

# SOUTH FLORIDA ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION TASK FORCE

December 7, 2005

Honorable John Paul Woodley  
Assistant Secretary of the Army  
U.S Department of the Army  
Office of Assistant Secretary Civil Works  
108 Army Pentagon  
Washington, DC 20310-0108

Dear Mr. Secretary:

On behalf of the South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task Force (Task Force) I am writing to convey the recommendations of the CSOP Advisory Team (Team) concerning Alternative 5. The Team has conducted 22 meetings since December 2003 for the purpose of providing the Task Force with consensus recommendations concerning the CSOP. The Team developed performance expectations to help define broad strategic goals in critical areas.

The Team carefully considered the fifth alternative developed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. While much progress has been made, the Team believes that Alternative 5 falls short of its performance expectations. The Team developed the attached consensus recommendations that it believes will help to improve the performance of Alternative 5 in key areas.

The Task Force looks forward to working with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to bring this important effort to a successful conclusion. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Marti Allbright  
Chair, South Florida Ecosystem Restoration  
Task Force

## CSOP ADVISORY TEAM

### RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE TASK FORCE

*Note: These statements were developed and agreed to by the Technical Panel on October 13 and were reviewed and refined by the full Advisory Team on October 14. All issues recommendations were adopted unanimously by the Team and by the voting members of the Team.*

### KEY REMAINING ISSUES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

#### Issue 1: High water levels in WCA 3A and 3B

The Corps should:

- ✚ Consider change in operation schedule of 3A to reduce high water levels in 3A without over drying 3A.
- ✚ Continue to maintain Alt 5 distribution and timing of flows to North East Shark River Slough.
- ✚ Not cause additional impacts to 3B beyond those in Alt 5
- ✚ Try to meet balance of flows between 3A and 3B
- ✚ Consider changing rainfall targets during high water periods below the regulatory action levels
- ✚ Consider deferring the closure of flash board risers in L67 by 60 days.
- ✚ Consider increasing S333 capacity.

#### Issue 2: A 950 cfs pump.

In order to make G211 a divide and to handle both existing and additional seepage due to CSOP implementation, consider providing the additional capacity of 950 cfs (in Alt5) by leaving a 500 cfs pump at 356 and placing additional pumps south of the Trail. This will seek to:

- ✚ Improve hydrologic performance in the Park;

- ✦ Maintain the canal levels at Alt 7r5 levels during the wettest 10% of the time;

In addition, evaluate existing data and monitor water quality during operation to avoid any adverse water quality discharges to the Park. Design the project so that discharges of urban runoff from areas east of L31N to the Park will be prohibited.

### **Issue 3: Ecological benefits to Florida Bay**

To enhance ecological benefits for Florida Bay, the Corps should consider backfilling the canals associated with the aerojet property and the L31 W canal (south of s175 to its terminus) under appropriate authorities without delaying implementation of the CSOP.

Following the preliminary TSP selection, the Corps should model the following to determine whether the following can provide positive impacts for Florida Bay:

- ✦ Using the eastern portion of Frog Pond for storage
- ✦ C-111 N Spreader canal

### **Issue 4: Operations for the C111 buffer system (for both wet season and dry season operations).**

Corps should maximize the use of the Buffer by refining the buffer system operations in Alt 5 to:

- ✦ Increase the depth of reservoirs to help Taylor Slough and Rocky Glades to decrease S176 flows and peak stages
- ✦ Develop criteria to adjust operations based on actual wet or dry period conditions

- ✦ Consider adjustments that lower canal levels based on above ground surface water levels in the Rocky Glades to better utilize the buffer.

In addition, the Corps should evaluate existing data and monitor water quality during operation to ensure that discharges from the detention areas meet water quality standards.

**Issue 5: CSOP sequencing**

The Corps should consider developing a transitional operational plan that can take advantage of the CSOP components as they are constructed to achieve benefits where possible without adversely affecting any of the stakeholders.

**Issue 6: Flood protection in the 8.5 Square Mile Area and east of 8.5 SMA in Alt 5**

- ✦ The Corps should refine Alt 5 to operate the reach of L31N between G211 and S331, to avoid flooding impacts east of that section of canal.
- ✦ S357 should be operated, in conjunction with operations of S331, to provide flood protection for the 8.5 Square Mile Area consistent with the benefits to the natural system provided by Alt 6D.