

II. FISCAL IMPACT ANALYSIS

A. Five Year Summary of Fiscal Impact:

Fiscal Years	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Capital Expenditures					
Operating Costs					
External Revenues					
Program Income(County)					
In-Kind Match(County)					
NET FISCAL IMPACT					
#ADDITIONAL FTE					
POSITIONS (CUMULATIVE)					

Is Item Included in Current Budget? Yes No
 Does this item include the use of federal funds? Yes No

Budget Account No:

Fund Dept Unit


B. Recommended Sources of Funds/Summary of Fiscal Impact:

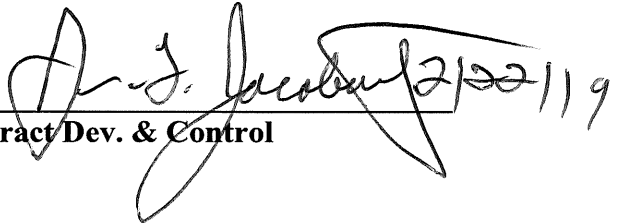
No fiscal impact

C. Departmental Fiscal Review:


III. REVIEW COMMENTS:

A. OFMB Fiscal and/or Contract Dev. and Control Comments:


 OFMB 2/22/19


 Contract Dev. & Control 2/22/19

B. Legal Sufficiency


 Assistant County Attorney 2/22/19

C. Other Department Review

 Department Director



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
CORPS OF ENGINEERS, JACKSONVILLE DISTRICT
701 SAN MARCO BOULEVARD
JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA 32207-8915

Planning and Policy Division
Environmental Branch

JAN 29 2019

To Whom It May Concern:

The Jacksonville District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) is beginning preparation of a National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) assessment for the Lake Okeechobee System Operations Manual (LOSOM) required by Section 1106 of the 2018 Water Resource Development Act. The purpose of the Manual is to reevaluate and define operations for the Lake Okeechobee regulation schedule that take into account nearly complete additional infrastructure which will soon be operational components of the water management system. The additional infrastructure that will be taken into consideration includes the Herbert Hoover Dike repairs and culverts replacement (complete 2022), Kissimmee River Headwaters Revitalization (complete 2022), as well as the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP) C-43 West Basin Storage Reservoir (complete 2024) and C-44 Reservoir and Stormwater Treatment Area (complete 2023). The study area is depicted in Figure 1.

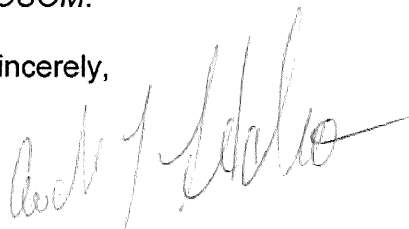
The Manual will result in a new water management schedule that addresses the congressionally authorized purposes that include flood risk management; water supply for agricultural irrigation, municipalities and industry, environment, and Native American Tribes; navigation; enhancement of fish and wildlife; and recreation. The Manual will be informed by public workshops to set goals and objectives and develop and evaluate alternatives (operational scenarios), sequential modeling, and NEPA. Information gained from water management actions taken by the Corps in response to recent unseasonable high and low water levels and harmful algal blooms will also be considered. Implementation of the water control manual is anticipated to balance the need for releases with the multiple authorized project purposes.

We invite the participation of Federal and State agencies, Native American Tribes, local agencies, interested parties and individuals to provide comments and to identify any issues or concerns. Please share this notice with any interested party. Public scoping meetings will be held at the following dates and locations:

- Feb 5 Ft Myers @ Lee County Mosquito Control District Training Center
- Feb 6 Okeechobee @ Indian River State College
- Feb 11 Clewiston @ John Boy Auditorium
- Feb 19 Stuart @ Indian River State College
- Feb 26 Broward County @ location to be determined
- Feb 27 West Palm Beach @ SFWMD GB Auditorium
- Feb 28 Dade County @ North Dade Regional Library

Please provide comments that consider what are the issues with the current regulation schedule for Lake Okeechobee, what aspects need to be changed, and how those issues and changes should be evaluated. Send any comments you may have to the attention of Dr. Ann Hodgson (904-232-3691) at the letter head address or email LakeOComments@usace.army.mil no later than 60 days from the date of this letter. All individuals who respond with comments will be included in future mailings. Others may be added to the mailing list by making a written request (postcard) to the same address or by email. All comments will be summarized, addressed, and used to inform the LOSOM Manual. For more information on the Manual, please go to the following website: www.saj.usace.army.mil/LOSOM.

Sincerely,



Andrew J. LoSchiavo
Acting Chief, Environmental Branch

Enclosure

LAKE OKEECHOBEE SYSTEM OPERATING MANUAL | LOSOM

FACTS & INFORMATION



FEBRUARY 2019

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) is re-evaluating Lake Okeechobee operations to coincide with the completion of Herbert Hoover Dike (HHD) rehabilitation in 2022. This study will re-examine the opportunities to balance the project purposes for flood control, water supply, recreation, navigation, environmental effects to fish and wildlife, and cultural and recreational resources. The result will be the Lake Okeechobee System Operating Manual (LOSOM). The LOSOM study will also consider the future Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP) infrastructure that will provide additional flexibility for lake operation.

