



Everglades Coalition

1000 Friends of Florida
Arthur R. Marshall Foundation
Audubon Florida
Audubon of Southwest Florida
Audubon of the Western Everglades
Audubon Society of the Everglades
Backcountry Fly Fishers of Naples
Caloosahatchee River Citizens Association/
Riverwatch
Center for Biological Diversity
Clean Water Action
Conservancy of Southwest Florida
Defenders of Wildlife
"Ding" Darling Wildlife Society
Earthjustice
Environment Florida
Everglades Foundation
Everglades Law Center
Everglades Trust
Florida Conservation Voters Education Fund
Florida Defenders of the Environment
Florida Keys Environmental Fund
Florida Native Plant Society
Florida Oceanographic Society
Friends of the Arthur R. Marshall
Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge
Friends of the Everglades
Hendry-Glades Audubon Society
International Dark-Sky Association,
FL Chapter
Izaak Walton League of America
Izaak Walton League Florida Division
Izaak Walton League Florida Keys Chapter
Izaak Walton League Mangrove Chapter
Last Stand
League of Women Voters of Florida
Loxahatchee River Coalition
Martin County Conservation Alliance
Miami Pine Rocklands Coalition
Miami Waterkeeper
National Audubon Society
National Parks Conservation Association
National Wildlife Refuge Association
Natural Resources Defense Council
North Carolina Outward Bound School
Ocean Research & Conservation Association
Reef Relief
Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation
Save It Now, Glades!
Sierra Club
Sierra Club Florida Chapter
Sierra Club Broward Group
Sierra Club Calusa Group
Sierra Club Central Florida Group
Sierra Club Loxahatchee Group
Sierra Club Miami Group
Snook and Gamefish Foundation
South Florida Audubon Society
Southern Alliance for Clean Energy
The Florida Wildlife Federation
The Institute for Regional Conservation
The National Wildlife Federation
The Urban Environment League of
Greater Miami

August 21, 2017

Col. Jason A. Kirk
Jacksonville District Commander
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
701 San Marco Boulevard
Jacksonville, FL 32207

E. Timothy Gysan
Lake Okeechobee Watershed Project Manager
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
701 San Marco Boulevard
Jacksonville, FL 32207

RE: Rejection of Deep Injection Wells (Lake Okeechobee Watershed Project)

Dear Col. Kirk and Mr. Gysan:

On behalf of the 61 member organizations of the Everglades Coalition committed to the protection and restoration of America's Everglades, we thank you for your decision to discard deep injection wells as potential project features in the Lake Okeechobee Watershed (LOW) Project.

We agree with your thoughtful decision; the use of deep injection wells is inconsistent with the goals of Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP). In fact, the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 2000, which authorized CERP, included a provision that CERP shall be implemented to ensure "the reduction of the loss of fresh water" from the South Florida ecosystem. Deep injection wells would dispose of billions of gallons of freshwater from the South Florida ecosystem.

Committed to full protection and restoration of America's Everglades

Thank you for your efforts to protect and restore America's Everglades. We look forward to continuing to work with USACE and other agency and public partners toward our shared goal of ecosystem restoration.

Sincerely,



Mark Perry
Co-Chair



Michael J. Baldwin
Co-Chair

cc: June E. Mirecki, Ph.D., P.G, Hydrogeologist, USACE-Jacksonville
Eric P. Summa, Chief Environmental Branch, USACE-Jacksonville
Dr. Gretchen Ehlinger, USACE-Jacksonville
Tzufit Boyle, Lake Okeechobee Watershed Project Manager, SFWMD

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