

June 14, 2018

The Honorable Mick Mulvaney
Director
Office of Management and Budget
725 17th Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20503

Dear Director Mulvaney,

The sportfishing and boating industry has an economic impact of \$9.6 billion and supports 128,000 jobs in the state of Florida; however, water quality directly affects the state's fishing and boating opportunities through repetitive discharges and ongoing water management issues. Prime recreational locations such as Lake Okeechobee, the Caloosahatchee and St. Lucie estuaries, and Florida Bay have all been significantly impacted. These enduring environmental consequences to the state of Florida can only be resolved by the expedited completion of Everglades restoration projects.

You have received the Central Everglades Planning Project (CEPP) Post Authorization Change Report (PACR), which modifies the original CEPP storage component into a larger capacity reservoir in the Everglades Agricultural Area (EAA). This reservoir project is referenced in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' (USACE) Integrated Delivery Schedule as "EAA Storage." Because of its importance in Everglades restoration, the state of Florida accelerated the planning timeline for this project and has submitted a fully vetted and sound proposal to the USACE for final review. In conjunction with conveyance improvements, the CEPP PACR is estimated to increase historic water flow south by 76% and provide significant reductions in discharges from Lake Okeechobee to the northern estuaries.

Timing is of the essence to ensure the CEPP PACR can be Congressionally authorized in the 2018 Water Resources Development Act. We strongly urge your accelerated review of the CEPP PACR to enable the USACE to issue their final report as soon as practicable. This project is vital to timely Everglades restoration and key to ensuring the survival of Florida's iconic fishing and boating heritage. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

American Sportfishing Association
B.A.S.S. (Bass Anglers Sportsman Society)
Coastal Conservation Association Florida
Fishing League Worldwide
Florida Guides Association
Guy Harvey Ocean Foundation
International Game Fish Association

National Marine Manufacturers Association
National Professional Anglers Association
Northwest Sportfishing Industry Association
Recreational Fishing Alliance
The Billfish Foundation
Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership