

## POSITIVE ASPECTS OF PROPOSAL

### Miami Canal Component

- Will restore the natural sheet flow patterns in the northern part of WCA-3A
- Will prevent the “short circuiting” of flows to the south and thus the over-drying of northern 3A
- Adjacent spoil from the Miami Canal excavation is not sufficient to backfill canal, thus additional material would be required or only plugs used.
- Plan would not require excavating or enlarging North New River across Everglades
- *Excess material not needed will be used to construct tree islands*—Needs further discussion
- Meets Savings Clause needs for water supply and provides potential for increased water supply to Broward and Miami-Dade County
- Provides clear route south from Lake Okeechobee for discharges, independent of water levels in WCA’s or STA treatment capacity
- Reduces high lake stages and damaging discharges to the estuaries.
- Allows only clean water to be discharged into Everglades from STA’s and overland flow through WCA 3A.
- WCA’s will have better water quality inputs as a larger percentage will come from the STA’s
- Less overloading of STA’s
- *Filling the Miami Canal reduces the route for exotics to travel*—Needs further discussion

### Southern Everglades Component

- Will eliminate the ponding effect in southern WCA-3A
- Reduces nutrient loading to ENP by restoring natural sheet flow in WCA 3A
- Equilibrates flows among WCA 3A, WCA 3B and ENP
- Restores significant ecological connectivity in heart of Everglades
- Promotes natural hydrology in the marsh
- Combines opportunity for learning as we achieve important restoration benefits

## **KEY ISSUES TO CONSIDER**

### **Impacts to Natural Resources**

- Water diversion from Biscayne Bay or other natural areas
- Various aspects of proposed pump station in the Water Conservation Area (WCA)
- Promote recovery of endangered species
- Seek significant net improvement to tree islands
- Ensuring appropriate quality of fill for the Miami Canal

### **Water management issues**

- Develop clear protocols for allocating water, including allocations in a drought
- Clarify water reservation expectations for the proposal.
- Address “water budget” issues in the northern part of the system.
- Key is the detailed operating protocols
- Proposal should quantify the reduction of water levels in Lake Okeechobee and improved flows to the estuaries

### **Recreation issues**

- Include efforts that SAFER has made to save fisheries
- Consistent with agreements for improved public access
- Seek net improvement of fishing opportunities
- Seek improved hunting opportunities in WCA’s

### **Water Quality**

- Source transfer issues, (water quantity and quality) for the wellfields (current source is regulated as aquifer water source not surface water.)
- Water quality issues are greater than nutrient and drinking water standards
- Clarify STA performance expectations
- Assess requirement to deliver clean water, (e.g. STA may be needed in Miami-Dade at the discharge point and potential other locations as well.)

### **Design Issues**

- Investigate the potential for the pipes to impede movement of groundwater
- Flesh out options to accommodate the ability to route water to Broward County
- Investigate the long term operating cost increases associated with the proposal.
- Maintain a watershed focus and include topics such as, the effective dynamic storage of the overall system and soil subsidence.

- Impacts of removing significant portions of the L29, L67A and L67C levee's must be carefully assessed

### **Interface with other projects**

- Consider how this project may reduce ASR dependency
- Closely integrate with seepage management projects along the L-30 and L-31
- Examine implications and opportunities for the Lake belt component
- Ensure compatibility with Broward County WPA project

### **Science and Adaptive Management**

- The links between the proposed DECOMP and DAMP need to be carefully described, particularly in relation to effectiveness and timing
- Identify potential opportunities for additional learning.

### **Policy Issues**

- Concern with lack of federal authorization and appropriations
- Clarify that this is only phase 1 of Decomp
- Clarify costs and phases within the proposal