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July 22, 2021

via email: Andrew.D.Kelly@usace.army.mil

Col. Andrew Kelly
Commander and District Engineer of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Jacksonville District
701 San Marcos Blvd.
Jacksonville, FL 32207

Dear: Col Kelly:

The Rivers Coalition met on July 22, 2021 and endorsed the following position:

We request the Army Corps of Engineers optimize Alternative CC by further reducing harm to the St. Lucie estuary.

Any Lake Okeechobee regulatory releases to the St. Lucie above 0 cfs represent harm, and for that reason it's critical to keep S-308 flows to a minimum in the Lake Okeechobee System Operating Manual (LOSOM).

To accomplish this, we request the Army Corps:

- **Remove Zone F and lower Zone D down to the water-shortage management line, in order to send more water south during the dry season and send beneficial dry-season flows to the Caloosahatchee. Use this extra capacity to reduce damaging high lake stages and high-volume discharges to both the St. Lucie and Caloosahatchee estuaries.**
- **Maintain 0 discharges to the St. Lucie in Zone D.**
- **Do everything in the Corps' power to avoid increasing regulatory releases above volumes proposed in Alternative CC as currently drafted.**
- **Address algal-bloom risk to the estuaries by incorporating operational flexibility that allows the Army Corps not to discharge when doing so would risk transferring algae from Lake Okeechobee to the estuaries.**
- **Work closely with the South Florida Water Management District to ensure southward flows aren't needlessly constrained by outdated water-supply assumptions**

The Rivers Coalition consists of 105 organizational members representing over 400,000+ people

Sincerely,

Mark Perry

President
Rivers Coalition, Inc.

CC: Lisa Aley, Special Projects USACE Jacksonville District *via email: Lisa.A.Aley@usace.army.mil*

Members: 1000 Friends of Florida, 27-80 Paddlers, American Association of University Women, Arthur R. Marshall Foundation, Audubon Florida, Audubon of Martin County, Ballantrae Anglers Club, Ballantrae Yacht Club, Beau Rivage HOA, Bullsugar, Business Development Board of Martin County, Circle Bay Yacht Club Condo Assn. Inc., Citizens for Clean Water, Cocoonut Point Yacht Club, Computer Network Services, Conservation Alliance of St. Lucie Co. Inc, Cypress Lake HOA, Dolphin Ecology Project, Driftwood Motel of Jensen Beach. Economic Council of Martin County, Florida Oceanographic Society, Florida Sportsman, Fort Pierce Yacht Club, Four Rivers Property Association, Four Winds Condo Association, Friends of The Everglades, Friends of Harbor Branch - FAU, Gregor Woods HOA, Guardians of Martin County, Harborage Yacht Condominiums, Harbour Ridge Yacht Club, Hutchinson Island Preservation Initiative, Indian Riverkeeper, Indian River Plantation POA, Jensen Beach Chamber of Commerce, Joe's Point HOA, Keep Martin Beautiful, Leadership Martin, League of Women Voters of Martin Co., League of Women's Voters of SLC Co., Lighthouse Point Association Inc., Locks Landing HOA, Lost River Plantation HOA, Marine Cleanup Initiative Inc., Marine Industries Assoc. of Treasure Coast, Marine Resources Council, Martin County Anglers, Martin County Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society, Martin County Conservation Alliance, Martin County Farm Bureau, Martin County Future Group, Martin County Hotel & Motel Association, Martin Soil & Water Conservation Dist, Miramar POA, Nettles Island Community Action Assoc., North River Shores Prop. Assoc., Ocean Research and Conservation Association, Palm City Chamber of Commerce, Palm City Civic Assn, Palm Cove Yacht Club, Palm Cove HOA, Pierpoint Condominium Assoc., Port Salerno Commercial Fishing Dock Assoc., Port Sewall Harbor & Tennis Club Owners Ass, Port Sewall Property Owners Assoc., Port St Lucie Anglers, President's Council of Hutchinson Island, Realtor Association of Martin County, Rio Civic Club, River Club Dock Owners Association Inc., River Kidz, River Kidz of St. Lucie County, River Vista HOA, River Warriors, Royal Harbor Homeowners Assn, Sailfish Point POA, Sailfish Point Yacht Club, Savanna Fishing Club, Seagate Harbor Homeowners Assoc., Sierra Club-:Loxahatchee Group, Snug Harbor Yacht Club, St. Lucie Audubon Society, St. Lucie River Yacht Club, St. Lucie Sailing Club, St. Lucie Settlement Inc., Stuart Corinthian Yacht Club, Stuart Flyrodders, Stuart Heritage, Stuart Rod & Reel Club, Stuart/Martin County Chamber, Surfrider Foundation, Teamsters Local 769, The Garden Club of Stuart Inc, The Estuary at North River Shores, The Junior League of Martin County, Treasure Coast Buddhist Cooperative, Treasure Coast Builders Association, Treasure Coast Democratic Environmental Caucus, Treasure Coast Golf Course Superintendents Association, Treasure Coast Rowing Club, Treasure Coast Unitarian Universalist Church, US Sailing Center of Martin County, Venture Three Community, Windjammer Condo Association

Our Mission is to stop discharges into the St. Lucie River from Lake Okeechobee and fight for a safe, healthy and ecologically balanced St. Lucie River Estuary and Indian River Lagoon, and the natural resources that are vital to the economy and quality of life in Martin County and the Treasure Coast.

