

ESSENTIAL FEATURES OF PLANS TO STOP DESTRUCTIVE DISCHARGES TO THE ESTUARIES

Additional conveyance components, including but not limited to:

- 1. New outlet(s) from Lake Okeechobee** to replace the outlet capacity to the estuaries, approximately 16,000 cfs, which would reduce the risk of Herbert Hoover Dike failure; these could potentially be part of the US Army Corps of Engineers Dike retrofit. Existing outlets would also be used when available.
- 2. New canal(s)** to convey Lake discharges to the storage components, with a potential for coordinating with the Corps on the Dike retrofit. One or more canals dedicated to Lake discharges are needed to ensure deliveries even when the primary EAA canals are reserved for flood protection. Existing canals would also be used when available.
- 3. Hydraulic connection to the Western Basin** in Hendry County (aka “C-139 Basin”), since: a. the Western Basin needs Lake water for water supply; b. could supply water to the CERP Western Everglades Restoration Project; c. provides potential to supply water to Caloosahatchee River and Estuary; d. STA-5/6 often dries out and has excess water treatment capacity; e. the west side of WCA-3A needs water in many years, whereas the eastern side of the WCAs (WCA-1 and WCA-2A) already receives too much water; f. the water from the Lake is cleaner along its southwestern shoreline due to the large littoral marsh; g. provides flexibility to coordinate with the A-2 storage facility in addition to A-1 FEB and STA-3/4; and h. provides access to Holey Land and Rotenberger areas.
- 4. Removal of hydraulic restrictions** along the path to the Everglades, Florida Bay, the lower east coast and Big Cypress Basin, including all the features that were implemented during 2016.

Additional storage components, including but not limited to:

- 1. Shallow and deep facilities** that will receive Lake water as their primary project purpose, and will subsequently send this water south for treatment prior to delivery to the Everglades WCAs. Secondary benefits would be to supply water supply to adjacent lands.
- 2. Dynamic storage on public lands during emergencies, e.g., A-2, Holey Land and Rotenberger.**
- 3. Coordination with additional storage north, east and west of the Lake.**

Additional treatment components, including but not limited to:

- 1. Additional STAs** to ensure clean water for Tribal lands, the Everglades and Florida Bay.
- 2. Require SFWMD to enforce existing permits** for all basins that discharge into Lake (40E-61).
- 3. Achieve Phosphorus TMDL for Lake Okeechobee, and create a Total Nitrogen TMDL for Lake Okeechobee** to ensure pollution is controlled upstream of the estuaries.

Operational considerations, including but not limited to:

- 1. Revise the LORS2008 to reduce Lake discharges to the estuaries**, e.g., incorporating updated HHD risk assessment, no Lake discharges to the estuaries when the Lake is at or below 15.5 ft, and no more than 5 consecutive days of Lake delivery when discharges are unavoidable.
- 2. Send Lake water to the south all year round** as the highest operational priority.
- 3. Integrate the new reservoir operations** with existing storage, conveyance and treatment facilities to optimize the overall benefits.
- 4. Reduce inflows to the Lake** during periods of regulatory discharge.
- 5. Remove operational obstacles from state and federal water control plans** for delivering Lake water to the STAs, WCAs, Everglades National Park, Florida Bay and lower east coast wellfields.