PROJECT AUTHORITY

Section 1106 of the 2018 Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) directs, “The Secretary shall expedite completion of the Lake Okeechobee regulation schedule to coincide with completion of the Herbert Hoover Dike project, and may include all relevant aspects of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan described in section 601 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2000 (114 Stat. 2680).”

STUDY SCOPE

The result of the LOSOM effort will be a new system operating manual (SOM) for Lake Okeechobee and the accompanying National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documentation. Incremental regulation schedules will be developed to account for future infrastructure construction. Each increment will have NEPA documentation to allow for immediate implementation when the infrastructure is available.

The study will not propose water quality improvement features, nor propose new infrastructure beyond evaluation of already authorized projects.

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

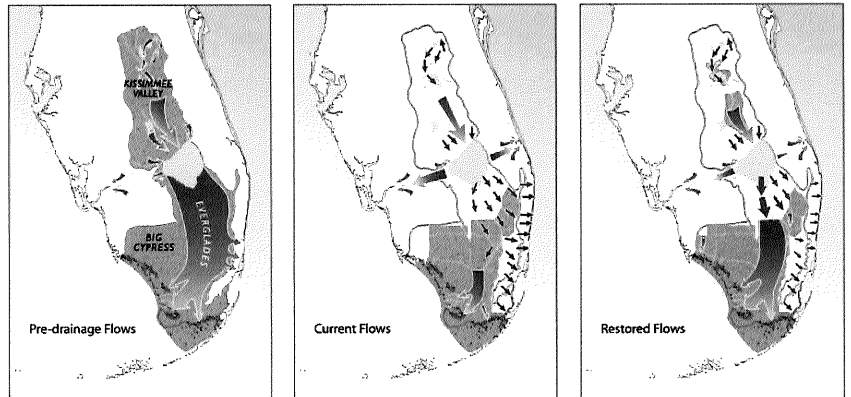
The LOSOM stakeholder engagement begins with the NEPA scoping meetings that will be conducted throughout February 2019. Around Lake Okeechobee and on both coasts, meetings are scheduled in communities influenced by lake operations. Stakeholder feedback will inform priorities and scope of the new operational plan. Beginning in May 2019, planned workshops will allow specific stakeholder input during the alternative development and evaluation process.

HEALTH AND SAFETY FIRST

To ensure that the congressionally authorized project purposes are met, the Corps evaluates public health and safety and flood control first. Other authorized project purposes evaluated include water supply, local basin runoff, current and forecasted weather conditions, ecological conditions of Lake Okeechobee and its surrounding areas, navigation, salinity and groundwater control, and recreation.

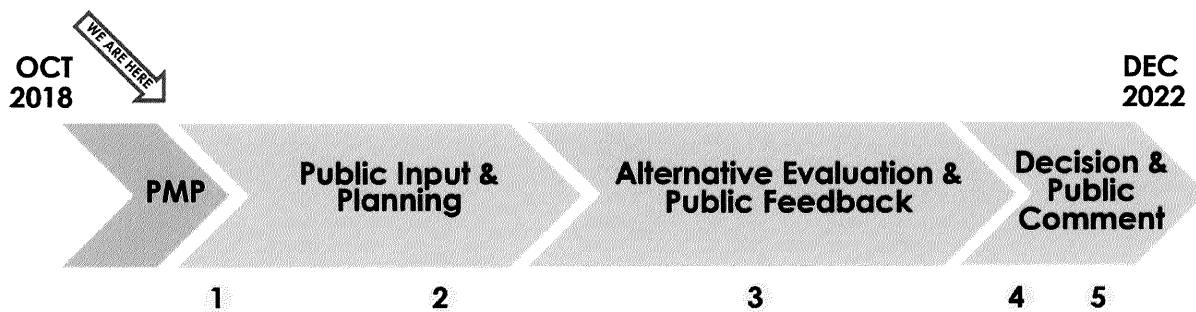
LAKE OKEECHOBEE SYSTEM OPERATING MANUAL | LOSOM

Lake Okeechobee is the heart of the Everglades, supplying the natural system with water that is the life blood for the River of Grass. With the construction of the vast water management system throughout central and south Florida, Lake Okeechobee is also the keystone in the flood protection and water supply system. Regulation of Lake Okeechobee is an integral part of the restoration effort on-going in central and south Florida, working with the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan to better manage the hydrology of the regional system and meet the many-faceted needs of the urban and natural environments.



KEY MILESTONES

Approved PMP and Review Plan.....	January 2019
Public Scoping/Plan Formulation.....	February – September 2019
Public Workshops/Alternative Evaluation.....	October 2019 – September 2021
Prepare Draft LOSOM/Environmental Impact Statement	October 2021 – January 2022
Public Comment/Draft LOSOM/Environmental Impact Statement.....	February – March 2022
Prepare Final LOSOM/Environmental Impact Statement.....	April – May 2022
Final LOSOM Environmental Impact Statement	September 2022
Signed Record of Decision (ROD).....	December 2022



PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

1. Scoping Meetings	February 2019
2. Planning Workshops	May & August 2019
3. Alternative Evaluation Workshops	Multiple in 2019–2022
4. Draft Report — Public Comment	April–May 2022
5. Final Report — Public Comment	September 2022

FOR MORE INFORMATION



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 Earl.T.Gysan@usace.army.mil
 904-232-3272

Project website:
www.saj.usace.army.mil/LOSOM

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

