



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

Planning and Policy Division
Environmental Branch

15 May 2020

To Whom It May Concern:

Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) Regulation 33 CFR 230.11, this letter constitutes the Notice of Availability of the Environmental Assessment (EA) and Proposed Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for construction and interim operations of features of the Central Everglades Planning Project (CEPP). The CEPP was authorized by Section 1401(4)1 of the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 2016, Public Law 114-322, and amended by Section 1308(a) of the WRDA of 2018, Public Law 115-217. Due to the size and complexity of CEPP, project implementation will involve the integration of multi-year construction through individual project partnership agreements (PPAs) or amendments to existing PPAs between the Corps and the South Florida Water Management District. The Corps plans to proceed with advertisement and award of the first construction contract for CEPP South in July and September 2020, respectively. The CEPP South EA and Proposed FONSI address the construction and interim operations (as defined in the 2020 CEPP Draft Project Operation Manual (DPOM)) of features associated with CEPP South Contract 1 in Broward and Miami-Dade counties, Florida.

Components included in the first construction contract for CEPP South include: (1) the L-67A gated culverts (S-631, S-632, S-633); (2) an interim 3,000 foot levee gap on the L-67C; and (3) spoil pile removal along the northwestern side of the L-67A canal. National Environmental Policy Act documentation for the construction and operation of CEPP South features was completed in 2014 with the Final Project Implementation Report and Environmental Impact Statement (PIR/EIS). Changes to the general locations or design capacities of the CEPP South features identified in the 2014 CEPP Final PIR/EIS are not being proposed as part of this EA. This EA further evaluates components previously identified in the 2014 CEPP Adaptive Management and Monitoring Plan (AMMP) that were not explicitly described in the 2014 CEPP Final PIR/EIS that are now being pursued as part of CEPP South. AMMP components include: (1) backfill of the east-west agricultural ditch in WCA 3B; (2) installation of temporary pumps adjacent to the L-29 canal; and (3) active vegetation management to improve flow conveyance in WCA 3B.

The DPOM contained in the 2014 CEPP Final PIR/EIS detailed an initial draft operational plan for the full complement of CEPP features while accounting for "new water" inflows to WCA 2 and WCA 3A. The 2014 CEPP DPOM did not prescribe interim operations for CEPP features as they are incrementally constructed over several years

Modifications and/or revisions to the 2014 CEPP DPOM were expected to occur at periodic intervals during the detailed design phase, construction phase, and operations, testing, and monitoring phase of the project. This EA also further evaluates potential effects associated with proposed revisions to the 2014 CEPP DPOM to define interim operations of features associated with CEPP South Contract 1.

The EA and Proposed FONSI are available for your review on the Corps Environmental planning website:

<http://www.saj.usace.army.mil/About/Divisions-Offices/Planning/Environmental-Branch/Environmental-Documents/>

(On that page, click on the “+” next to “Multiple Counties”. Scroll down to the project name.)

Due to current circumstances, the Corps is requesting that any comments you may have must be submitted in writing to Melissa.A.Nasuti@usace.army.mil within 30 days of the date of this letter. Correspondence may also be sent to the letterhead address above, however due to limited staff availability at the District office, electronic submittal of comments via email is preferred. Questions concerning CEPP South can also be submitted to Mrs. Melissa Nasuti by telephone at 904-232-1368.

Sincerely,



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Angela E. Dunn
Chief, Environmental Branch