



**Mayor Steve Geller**

**Broward County Commissioner, District 5**

115 S Andrews Avenue, Room 413 • Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33301 • 954-357-7005

Colonel Andrew D. Kelly  
Commander, Jacksonville District, USACE  
701 San Marco Blvd  
Jacksonville, FL 32207-8175

Drew Bartlett  
Executive Director  
South Florida Water Management District  
3301 Gun Club Road  
West Palm Beach, FL 33406

April 15, 2021

Dear Colonel Kelly and Executive Director Bartlett,

I am writing with respect to pending updates to the Lake Okeechobee System Operating Manual (LOSOM) incorporating soon to be operational infrastructure intended to provide additional flexibility and seasonal storage for the benefit of flood protection, environmental, water supply, recreation, and navigational purposes, including: Herbert Hoover Dike rehabilitation, Kissimmee River Restoration Project, C-43 West Basin Storage Reservoir, and C-44 Reservoir and Stormwater Treatment Area.

Broward County has been actively engaged in this process, with agency representation in scoping meetings, plan formulation and review of alternatives, and as a recipient of invited presentations before the Water Advisory Board and its Technical Advisory Committee. We commend the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and the South Florida Water Management (SFWMD) for the robustness of this process and the engagement opportunities provided.

As the USACE and SFWMD prepare to finalize the model runs to be used for additional iteration in final development of a balanced plan, Broward County requests that additional emphasis be placed on delivering equitable environmental and societal benefits, consistent with the SFWMD's April 8, 2021 presentation and statement regarding characteristics of a balanced LOSOM plan. The County further endorses an operation schedule that enhances wet season storage with the ability to reduce to harmful estuarine discharges while augmenting water availability for dry season water deliveries.

We look forward to engagement in the next several months as the tentative selected plan is finalized and will be eager to see these benefits prioritized in this process. As always, thank you for your efforts and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Steve Geller". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Steve" and last name "Geller" clearly legible.

Mayor Steve Geller

Cc: Broward County Board of County Commissioners  
Bertha Henry, Broward County Administrator  
Monica Cepero, Deputy County Administrator  
Leonard Vialpando, Director, BC Environmental Protection and Growth Management  
Dept. (EPGMD)  
Dr. Jennifer Jurado, Deputy Director, BC EPGMD  
Alan Garcia, Director, BC Water and Wastewater Services  
Walter Wilcox, Section Administrator, SFWMD