



Florida Department of Environmental Protection

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Governor

Carlos Lopez-Cantera
Lt. Governor

Noah Valenstein
Secretary

July 11, 2017

Mr. Eric P. Summa
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Jacksonville District
701 San Marco Blvd.
Jacksonville, FL 32207-0019

Subject: ***WERP Water Quality: Numeric Interpretation of Narrative Standards for the L-28 Interceptor Canal and Big Cypress National Preserve***

Mr. Summa,

As the state agency responsible for setting water quality standards for Florida surface waters, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (Department) was requested by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to numerically interpret the narrative water quality standards for the Western Everglades Restoration Project (WERP) planning effort. The numeric interpretations are necessary for the development of project components critical for achieving the goals and objectives of WERP.

To aid in understanding the derivation of the numeric interpretations associated with the L-28 Interceptor Canal, the Department is providing the enclosed white paper, *Numeric Interpretation of Narrative Standards for the L-28 Interceptor Canal and Big Cypress National Preserve*. The numeric interpretations can be used as a tool for WERP planning component development. Using them for other regulatory purposes would require rulemaking under Florida's Administrative Procedures Act (120.54 F.S).

The state water quality design endpoints associated with the L-28 canal are the downstream phosphorous criteria adopted for the Everglades Protection Area, 62.302.540 F.A.C.

The numeric interpretations have been presented for feedback at the Public Project Delivery Team meeting on March 21, 2017, to the WERP water quality subteam, and to the US Environmental Protection Agency. The Department appreciates the US EPA's and WERP water quality subteam's feedback on the development of the numeric interpretations.

If you have any questions about the numeric interpretations or the associated white paper, please contact Edward Smith at (850)245-3169 or edward.c.smith@dep.state.fl.us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Drew Bartlett', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Drew Bartlett
Deputy Secretary, Office of Ecosystem Restoration

Enclosed: *Numeric Interpretation of Narrative Standards for the L-28 Interceptor Canal and Big Cypress National Preserve*

Cc: Kelly Keefe, USACE Jacksonville
Mary Walker, US EPA
Cesar Zapata, US EPA
Dan Scheidt, US EPA
Cecelia Harper, US EPA
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