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News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Corps of Engineers to hold Public Workshops on Lake Okeechobee and Okeechobee Waterway Shoreline Management Plan

Clewiston, Fla. - The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will host three public workshops on the revision of the Lake Okeechobee and Okeechobee Waterway Shoreline Management Plan. The workshops will be held:

March 19, 2002 - St. Lucie Visitor Center, 2170 SW Canal Street, Stuart, Florida.

March 20, 2002 - LaBelle City Hall, 481 Hickpoochee, LaBelle, Florida

March 21, 2002 - W.P. Franklin Visitor Center, 1660 S. Franklin Locks Roads, Alva, Florida.

All three workshops will be an open house format that will begin at 6 p.m. and conclude at 9 p.m.

The purpose of each workshop is to allow the public to review and comment on the revision of the Lake Okeechobee and the Okeechobee Shoreline Management Plan. Corps of Engineers personnel will be available to answer questions.

The Shoreline Management Plan is a document that provides guidelines and policies for managing activities and resources associated with Lake

Lake Okeechobee Public Workshops

Okeechobee and the Okeechobee Waterway's shoreline and adjacent public property, while providing a balance between permitted private use of public property and natural resource protection. Some of the activities that can be permitted under this plan include: construction of single family and community boat docks, minor dredging work, removal of exotic trees and shrubs, and sloping of canal banks.

All interested individuals, groups, and agencies are urged to attend one of the workshops. Fair representation is dependent on maximum public involvement. To assure a complete and accurate record, comments should be submitted in writing.

If you are unable to attend, please submit comments on your areas of concern or interest by mail. Written statements may be presented at the workshop or mailed to: The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Jacksonville District Office, CESAJ-CO-OP, ATTN: Shoreline Comments, PO Box 4970, Jacksonville, FL. 32232. All written statements become part of the public record and will be made available for public examination unless specified as confidential.

For additional information, contact Art Ruebenson at the Corps of Engineers, South Florida Operations Office at 863-983-8101.