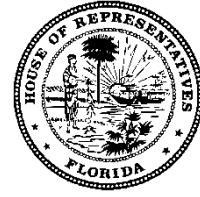


THE FLORIDA LEGISLATURE



Wilton Simpson
President of the Senate



Chris Sprowls
Speaker of the House of Representatives

April 27, 2021

The Honorable Wilton Simpson
President of the Senate

The Honorable Chris Sprowls
Speaker, House of Representatives

Dear Mr. President and Mr. Speaker:

Your Conference Committee on the disagreeing votes of the two houses on SB 2516, same being:

An act relating to Water Storage North of Lake Okeechobee.

having met, and after full and free conference, do recommend to their respective houses as follows:

1. That the House of Representatives recede from its Amendment 247499.
2. That the Senate and House of Representatives adopt the Conference Committee Amendment attached hereto, and by reference made a part of this report.

Senator Kelli Stargel, Chair

Senator Ben Albritton

Senator Lorraine Ausley

Senator Dennis Baxley

Senator Aaron Bean, At Large

Senator Lori Berman

Senator Lauren Book, At Large

Senator Jim Boyd

Senator Randolph Bracy

Senator Jennifer Bradley

Senator Jeff Brandes

Senator Jason Brodeur

Senator Doug Broxson

Senator Danny Burgess

Senator Janet Cruz

Senator Manny Diaz Jr.

Senator Gary M. Farmer Jr., At Large

Senator George B. Gainer

Senator Ileana Garcia

Senator Audrey Gibson, At Large

Senator Joe Gruters

Senator Gayle Harrell

Senator Ed Hooper

Senator Travis Hutson

Senator Shevrin D. Jones

Senator Debbie Mayfield, At Large

Senator Kathleen Passidomo, At Large

Senator Keith Perry, At Large

Senator Jason W. B. Pizzo

Senator Tina Scott Polsky

Senator Bobby Powell

Senator Ray Wesley Rodrigues

Senator Ana Maria Rodriguez

Senator Darryl Ervin Rouson, At Large

Senator Linda Stewart

Senator Annette Taddeo

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Senator Perry E. Thurston Jr.

Senator Victor M. Torres Jr.

Senator Tom A. Wright

Conferees on the part of the Senate

<i>Representative Josie Tomkow, Chair</i>	<i>Representative Jay Trumbull, Chair</i>
<i>Representative Ramon Alexander, At Large</i>	<i>Representative Bryan Avila, At Large</i>
<i>Representative Adam Botana</i>	<i>Representative Robert Charles Brannan III</i>
<i>Representative James Buchanan</i>	<i>Representative Colleen Burton, At Large</i>
<i>Representative Demi Busatta Cabrera</i>	<i>Representative James Bush, At Large</i>
<i>Representative Kevin D. Chambliss</i>	<i>Representative Charles Wesley Clemons, Sr.</i>
<i>Representative Ben Diamond, At Large</i>	<i>Representative Brad Drake, At Large</i>
<i>Representative Bobby B. DuBose, At Large</i>	<i>Representative Nicholas X. Duran, At Large</i>
<i>Representative Anna V. Eskamani, At Large</i>	<i>Representative Tom Fabricio</i>
<i>Representative Randy Fine, At Large</i>	<i>Representative Joseph Geller, At Large</i>
<i>Representative Erin Grall, At Large</i>	<i>Representative Michael Grant, At Large</i>
<i>Representative Omari Hardy</i>	<i>Representative Blaise Ingoglia, At Large</i>
<i>Representative Evan Jenne, At Large</i>	<i>Representative Chris Latvala, At Large</i>
<i>Representative Thomas J. Leek, At Large</i>	<i>Representative Ralph E. Massullo, MD, At Large</i>
<i>Representative Lawrence McClure, At Large</i>	<i>Representative Daisy Morales</i>
<i>Representative Anika Tene Omphroy, At Large</i>	<i>Representative Bobby Payne, At Large</i>
<i>Representative Daniel Perez, At Large</i>	<i>Representative Scott Plakon, At Large</i>
<i>Representative Rene Plasencia, At Large</i>	<i>Representative Paul Renner, At Large</i>
<i>Representative Rick Roth, At Large</i>	<i>Representative Emily Slosberg, At Large</i>

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Representative Cyndi Stevenson, At Large

Representative Allison Tant

Representative Matt Willhite, At Large

Representative Patricia H. Williams, At Large

Representative Jayer Williamson, At Large

Managers on the part of the House of Representatives

April 27, 2021

The Conference Committee Amendment for SB 2516, relating to Water Storage North of Lake Okeechobee, conforms statutes to the funding decisions related to Water Storage North of Lake Okeechobee in the 2021-2022 General Appropriations Act. Specifically the bill:

- Creates s. 373.4599, F.S., entitled “Water storage north of Lake Okeechobee” and provides a definition section.
- Provides that upon the effective date of the bill, the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) must request that the United States Army Corp of Engineers (USACE) seek congressional approval of a project implementation report for the Lake Okeechobee Watershed Restoration Project (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.
- Directs the SFWMD 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.
- Requires the SFWMD to perform any necessary scientific investigation and monitoring concurrently with the implementation of the LOWRP ASR wells. The LOWRP ASR wells 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.
- 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.
- Requires that the LOWRP implementation under the bill must comply with all applicable federal and state laws and rules. 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.
- Requires, by November 1, 2021, the SFWMD to submit a report to the Legislature describing the SFWMD’s compliance with the bill, including steps taken, plans for ongoing compliance, and specified updates related to the LOWRP implementation.
- Amends s. 375.041, F.S., to include an annual appropriation of \$50 million 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.
- Provides an effective date.