



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

JUN 26 2018

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

Dear Mr. Marks:

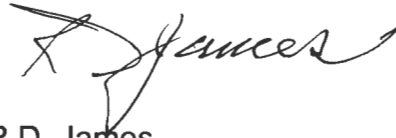
I am responding to your letter dated June 1, 2018, cosigned by Mr. Federico Fernandez conveying your concerns associated with cost sharing of the project recommended in South Florida Water Management District's Central Everglades Planning Project, Section 203 Integrated Feasibility Study and DRAFT Environmental Impact Statement (Study) and the concerns contained in my Section 203 Review Assessment of the Study.

On May 30, 2018, I provided you a preliminary Review Assessment of the Study, which is currently under review by the Office of Management and Budget. My Review Assessment identified certain conditions required for construction of the proposed project and recommendations concerning the plan or design of the proposed project. In my opinion, none of the issues included in the assessment are insurmountable. Some will require additional analysis, design, information and coordination, which is common when projects are in the Preconstruction, Engineering, and Design (PED) Phase.

I fully support moving water, meeting applicable water quality standards, south from Lake Okeechobee and believe that this is a scientifically sound and practicable approach to restoring the Everglades. The proposed A-2 Reservoir would be an important component to moving additional water south to improve the operational flexibility within the Everglades system. There is no question if the project is congressionally authorized under the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan that we will equally (50% Federal / 50% non-Federal) cost share the construction effort. However, there are aspects of individual elements of the proposed project that we will have to assess during PED to determine what aspects are federal project features for restoration and what aspects are state water quality treatment elements.

I continue to work with the Office of Management and Budget to support their review of my Review Assessment of the Study with the goal of submitting my assessment to Congress in time to support consideration in the next Water Resources Development Act.

I am committed to furthering the execution of the Everglades program and to working with you and the State of Florida during PED to address any concerns, if the project is authorized. I am sending an identical letter to Mr. Fernandez.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. James", with a stylized flourish at the end.

R.D. James  
Assistant Secretary of the Army  
(Civil Works)

Mailing Address:  
PO Box 24680  
West Palm Beach, FL 33416-4680



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Governing Board Chairman  
South Florida Water Management District  
3301 Gun Club Road  
West Palm Beach, Florida 33406

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R.D. James". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

R.D. James  
Assistant Secretary of the Army  
(Civil Works)

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PO Box 24680  
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