



**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY
CIVIL WORKS
108 ARMY PENTAGON
WASHINGTON DC 20310-0108**

August 6, 2021

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

Dear Mr. Bartlett:

This is in response to your letter, dated June 25, 2021, requesting that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) submit the Project Implementation Reports (PIR) for the Lake Okeechobee Watershed Restoration Project (LOWRP) and the Western Everglades Restoration Project (WERP) for authorization in the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 2022. As discussed last week I acknowledge the importance of storage and conveyance to manage water in South Florida and the roles the LOWRP and WERP have in the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan to meet those needs. Every effort will be made to expedite the Chief's Reports for LOWRP or WERP completed in time for consideration by Congress in a Water Resources Development Act in 2022.

The WERP study is pending approval of a second 3x3x3 exception for additional time and funding. The exception request is under review at Corps headquarters and will be sent to my office for my action in the near future. The Corps has estimated that they need an additional 16 months to complete the Chief's Report.

Regarding the LOWRP, the Corps is evaluating whether to remove the wetland attenuation feature from the PIR. The evaluation will require a third 3x3x3 exception, which is also under review at Corps headquarters and will be sent to my office for my action in the near future. The Corps has estimated that they need an additional 13 months to complete the Chief's Report.

It was great meeting you last week and for being generous with your time to talk with me about the South Florida Everglades Restoration program.

Sincerely,

Jaime A. Pinkham
Acting Assistant Secretary of the Army
(Civil Works)