



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

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

Dear Mr. Bartlett:

Thank you for your letter, dated February 9, 2023, informing my office of South Florida Water Management District's (SFWMD) intent to prepare a feasibility study for North of Lake Okeechobee Storage Reservoir (Yellow Book Component A) under section 203 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986, as amended ("Section 203 Study"), and offer to provide funds for the Government to undertake Federal Activities and Technical Assistance for the Section 203 Study.

SFWMD funds may be accepted by Jacksonville District to undertake Federal Activities and Technical Assistance. I will instruct the Jacksonville District Commander to negotiate and develop a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) for Federal Activities, an MOA for Technical Assistance, and scopes of work to be executed under both MOAs, to be approved by the South Atlantic Division Commander. No credit or repayment shall be provided for any funds provided for the Federal Activities or Technical Assistance. Please note that the section 203 authority does not enable the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to conduct project planning for this study on your behalf. The Section 203 Study would be a distinct effort from the Lake Okeechobee Watershed Restoration Project study under USACE development.

My staff is available to discuss Section 203 study requirements or procedures, if needed. My point of contact for section 203 studies is Ms. Andrea Walker.

Thank you for your support of the Army Civil Works program.

Sincerely,

Michael L. Connor
Assistant Secretary of Army
(Civil Works)