



# Everglades Coalition

1000 Friends of Florida  
Arthur R. Marshall Foundation  
Audubon Florida  
Audubon Society of the Everglades  
Audubon of Southwest Florida  
Caloosahatchee River Citizens  
Association / Riverwatch  
Clean Water Action  
Clean Water Network  
Collier County Audubon Society  
Conservancy of Southwest Florida  
Defenders of Wildlife  
Ding Darling Wildlife Society  
Earthjustice  
Environment Florida  
The Environmental Coalition  
Everglades Coordinating Council  
Everglades Foundation  
Everglades Law Center  
Florida Conservation Alliance  
Florida Defenders of the Environment  
Florida Keys Environmental Fund  
Florida Native Plant Society  
Florida Oceanographic Society  
Florida Wildlife Federation  
Friends of the Arthur R. Marshall  
Loxahatchee Wildlife Refuge  
Friends of the Everglades  
Hendry Glades Audubon Society  
Izaak Walton League Florida Division  
Izaak Walton League Florida Keys Chapter  
Izaak Walton League Mangrove Chapter  
Izaak Walton League of America  
Last Stand  
League of Women Voters of Florida  
Loxahatchee River Coalition  
Martin County Conservation Alliance  
National Audubon Society  
National Parks Conservation Association  
National Wildlife Federation  
National Wildlife Refuge Association  
Natural Resources Defense Council  
The Ocean Conservancy  
The Pegasus Foundation  
REEF RELIEF  
Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation  
Save It Now, Glades!  
Sierra Club  
Sierra Club Broward Group  
Sierra Club Calusa Group  
Sierra Club Central Florida Group  
Sierra Club Florida Chapter  
Sierra Club Loxahatchee Group  
Sierra Club Miami Group  
The Snook and Gamefish Foundation  
South Florida Audubon Society  
Tropical Audubon Society  
The Urban Environment League  
World Wildlife Fund

August 15, 2013

The Honorable Jo-Ellen Darcy  
Assistant Secretary for Civil Works  
108 Army Pentagon, Room 3E446  
Washington, DC 20310

Dear Secretary Darcy:

On behalf of the Everglades Coalition's 57 organizations that represent more than 6 million Americans we would like to thank the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for the tireless work of your staff in expediting the Central Everglades Planning Project (CEPP). We are now asking the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to expedite completion of a Chief's Report by December 31, 2013 and ensure this project remains on schedule for congressional authorization. You have the opportunity to leave a legacy of restoration; however, time is of the essence.

As we face dangerously high water levels in Lake Okeechobee and damaging and costly discharges to the estuaries, we cannot afford to miss this chance to begin reconnecting the system to relieve the pressure on South Florida's fragile ecosystem. CEPP provides a release valve to flow more than 200,000 acre feet of water into the Central and Southern Everglades and is important to long-term Caloosahatchee and St. Lucie estuary relief.

The U.S. Senate has already passed a Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) that would advance critical U.S. Army Corps projects that have signed Chief's Reports, and the U.S. House of Representatives has indicated its desire to introduce a WRDA when it returns in September from recess. Given the need for public comment and final review, the PIR must be released immediately to be considered for authorization or risk years of delayed benefits throughout the ecosystem.

We know that President Obama has made this a priority and placed CEPP on his "It Can't Wait" list and are now asking for your leadership to overcome any administrative obstacles or delay, including entertaining time extension requests which would delay the completion of a Chief's Report by December 31, 2013. We must seize this once in seven year opportunity to bring meaningful Everglades restoration online before it is too late.

Sincerely,

*Cara Capp*

Cara Capp  
National Co-Chair  
[cara@evergladescoalition.org](mailto:cara@evergladescoalition.org)

*Jennifer Hecker*

Jennifer Hecker  
State Co-Chair  
[jennifer@evergladescoalition.org](mailto:jennifer@evergladescoalition.org)

CC:

Honorable President Obama  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Major General Michael J. Walsh  
Deputy Commanding General  
Civil and Emergency Operations  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
441 G Street NW  
Washington, DC 20314-1000

Colonel Alan Dodd  
District Commander  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers,  
Jacksonville District  
701 San Marco Boulevard  
Jacksonville, FL 32207-8175