



Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
U.S. House of Representatives

Bill Shuster
Chairman

Washington, DC 20515

Peter A. DeFazio
Ranking Member

May 22, 2018

Christopher W. Vieson, Staff Director

Katherine W. Dedrick, Democratic Staff Director

The Honorable R.D. James
Assistant Secretary of the Army – Civil Works
Department of the Army
108 Army Pentagon
Washington DC, 20310

Dear Assistant Secretary James:

Thank you for meeting with us last Friday. As we discussed, the state of Florida has proposed increasing the amount of water storage and treatment authorized in the Central Everglades Planning Project (CEPP) to mitigate against polluted and nutrient rich discharges from Lake Okeechobee. The South Florida Water Management District transmitted that proposal to the Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) in March 2018.

Authorization of this storage reservoir is a priority, and we are committed to including authorization of this project in this year's Water Resources and Development Act (WRDA) pending your timely and favorable recommendation.

Before inclusion in this year's bill, the Corps must complete its review of a Post-Authorization Change Report. On March 26, 2018, Members of the Florida Congressional delegation urged your office "to coordinate an expedited review of the proposal to ensure a timely decision that, if positive, would allow Congress to be able to consider authorizing this ecologically-significant modification of the CEPP in the current WRDA cycle." We echo this sentiment.

Again, thank you for meeting with us last week, and for your commitment to an expeditious review. We would appreciate regular updates on your progress over the coming month, and please do not hesitate to reach out to our respective staffs.

Sincerely,

Bill Shuster
Chairman

Garret Graves
Chairman
Subcommittee on Water Resources
and Environment



Brian Mast
Vice Chairman
Subcommittee on Water Resources
and Environment

cc:

LTG Todd T. Semonite
Commanding General and Chief of Engineers
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Headquarters
441 G Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20314

BG Diana M. Holland
Commander
South Atlantic Division
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
60 Forsyth Street SW, Room 10M15
Atlanta, GA 30303

COL Jason A. Kirk
District Commander
Jacksonville District
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
701 San Marco Boulevard
Jacksonville, FL 32207