



February 20, 2004

Mr. Henry Dean, Executive Director  
South Florida Water Management District  
3301 Gun Club Road  
West Palm Beach, Florida 33416-4680

Col. Robert M. Carpenter, District Engineer  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Prudential Building  
701 San Marco Blvd.  
Jacksonville, FL 32307-8175

Dear Mr. Dean and Col. Carpenter,

Thank you for your recent decision to re-examine the Water Supply/Environmental protocol for Lake Okeechobee. The Southwest Florida Watershed Council applauds this decision and offers you our support. We are particularly appreciative of the interest to try to have more lower level discharges than fewer high volume discharges, since this is the time of the year the estuary responds best to lower flows. A determination to provide more Phase I pulses (rather than II or higher) provides us some room for additional flows from lower basin storm events to not create harmful flows to the estuary.

We would also like to offer our support to efforts reexamining the storage actuality of Lake Okeechobee, and means to tap the supplies that exist. We feel that recognizing the estuaries as dry season demands for Lake Water Supplies (at least until the storage systems come on line) is also a critical component of South Florida water supply management, and acknowledging opportunities for tapping these supplies increases the opportunities for the District and Corps to also meet or improve upon MFLs.

Sincerely,

Susan Brookman  
Chairman

*The mission of the Southwest Florida Watershed Council is to protect, conserve, manage and/or restore the land and water resources of the Caloosahatchee and Big Cypress Watersheds through participation and cooperation of all stakeholders in consensus building, planning, and decision making to meet the economic, natural and cultural needs for this and succeeding generations.*