SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

November 6, 2017

Senator José Javier Rodriguez
220 Senate Office Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Rodriguez:

Thank you for your letter of Oct 27, 2017. Below are the responses to the questions in your letter relating to the next steps in the implementation of SB10:

1. SB10 requires the SFWMD to use the most up to date version of the Dynamic Model for Stormwater Treatment Areas to determine if there is sufficient land to implement at least a 240,000-acre-foot reservoir with sufficient treatment to meet state and federal water quality standards. Based on our conversations and on public comments, there is a lack of clarity on whether the District has actually run the model. Can you please confirm whether the District has run the model and, if so, when we can expect the results to be released?

   The SFWMD is using the Dynamic Model for Stormwater Treatment Areas (DMSTA) to determine the size of Stormwater Treatment Areas (STA) needed to ensure adequate water quality treatment to meet state water quality standards for a reservoir. Initial and exploratory DMSTA screening model runs will be completed and additional runs are underway to identify water quality treatment requirements for different possible configurations of project features. Results of this water quality screening analysis were completed and shared with the pubic on Monday November 6, 2017. These runs will continue to be refined based on public input during the planning process.

2. The original EAA reservoir called for in CERP (also known as "Component G") was to provide 360,000 acre-feet of storage, 240,000 acre-feet of which would be allocated to the natural system. The remaining 120,000 acre-feet was to be available for agriculture uses. Failure to designate the allocations of water to the natural system (or "reservations") as required by CERP in 2006 was a major reason why implementation of the EAA reservoir was stopped in 2008.

   First, can you tell me how much, if any, of the water from this reservoir will be used for purposes other than for the benefit of the natural system? Second, does the District have projections for how much the reservoir will reduce discharges in a wet year?
   Storage and treatment south of Lake Okeechobee was identified in the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP, 1999) and further defined in the Central Everglades Planning Project (CEPP) authorized by Congress in December of 2016. The recommended plan under CEPP reduces the large pulses of regulatory flood control

releases sent from Lake Okeechobee by redirecting approximately 210,000 acre feet of water on an annual average basis to the historical southerly flow path.

The Everglades Agricultural Area Storage Reservoir feasibility study currently underway is a modification to CEPP, i.e. the next increment of storage and treatment, and will be consistent with Chapter 2017-10 of the Laws of Florida and with its congressionally authorized purpose to improve the quantity, quality, timing and distribution of water flows to the Northern Estuaries, central Everglades (Water Conservation Area 3 (WCA 3A) and Everglades National Park (ENP)), and Florida Bay while increasing water supply for municipal, industrial and agricultural users.

Information on how much water from this reservoir will be used for purposes other than for the benefit of the natural system and how much the reservoir will reduce discharges is not available at this time but will be part of the project alternative analysis and evaluation scheduled through the month of December of this year.

The project alternatives to be evaluated under this study are being developed at this time with public input. We expect they will include, as identified in CERP, an alternative that uses a portion of the water captured by the reservoir for other water related needs of the region consistent with the general tenet of CERP.

3. Dedicated conveyance of water from Lake Okeechobee to the EAA reservoir will have a direct and significant impact on how the reservoir functions, how much the reservoir will be able to reduce discharges, and how the reservoir will be able to send water south to Florida Bay and the Everglades National Park.

   Is there a plan for the conveyance to the EAA reservoir and has there been any consideration of making the conveyance dedicated? Second, what will prevent the addition of agricultural runoff into the conveyance feature from making it being partly or entirely unavailable to deliver water from Lake Okeechobee to the reservoir?

   Part of this study includes the evaluation of conveyance, both canal and structure capacities, to deliver water from Lake Okeechobee to the reservoir. The alternatives that will be discussed with the public will include "book-ends" that range from current existing capacity to what was envisioned with implementation of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP). The analysis will include the Everglades Agricultural Area run-off occurring at existing permitted limits and the additional conveyance that may be needed for restoration benefits.

4. Is there any land currently owned or managed by the SFWMD which is slated to be used for SB 10 implementation?

   Yes, there is a total of 34,038 acres of land that is owned or managed by the SFWMD (32,787 acres) and the State of Florida (1,251 acres) which is slated to be used for SB 10 implementation. Two additional parcels of 489 acres and 10 acres (499 acres total) are owned by private landowners, for a total of 34,537 acres within the A-1, A-2 and A-2 Expansion areas.

If you have any other questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact me at 561-682-6993 or emarks@sfwmd.gov.

Sincerely,

Ernie Marks
Executive Director

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Attachment