

9.

**OLD BUSINESS**

a. Water Quality Issues

ii. Staff Report

1. Status of Lake Okeechobee Lake levels and releases

**Pamela Smith**

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**From:** Judie A. Zimomra  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 02, 2008 2:19 PM  
**To:** Pamela Smith  
**Cc:** Rob Loflin; 'mickdenham'  
**Subject:** FW: Lake O decision making

Add to this week's Council agenda under water quality Staff Report – "Status of Lake Okeechobee Lake levels & releases"

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**From:** Rob Loflin  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 02, 2008 10:08 AM  
**To:** Judie A. Zimomra; James Evans; Holly F. Downing; Ken Cuyler; Jim Isom  
**Subject:** Lake O decision making

Judie,

This morning I talked with Luis Alejandro who basically is filling Pete Milam's former point contact role now and who works with John Zediak and Andrew Geller in the US Army Corps of Engineers Jacksonville based Lake O Operations Section. The Corps, at the direction of Col. Grosskruger, has agreed to allow regular scientific input from informed sources in all parts of south Florida prior to decisions being made regarding Lake O management and potential releases. The Lake is expected to rise to ~ 15.0' from primarily Kissimee Valley sources and this places the Lake in the part of the regulation schedule that allows for base flow and pulse releases as needed to maintain freeboard below a level that threatens the Herbert Hoover Dike integrity. As we are, they are keeping a watchful eye on both Hanna and Ike and are seeking input on Caloosahatchee Basin and Estuary conditions from us. At the current time, sheet flow and tributary inputs from Fay have large basin flows descending the River and entering the estuary so any additional flows from the Lake could well be problematic from a volume standpoint, let alone a nutrient pollution standpoint. On the other hand, if significant additional rainfall impacts Lake levels this Fall, small releases now could reduce the severity of massive releases if the Dike becomes threatened. The first teleconference is scheduled for 9:30 am this Wed. the 3<sup>rd</sup>, which I would like to participate in with James or Holly covering the executive staff meeting for me.

Rob