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

Dear Mr. Bartlett:

I am responding to the submittal from your office transmitting the North of Lake Okeechobee Storage Reservoir (Yellow Book Component A) (LOCAR) Project, Section 203 Study and Environmental Impact Statement, for review and processing under the provisions of Section 203 of the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 1986, as amended.

In accordance with Section 203 of WRDA 1986, I am responsible for determining whether the report, and the process under which the report was developed, comply with Federal laws and regulations applicable to feasibility studies of water resources development projects. I have determined that the SFWMD's recommended plan is feasible and complies with applicable Federal laws and regulations. While there are no concerns with the plan or design of the project, further design and construction shall continue to follow all relevant policies and procedures governing implementation of water resources development projects undertaken by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. This determination and the results of the issue resolution process are contained within the enclosed Review Assessment.

I have also rendered my decision on the Environmental Impact Statement by signing the Record of Decision. This completes the National Environmental Policy Act process.

I have simultaneously submitted these documents and the LOCAR Study to Administration for clearance and submission to Congress. Therefore, I respectfully request that no further distribution of the assessment be made until the Administration completes its review.

My staff will keep you regularly informed of our progress to complete the clearance process and submit your study and my Review Assessment to Congress.

Michael L. Connor
Assistant Secretary of the Army
(Civil Works)

Enclosures