

2002-9656

Planning Division  
Environmental Branch

SEP 23 2002

Dr. Janet S. Matthews  
State Historic Preservation Officer  
Division of Historical Resources  
500 South Bronough Street  
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0250

Dear Dr. Matthews:

The U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, Jacksonville District, is proposing to construct the Everglades Agricultural Area (EAA) Storage Reservoirs Project in an area south of Lake Okeechobee in Palm Beach and Hendry Counties. The EAA project is divided into three separate components, for an estimated total of 50,000 acres.

Component A (31,494 acres) is located in North Deem City Quad: T46S/R38E-Section 31; T46S/R37E-Sections 4,23,25,26,35&36; South Okeelanta Quad: T46S/R37E-Sections 4-10,15-22,27-34; T46S/R36E-Sections 15,16,21-28,33-36; T45S/R37E-Sections 5&6; East Little Cypress Swamp Quad: T46S/R36E-Sections 16-21,28-33; T46S/R35E-Sections 13&25 (enclosure 1).

Component B (9,246 acres) is located in Deem City Quad: T47S/R38E-Sections 8-10,15,16,17,21&22; North Deem City Quad: T47S/R38E-Sections 5,6,8-10; T46S/R38E-Sections 19-21,28-33; T46S/R37E-Sections 23-25,35&36 (enclosure 2).

Component C (8,884 acres) is located in Little Cypress Swamp Quad: T47S/R34E-Sections 1-4,9-16,22-24; Goddens Strand Quad: T47S/R34E-Section 26&27 (enclosure 3).

A review of the Florida Master Site Files in June 2002, showed no recorded sites in Components A and B. There are nine known prehistoric sites within the boundaries of Component C. An additional five sites are in close proximity to Component C. Infrared satellite photos and site visits to each of the three areas show that all three components have been heavily impacted by rock plowing and agricultural practices. However, the southern one-third of Component B (North Deem City Quad:

T47S/R38E-Sections 15,16,21&22) shows evidence of tree hammocks and should be considered a high probability area.

Based on the history of land use and agricultural disturbance of the proposed reservoir locations, we feel that it is unlikely that any unimpacted historic properties exist in the proposed areas of Component A and northern two-thirds of Component B. However, we recommend that a Phase I lineal survey be conducted in Component B. This survey would in the southeast portion, along the L-6 borrow canal, which is the boundary for the Everglades Wildlife Management Area & Conservation Area 2A, to locate and identify any historical properties. A Phase II Survey should be conducted in Component C of the known historical sites, in order to evaluate the significance and eligibility for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places. If you concur that these surveys are necessary, the individual components will be considered separate and equal entities, for both archaeological surveys and contractual reasons. This work will be conducted in compliance with the Natural Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (PL 89-665); the Archaeological and Historic Preservation Act, as amended (PL 93-291); and Executive Order 11593. We seek your concurrence with this determination.

If you have any questions regarding this, please contact David Pugh at 904-232-1361. Please respond within 30 days after receipt of this letter.

Sincerely,

James C. Duck  
Chief, Planning Division

Enclosure

Copy Furnished:

Ms. Angela Prymas, Project Manager, South Florida Water  
Management District, 3301 Gun Club Road, West Palm Beach,  
Florida 33416-4680

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
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Secretary of State  
DIVISION OF HISTORICAL RESOURCES

Mr. James C. Duck, Chief  
Planning Division, Environmental Branch  
Jacksonville District Corps of Engineers  
Post Office Box 4970  
Jacksonville, Florida 32232-0019

December 13, 2002

Re: DHR Project No. 2002-09656  
Everglades Agricultural Area Storage Reservoirs Project  
Palm Beach and Hendry Counties

Dear Mr. Duck:

Our office has received and reviewed the above referenced project in accordance with Section 106 of the *National Historic Preservation Act of 1966* (Public Law 89-665), as amended in 1992. The State Historic Preservation Officer is to advise and assist federal agencies when identifying historic properties listed, or eligible for listing, in the *National Register of Historic Places*, assessing effects upon them, and considering alternatives to avoid or minimize adverse effects.

We have reviewed the briefly described referenced project proposal. A review of the Florida Master Site (FMSF) data indicates that fourteen (14) previously recorded archaeological sites (8HN4, 8HN44, 8HN45, 8HN46, 8HN47, 8HN48, 8HN49, 8HN50, 8HN51, 8HN52, 8HN53, 8HN54, and 8HN55) are located within Component C. Please note that 8HN4, the Pepper Mounds site, was not addressed in the project correspondence from your office. Information contained in FMSF Survey No. 4869 – *Archaeological and Historical Assessment of the Everglades Stormwater Treatment Areas, Hendry and Palm Beach Counties, Florida*, Robert S. Carr, 1996 indicates three (3) sites (8HN46, 8HN50 and 8HN51) were determined not to be potentially eligible for listing in the National Register. This office concurred with that finding in 1996. The remaining ten (10) sites were identified as being potentially eligible in the 1996 report and this office concurred with that recommendation. Site 8HN49 contains human remains and 8HN44 may possibly contain human remains. Site 8HN4, the Pepper Mounds, located in Section 4, T47S-R34E may also contain human remains, and may be potentially eligible for listing in the National Register.

We note that Components A and C were subjected to Phase I level investigations during the referenced 1996 survey, and Component B has not had a cultural resource assessment survey conducted. Because no sites were encountered in Component A and it has been heavily

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Mr. James C. Duck, Chief  
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affected by sugar cane and sod cultivation practices, no additional cultural resource investigations have been proposed. Our office concurs with this recommendation, with the following conditions: the project manager(s) has completed Archaeological Resource Managers training offered three times a year by our Bureau of Archaeological Resources and the Florida Park Service (please see <http://dhr.dos.state.fl.us/bar/arm>); and Mr. William Burger, the Water Management District's archaeological consultant, is on-call and performs periodic monitoring throughout the construction phase of the project.

Component B has also been heavily impacted by sugar cane and sod cultivation practices, and will, therefore, be subjected to limited Phase I surveys along the L-6 borrow canal and a 20-acre parcel in the mid-section around a water source and possible tree-island identified on Enclosure 2. Our office concurs with this recommendation provided the conditions as stated above are met by all responsible entities.

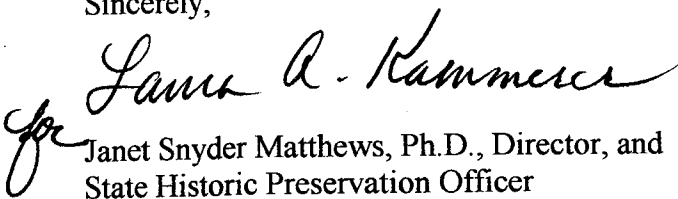
The proposal indicates that Component C will be subjected to professional Phase II survey investigations. We concur this recommendation. The Phase II investigations should include at a minimum: relocation of the eleven previously recorded sites that may be potentially eligible for listing in the National Register; establishing site boundaries for the ten sites; and evaluating the National Register eligibility of each site. The resultant survey report(s) must conform to the specifications set forth in Chapter 1A-46, *Florida Administrative Code*, and will need to be forwarded to this office in order to complete the process of reviewing the impact of this proposed project on historic properties.

The results of the investigations will determine if significant historic properties could be affected by this project. If significant remains are located, the data described in the report and the consultant's conclusions will assist this office in determining measures that must be taken to avoid, minimize, or mitigate adverse impacts to historic properties eligible for listing in the National Register.

Please note that the U.S. Quadrangle Map names are all incorrectly identified on the Enclosures 1-3. The correct names are as follows: Everglades 1 NW, Everglades 1 NE, Everglades 1 SE, Everglades 2 SW, Everglades 2 NW and Everglades 2 NE.

If you have any questions concerning our comments, please contact Laura Kammerer, Historic Preservationist Supervisor, at (850) 245-6333. Your interest in protecting Florida's historic properties is appreciated.

Sincerely,

  
Janet Snyder Matthews, Ph.D., Director, and  
State Historic Preservation Officer