



## SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

February 9, 2017

Rajendra Paudel  
Hydrologist  
The Everglades Foundation  
18001 Old Cutler Road, Suite 625  
Palmetto Bay, FL 33157

Dear Dr. Rajendra Paudel:

The South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) has received your public records request for the "simulation inputs and outputs that have been used for the Lake Okeechobee Watershed Planning Project (LOWP)." The SFWMD promptly fulfills public records requests in the spirit of Florida's sunshine conventions.

Along those lines, it is unfortunate that Everglades Foundation representatives did not attend the February meeting of the Water Resources Advisory Commission (WRAC) where the LOWP and critical water storage issues were discussed. In addition to WRAC members, Treasure Coast residents and elected officials and representatives of interested groups such as the Sierra Club, the Florida Farm Bureau Federation and the Florida Oceanographic Society, expressed their opinions about the project during the meeting. You may have benefitted from the in-depth public discourse, adding the Foundation's voice to the planning process and the opportunity to further engage with District staff.

A fully open and inclusive public process is how our Governing Board makes decisions in the taxpayers' best interest. As always, the Foundation is encouraged to participate in these meaningful public meetings and our Governing Board welcomes your interest in a more complete understanding of the LOWP process.

This link - <ftp://ftp.sfwmd.gov/pub/LOWP> - contains information pertinent to your request including the Reservoir Sizing and Operations (RESOPS) model files used to screen and identify feasible alternatives. Along with inputs and outputs archived in each zip file, there is a brief "Read Me" file explaining the content of each folder.

Below is a brief summary of the current status of modeling to support the planning process and what is in place for the upcoming weeks.

- Screening of alternatives using RESOPS is completed;
- Development of baseline conditions using Regional Simulation Model Basins (RSMBN) is completed;

- Simulation of the initial set of alternatives using RSMBN is underway;
- Additional detailed modeling and refinements of the project alternatives are underway;

After each key modeling delivery, staff will review the modeling results for the various alternatives and gather input from the public and interested parties. The LOWP's Project Delivery Team (PDT) will meet publicly to discuss the ongoing process and public updates will be given periodically to the WRAC and the Governing Board. A Tentatively Selected Plan is expected to be identified in early 2018. The progression of modeling from screening to detailed modeling and, ultimately, to a plan is part of a considered and rigorous planning process to select the most appropriate alternative.

As in the past, I welcome the opportunity to walk you through this information and answer any further questions you may have about the modeling process in support of the LOWP.

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Sincerely,



Akin Owosina  
Hydrology and Hydraulics Bureau Chief