



**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)					
<b>NET FISCAL IMPACT</b>					
#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:**

**C. Departmental Fiscal Review:**

**III. REVIEW COMMENTS:**

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

*Lisa R. Slaska*      5/22/19  
 OFMB      *(KW) 5/29/19*

*J. J. Joubert*      5/30/19  
 Contract Dev. & Control  
 5/30/19 *JD*

**B. Legal Sufficiency**

*M. M. Mancini*      5/30/19  
 Assistant County Attorney

**C. Other Department Review**

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Department Director

June 5, 2019



**County Administration**

P.O. Box 1989  
West Palm Beach, FL 33402-1989  
(561) 355-2030  
FAX: (561) 355-3982  
www.pbcgov.com



**Palm Beach County  
Board of County  
Commissioners**

Mack Bernard, Mayor  
Dave Kerner, Vice Mayor  
Hal R. Valeche  
Gregg K. Weiss  
Robert S. Weinroth  
Mary Lou Berger  
Melissa McKinlay

**County Administrator**

Verdenia C. Baker

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Colonel Andrew Kelly  
District Commander  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
701 San Marco Boulevard  
Jacksonville, FL 32207

Drew Bartlett  
Executive Director  
South Florida Water Management District  
3301 Gun Club Road  
West Palm Beach, FL 33406

Dear Colonel Kelly and Mr. Bartlett,

**Subject: Lake Okeechobee**

On Tuesday, May 7, 2019, commissioners from Martin, Palm Beach, Glades, Hendry and Okeechobee Counties (the Counties) held a public meeting to discuss local government interests as stakeholders in the management of Lake Okeechobee (the Lake). Although our Counties may not agree on every concern or every solution to water resource matters in South Florida, the Counties agree on the following foundational principles for future management of Lake Okeechobee.

Among the Counties' highest collective interest is the completion of all projects identified in the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP). All of the Counties are vested in completing CERP as its projects will bring about significant improvements in water quality, quantity and timing that will result in substantial progress towards resolving the current challenges in water management.

It is further commonly agreed that the Lake is the heart of the Central and South Florida system; and therefore, its ecology is of significant importance. Improving water quality through reduction of pollutants and restoration of natural systems is a priority. More specifically, management that occasionally allows for aquatic vegetation growth which contributes the highest value water quality treatment in the Lake at frequencies supported by science must be a high consideration. This year, for example, the climate, Lake levels and forecast conditions provided a unique opportunity for recovery of critical aquatic vegetation that is expected to benefit water quality and habitat. Improved water quality in the Lake is a high priority to all stakeholders.

It is agreed that a continued focus on increasing water storage in the Okeechobee watershed is critical. We also agree that restrictions and impediments to southern flow should be removed to allow flow to mimic natural systems, such as removing flow restrictions along the Tamiami Trail. Other actions include storing and treating stormwater in the watershed of origin and minimizing operational restrictions at Stormwater Treatment Areas due to protected species, while protecting the sensitive ecology within Everglades National Park and other critical ecosystems. The Counties are supportive of the development of the new Lake Okeechobee System Operating Manual (LOSOM). The Counties agree that LOSOM should take into account the concerns from both coastal communities as well as the concerns from the communities surrounding Lake Okeechobee.

**ATTACHMENT 1**



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Colonel Kelly and Mr. Bartlett (Lake Okeechobee)  
June 5, 2019

Furthermore, the Counties stress the importance of the economic dependency of the surrounding communities on Lake operations which include, but are not limited to, agriculture, tourism, water supply, fisheries and other direct and indirect water dependent businesses. Similarly, the Counties recognize the importance of the quality of life we all strive to enhance in our communities, which includes sustainability of clean water for drinking, agriculture, recreation, and propagation of healthy fish and wildlife in the natural systems.

It is a landmark occasion that the Counties embraced the opportunity to identify issues of solidarity concerning Lake management. While the Counties maintain their autonomy to prioritize individual interests, these are points of agreement that the Counties share in common. It is the intent of this letter to emphatically convey these collective interests as the Counties work to resolve water management challenges for a better future for all the residents of this distinct and special region of Florida.

Kindest Regards,

\_\_\_\_\_  
Tim Stanley, Chairman  
Glades County

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mitchell Wills, Chairperson  
Hendry County

\_\_\_\_\_  
Edward V. Ciampi Chairman  
Martin County

\_\_\_\_\_  
Terry W. Burroughs, Chairman  
Okeechobee County

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mack Bernard, Mayor  
Palm Beach County

Cc: Verdenia C. Baker, County Administrator, Palm Beach County  
Robbie Chartier, County Administrator, Okeechobee County  
Jennifer Davis, County Administrator, Hendry County  
Taryn Kryzda, County Administrator, Martin County  
Martin Murphy, County Administrator, Glades County  
Lt. Col. Jennifer Reynolds, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Noah Valenstein, Florida Department of Environmental Protection



June 5, 2019

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Mary Lou Berger  
Melissa McKinlay

**County Administrator**

Verdenia C. Baker

The Honorable Mario Diaz-Balart  
404 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Alcee L. Hastings  
2353 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

**Subject: An Invitation to Discuss Lake Okeechobee**

Dear Congressman Diaz-Balart and Congressman Hastings:

The Counties surrounding Lake Okeechobee truly appreciate your active engagement in protecting South Florida's environment and economy as Co-Chairmen of the Congressional Everglades Caucus. Under your collective leadership, the Everglades Caucus has effectively educated Congress about the Everglades, and fostered support for essential projects that are protective of long-term sustainability of the Everglades ecosystem, associated regional water resources, and the communities and economies that depend on them.

On May 7, 2019, a meeting of historic significance was held in Okeechobee, Florida with County Commissioners from Glades, Hendry, Okeechobee, Martin, and Palm Beach Counties. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss areas of agreement on Lake Okeechobee water levels, the need for regional cooperation to improve the water quality of the Lake, the desire for healthy estuaries and a long-term water resources strategy that is protective of all communities and industries. Encouraging aspects of the discussion included the recognition that participants have a responsibility to address local issues and a desire to change the collective narrative from one of "shared adversity" to "mutually beneficial."

The conversation on water issues related to Lake Okeechobee and Everglades Restoration is evolving, and we invite you to engage with us in this discussion. We respectfully invite you and the other Everglades Caucus members to our region to meet with County Commissioners, visit the communities and economies that are affected by Lake Okeechobee operations, and share items of mutual concern.

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**ATTACHMENT 2**



**Page Two (Cont'd)**  
**Honorable Mario Diaz-Balart**  
**Honorable Alcee L. Hasting**  
**June 5, 2019**

We are hopeful that you will accept our offer to host this meeting for the Everglades Caucus, and capitalize on a multi-county effort to best coordinate and agree on a path forward that will be beneficial to all.

Kindest Regards,

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Tim Stanley, Chairman  
Glades County

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Mitchell Wills, Chairperson  
Hendry County

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Edward V. Ciampi, Chairman  
Martin County

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Terry W. Burroughs, Chairman  
Okeechobee County

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Mack Bernard, Mayor  
Palm Beach County

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