



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
JACKSONVILLE DISTRICT CORPS OF ENGINEERS
701 San Marco Boulevard
JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA 32207-8175

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

Planning and Policy Division
Environmental Branch

JUL 31 2017

To Whom It May Concern:

Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) Regulation (33 CFR 230.11), this letter constitutes the Notice of Availability of the Environmental Assessment (EA) and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the 2017 Planned Temporary Deviation to the 1988 Regulation Schedule for Water Conservation Area (WCA) 2A until April 30, 2018, in order to provide relief from high water stages within WCA 3A. A series of early wet season storms have occurred since June 5, 2017 causing water levels in the three WCAs to rise above their maximum regulation schedule and the maximum exceedance elevations per the 2012 Water Control Plan. WCA 3A alone received 17.57 inches of precipitation in the month of June, which is 280% of the average for this time of year.

WCA 3A stage is currently above the maximum regulation schedule. If the rate of the rise of water is not mitigated to limit the prolonged duration of high water conditions within WCA 3A, there is the potential for these high water levels to pose significant environmental risks due to reduced flood storage as the wet season and hurricane season continue. Exacerbating the high water levels in WCA 3A are the flows out of WCA 2A through the S-11 structures. Raising the 1988 Regulation Schedule for WCA 2A will accommodate additional storage, therefore reducing inflows into WCA 3A through the S-11 structures. WCA 2A has sufficient capacity to hold more than the current regulation schedule (historically, it has done so) and the Corps is proposing to utilize this to alleviate conditions in WCA 3A. The Corps will coordinate with the South Florida Water Management District to keep WCA 2A stages as close to the current regulation schedule as possible by maximizing releases out of WCA 2A to the east for the duration of the deviation. This deviation would remain in effect until WCA 3A falls below Zone A, at which point a recovery period would be initiated to reduce the WCA-2A stage to the pre-deviation regulation schedule (normal operations).

The purpose of this EA is to document and disclose to the public potential environmental consequences on the human environment related to the Corps' decision to deviate from the 1988 Regulation Schedule for WCA 2A. The EA and FONSI are available for your review on the Corps Environmental planning website:

<http://www.saj.usace.army.mil/About/DivisionsOffices/Planning/EnvironmentalBranch/EnvironmentalDocuments.aspx>

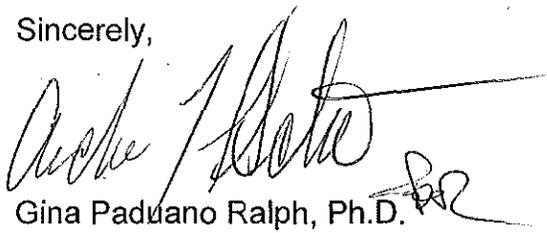
A copy of the report is also available at the following libraries:

Broward County Public Library
Main Branch
101 S Andrews Avenue
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301

Broward County Public Library
Northwest Regional Library
3151 N University Drive
Coral Springs, FL 33065

Please submit any comments you may have in writing to the letterhead address within 30 days of the date of this letter. If you have any questions regarding the information in this letter, please contact Taura Huxley at the letterhead address or at Taura.A.Huxley@usace.army.mil.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Gina Paduano Ralph", with a horizontal line extending from the end of the signature.

Gina Paduano Ralph, Ph.D.
Chief, Environmental Branch