



RON DESANTIS
GOVERNOR

February 8, 2019

Colonel Andrew Kelly
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
701 San Marco Boulevard
Jacksonville, FL 32207

Dear Colonel Kelly:

This letter is to follow up on our discussion on February 8th regarding Lake Okeechobee. As you know, discharges from Lake Okeechobee have contributed to significant environmental problems that have plagued communities on both coasts of Florida for years. Accordingly, leaders in many of these communities have advocated that the Corps manage the Lake with a goal of eliminating harmful discharges during the rainy season.

I was pleased that you clearly understood the problems that have resulted from the discharges and I write to request that the Corps take action to prevent harmful discharges during the summer months.

I understand that management of the Lake involves a host of considerations ranging from water supply to lake ecology. I hope that the health, safety and well-being of our coastal communities can be one such consideration and that aggressive, yet responsible, action can be taken.

I also encourage your continued collaboration with affected stakeholders and the experts at the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and the South Florida Water Management District. Clear communication and transparency throughout this process is essential to arriving at the most desirable outcome.

Finally, I keenly understand the need for expedited progress on Everglades restoration projects, including the EAA Reservoir, to increase capacity and flexibility throughout the entire South Florida ecosystem. The State of Florida will continue its steadfast commitment to those projects and partnership with the Army Corps of Engineers to ensure their timely completion.

I look forward to hearing from you to confirm the Corps' commitment to taking action to prevent harmful discharges in the summer months.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ron DeSantis".

Ron DeSantis
Governor