



Appropriations Conference Chairs

Bump Issues

**Senate Agriculture, Environment, and General Government
Appropriations/**

House Agriculture & Natural Resources Appropriations

SENATE OFFER #1

SB 2516

Water Storage North of Lake Okeechobee

Wednesday, April 28, 2021

412 Knott Building

Senate	Senate Offer	House
SB 2516 Water Storage North of Lake Okeechobee		
<p>Section 1 creates s. 373.4599, F.S., entitled “Water storage north of Lake Okeechobee.” The bill provides a definition section. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) are defined as the “corps” and the “district,” respectively. The bill defines the Lake Okeechobee Watershed Restoration Project (LOWRP) as the recommended plan contained within the LOWRP project implementation report. This definition applies to the existing project implementation report dated August 2020 or any amended project implementation report in the future, any of which will require congressional authorization.</p> <p>Upon the effective date of the bill, the SFWMD must request that the USACE seek congressional approval of a project implementation report for the LOWRP before passage of the Water Resources Development Act of 2022. Immediately following congressional approval of the LOWRP, the SFWMD is directed to execute with the USACE a project partnership agreement for the LOWRP that is consistent with the bill.</p> <p>The SFWMD is directed to expedite the development and implementation of the LOWRP aquifer storage and recovery (ASR) wells, in partnership with the USACE and provides a schedule to complete tasks.</p> <p>The bill requires the SFWMD to perform any necessary scientific investigation and monitoring concurrently with the implementation of the LOWRP ASR wells. To ensure public health and safety, technical feasibility, and achievement of environmental benefits, the LOWRP ASR must use a phased approach that confirms feasibility and site suitability, and that addresses uncertainties identified in the ASR Science Plan. The bill requires the SFWMD to expedite implementation of the ASR Science Plan.</p> <p>The bill requires the SFWMD to pursue, in partnership with the USACE, expeditious implementation of the Paradise Run wetland restoration project and the Kissimmee River-Center wetland restoration project.</p> <p>The bill requires that the LOWRP implementation under the bill must comply with all applicable federal and state laws and rules, including the Department of Environmental Protection’s underground injection control program. It also specifies that all projects, locations, or structures referred to in the bill’s subsection on project implementation mean those described in the LOWRP project implementation report, dated August 2020 or as subsequently amended.</p>	Senate	No language.
<p>Section 2 amends s. 375.041, F.S., to include a \$50 million annual appropriation from the Land Acquisition Trust Fund to the SFWMD for the LOWRP. The bill requires that this distribution be reduced by an amount equal to the debt service paid on Florida Forever and Everglades Restoration bonds issue after July 1, 2021.</p>	Senate	No language.
<p>Section 3 requires the Division of Law Revision to replace the phrase “the effective date of this act,” wherever it occurs in the bill, with the date the bill becomes a law.</p>	Senate	No language.
<p>Section 4 states that the bill shall take effect upon becoming a law.</p>	Senate	No language.