



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
CORPS OF ENGINEERS, JACKSONVILLE DISTRICT
701 SAN MARCO BOULEVARD
JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA 32207-8915

AUG 21 2018

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COUNCIL OFFICE

Operations Division

The Honorable Joe Coviello
City of Cape Coral
1015 Cultural Park Blvd
Cape Coral, Florida 33990

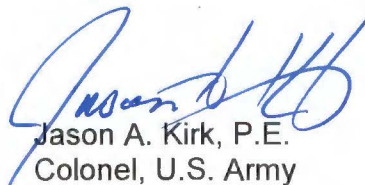
Dear Mayor Coviello:

Thank you for your correspondence dated July 17, 2018, with your concerns about Lake Okeechobee Water Management and for enabling my Deputy Commander, LTC Jennifer Reynolds, to address you and your constituents on July 31st. I assure you that the Army Corps of Engineers will continue to work closely with the State of Florida to maximize flexible operations of the Central & Southern Florida system. I will only conduct the Regulation Schedule-governed releases when the dangers of flood risk dictate--as is currently the case. We will continue to release water in a "pulsing" method which has shown some positive mitigation effects with respect to algae growth. I do want to take the opportunity to remind you that the current algae-laden waters in the Caloosahatchee Estuary include by volume about 45% waters from Lake Okeechobee and 55% waters from other areas within the basin westward of the lake. Though Lake water is admittedly part of the bloom conditions, it is only a part of the broader system significantly influenced by this year's highest ever May rainfall of 10.69 inches (344% of normal).

Your support, interest and input is also extremely valuable as we begin the Lake Okeechobee Regulation Schedule Revision process over this next year and as we continue to undertake the vital Everglades Restoration projects. These State-Federal projects include the under-construction C-43 Reservoir and the under-study Lake Okeechobee Watershed Project which will add to long-term flexibility and lessen the reliance on estuarine discharges.

If you have any questions or need additional information regarding Lake Okeechobee water management operations, please feel free to contact me or you may contact Mr. Luis Alejandro, Chief, Water Management Section, at 904-232-3034, or email luis.a.alejandro@usace.army.mil.

Sincerely,


Jason A. Kirk, P.E.
Colonel, U.S. Army
District Commander