

April 3, 2023

LTG Scott Spellmon
United States Army Corps of Engineers
441 G Street NW
Washington DC, 20226

Michael Connor
Assistant Secretary of the Army
Civil Works
108 Army Pentagon
Washington DC 20310-0108

Dear LTG Spellmon and Mr. Connor:

Congratulations on the recent ribbon cutting for the rehabilitation of the Herbert Hoover Dike and the groundbreaking for the Everglades Agricultural Area (EAA) Reservoir. The effort to create and expedite storage south of Lake Okeechobee has highlighted how the state and federal governments can work together to creatively expedite projects identified in the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP).

The EAA Reservoir and stormwater treatment area (STA) are the first CERP projects to be developed under a Section 203 agreement, which has allowed expedited delivery of the STA and groundbreaking of the reservoir. As progress is made south of the Lake, the focus must now shift to northern storage. Authorization of the Lake Okeechobee Watershed Restoration Project (LOWRP), the first CERP project to create storage north of the Lake, is urgent to ensure we maintain restoration momentum and have adequate water storage throughout the system.

The undersigned groups depend on a restored Everglades ecosystem for its myriad benefits. The Everglades provides abundant wildlife and fisheries habitat for biological diversity, supports the economies of communities around Lake Okeechobee and our coastal estuaries; produces recreational opportunities for Floridians and visitors; and supplies water for south Florida agriculture and urban areas.

