



# FLORIDA FARM BUREAU FEDERATION

THE VOICE OF AGRICULTURE

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June 25, 2020

**VIA E-MAIL ONLY:** [tedwards@sfwmd.gov](mailto:tedwards@sfwmd.gov) and [dmedelli@sfwmd.gov](mailto:dmedelli@sfwmd.gov)

Don Medellin  
South Florida Water Management District  
3301 Gun Club Road  
West Palm Beach, Florida 33406

and

Toni Edwards  
South Florida Water Management District  
3301 Gun Club Road  
West Palm Beach, Florida 33406

**RE: Florida Farm Bureau Federation's General Comments on the South Florida Water Management District's Draft Technical Document to Support the Central Everglades Planning Project Everglades Agricultural Area A-2 Reservoir Water Reservation**

Dear Mr. Medellin and Ms. Edwards:

The Florida Farm Bureau Federation (FFBF), represents 137,000 stakeholders throughout the state of Florida many of whom reside in south Florida and are directly affected by issues related to management of Lake Okeechobee, the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP) and its respective components. The FFBF's comments are specifically directed to the South Florida Water Management District's (SFWMD) draft Technical Document to Support the Central Everglades Planning Project Everglades Agricultural Area A-2 Reservoir Water Reservation (Technical Document).

The subject Technical Document presents complex hydrologic and ecologic analysis that does not lend itself to quick review. With that said an extension of the given comment period would be greatly appreciated. In addition explanations of these issues in the Technical Document appear general in

nature and do not provide analysis applicable to any particular situation. Likewise, initial findings and assumptions concerning managing the hydrologic and ecologic components of the project need further explanation on how they comply with Florida law. These are just a few examples why given the many unanswered questions surfacing from this document perhaps an extension of time is warranted. This would allow stakeholders an opportunity to get a better understanding of what's being presented as well as further review of the comments made by the technical review panel.

The Florida Farm Bureau Federation remains committed to Everglades Restoration and ensuring CERP projects, including the A-2 STA and the EAA Reservoir Project, are based on technically sound science and implemented in manner that adheres to all legal mandates while holding true to all CERP goals and objectives. We look forward to continue working with you as you move forward with this project.

Sincerely,



Gary Ritter  
Assistant Director, Government & Community Affairs  
Florida Farm Bureau Federation