



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
JACKSONVILLE DISTRICT CORPS OF ENGINEERS
701 SAN MARCO BOULEVARD
JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA 32207-8175

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

APR 12 2017

Programs and Project Management Division
Ecosystem Branch

Mr. E. Allen Stewart III P.E.
24149 Jolly Roger Blvd
Punta Gorda, FL 33955

Dear Mr. Stewart:

Thank you for your interest in the South Florida Ecosystem Restoration program and the long term health of central and south Florida ecosystems. I appreciate the information you provided regarding the Managed Aquatic Plant Systems (MAPS) technology for improving water quality.

The ongoing Lake Okeechobee Water Restoration Project (LOWRP) is focused on developing storage options north of Lake Okeechobee to improve the quantity, timing and distribution of flows into Lake Okeechobee to maintain ecologically desired lake stage ranges, limit damaging discharges to the northern estuaries, increase the spatial extent and functionality of wetlands and increase water supply availability for existing legal users. Water quality improvement is not a project objective or within existing authority of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Water quality improvement within the project area is the responsibility of the project's partners, the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) as part of the Lake Okeechobee Basin Management Action Plan (BMAP).

The Lake Okeechobee Water Restoration Project has many opportunities for public involvement through the monthly Project Delivery Team (PDT) meetings, NEPA process public meetings and public workshops. Your participation at any of these meetings is welcomed. You can find further information regarding these meetings on the project website:

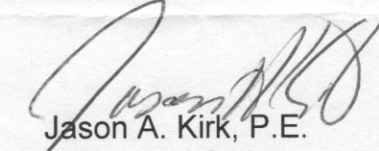
<http://www.saj.usace.army.mil/Missions/Environmental/Ecosystem-Restoration/Lake-Okeechobee-Watershed-Project/>

The Jacksonville District is not currently seeking firms for environmental resource capabilities briefings. Exceptions might be made for firms which possess highly unique technology/methods for which the Jacksonville District has an immediate need. If you are interested in presenting the MAPS technology to members of the Jacksonville District as a technology sharing opportunity, we will arrange a meeting with appropriate

technical team members and share the MAPS information you provided with the SFWMD and FDEP.

If you have questions regarding the information in this letter, please feel free to contact me or Mr. E. Timothy Gysan, P.E., Project Manager, at 904-232-3272 or email at Earl.T.Gysan@usace.army.mil.

Sincerely,



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