



RICK SCOTT
GOVERNOR

February 11, 2016

Secretary Jo-Ellen Darcy
Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works
U.S. Department of the Army
108 Army Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20310-0108

Dear Secretary Darcy:

This letter is to request that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers take immediate action to relieve the flooding of the Everglades Water Conservation Areas and the releases of water from Lake Okeechobee to the Caloosahatchee and St. Lucie Estuaries.

Specifically, the Corps needs to raise the level of the L-29 canal to eight and one half feet so that substantial volumes of water can be moved from Water Conservation Area 3 to the Everglades National Park through Shark River Slough.

Moving water south out of the Water Conservation Areas will prevent the die off of wildlife whose habitat is currently flooded due to the heavy rainfall and also allow us to move more water from Lake Okeechobee south, relieving pressure from discharges to the Estuaries.

We have communicated with stakeholders along Tamiami Trail, the Fish and Wildlife Service, the Everglades National Park, the South Florida Water Management District, the Miccosukee Tribe, and many others. They are supportive of this action.

The wildlife in the Water Conservation Area cannot sustain prolonged flooding and the economies that rely on the estuaries need immediate relief.

I have instructed the Department of Environmental Protection and the South Florida Water Management District to devote all necessary resources to provide relief for this region. The State of Florida stands ready to address this situation. However, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is critical to this equation and your immediate action is essential.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this most pressing matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Rick Scott".

Rick Scott
Governor

cc: General C. David Turner
Colonel Jason Kirk