Moving more Lake Okeechobee water south is NOT the solution

We share the frustration over the Lake Okeechobee discharges. Everyone wants to stop the harmful releases. Special interest groups have unfairly blamed hardworking farmers for the dirty water that is flowing into the waterways in Lee, Martin and Palm Beach Counties.

**Water facts**
Billions of gallons of water from Lake Okeechobee already flow south. We use some of it to irrigate our sugarcane, sweet corn and citrus crops. That water leaves our farms much cleaner than when it left Lake O.

Only 5% of the water flowing into Lake Okeechobee comes from the south when South Florida water managers pump to protect local communities from flooding.

**The real problems**
- A 60-year old flood control system spanning 16 counties
- An aging dike that limits Lake Okeechobee’s capacity to hold water during periods of heavy rain
- Lack of funding for construction of planned projects that would redirect, hold and treat water north, east, west and south of the lake.
- Water conservation areas and the Everglades cannot take more Lake water during wet times.

**Buying more farmland is not the solution**
Buying even more farmland south of the lake won’t solve the problem. The government already owns 120,000 acres south of Lake O. The yellow areas in the EAA on the map indicate water storage, treatment and conveyance projects that have been planned but not fully funded.
- We must work together to complete projects on land that the government already owns.
- Fix the Herbert Hoover Dike so Lake O can hold more water.
- Divert, store and treat polluted water before it reaches Lake O so we can save the lake, all connected waterways and the Everglades.

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