UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 4
ATLANTA FEDERAL CENTER
61 FORSYTH STREET
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303-8960

JUN - 9 2017

Colonel Jason A. Kirk
District Engineer
Department of the Army
Jacksonville District Corps of Engineers
Attn: Randy Turner
P.O. Box 4970
Jacksonville, Florida 32232-0019

Subject: Florida Department of Transportation and Palm Beach County; 2015-01094 (SP-RLT)

Dear Colonel Kirk:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has reviewed a copy of the above referenced public notice (PN) for the Florida Department of Transportation and Palm Beach County's proposed State Road 7 project. The proposed project includes widening 4.4 miles of State Road 7 from Okeechobee Boulevard to 60th Street from 2 to 4 lanes, and adding a 4.1 mile 4 lane extension of State Road 7 from 60th Street to Northlake Boulevard. The applicants propose to fill 58.52 acres of freshwater wetlands with clean fill material. The project is located along State Road 7 between Okeechobee Boulevard and Northlake Boulevard, in Sections 1, 12, 13, and 24, Township 43 South, Range 41 East; Sections 18, 30, and 31, Township 42 South, Range 42 East; and Section 6, Township 43 South, Range 42 East, Palm Beach County, Florida.

In accordance with the August 1992 Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the EPA and the Department of the Army, we have been in communications with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers on our review of this project. Consistent with this process, we have received the draft permit and Statement of Findings for the above referenced project provided by your office by letter dated May 19, 2017. The EPA will not request a higher level of review for this project under Part IV, paragraph 3(d)(1) of the MOA.

The EPA appreciates the opportunity to comment on this project. We request that once a final permit action is taken, a copy of that action be sent to the EPA, West Palm Beach Field Office. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me or have someone from your staff contact the EPA representative Mr. Ron Miedema at 400 North Congress Avenue, Suite 120, West Palm Beach, Florida 33401, or by telephone at (561) 616-8741.

Sincerely,

V. Anne Heard

V. Anne Heard
Acting Regional Administrator

cc: Ms. Victoria Foster, FWS, Vero Beach, FL

Ms. Jennifer Schull, NMFS, West Palm Beach, FL

Ms. Barb Conmy, SFWMD, West Palm Beach, FL