec-Jan 2007**
  - **Request Governing Board approval to submit plan to Legislature** **January 8, 2008**
  - **Submit Plan to Legislature** **February 1, 2008**

# St. Lucie and Caloosahatchee River Watershed Protection Plans

- **Meetings for Protection Plans, Research and Monitoring Plans, and TMDLs are being coordinated**
- **Dates for meetings are posted on Northern Everglades website**

<https://my.sfwmd.gov/northerneverglades>

- **Protection Plan updates to be provided at future Lake Okeechobee Committee meetings**



Questions