



July 17, 2018

Colonel Jason A. Kirk
District Commander
Jacksonville District
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
P.O. Box 4970
Jacksonville, FL 32232-0019

Colonel Kirk,

I'm writing to invite you for a visit to Cape Coral so you may see, first hand, the issues we have run into with the most recent blue-green algae blooms. With over four hundred miles of canals, I'm sure you can imagine the multitude and variety of situations we are facing. While I know the Army Corps of Engineers has worked to halt Lake Okeechobee releases in the short term, and utilize pulse releases moving forward, these efforts will not help with the algae that is already in our canal system. I would like to extend the opportunity for you to come and meet with myself and John Szerlag our City Manager, as well as any other staff the City Manager would like to sit in. I am aware that the Corps is constantly monitoring the entire situation surrounding Lake Okeechobee, including the potential for flooding, dike failure, water quality, flow direction, and Everglades Restoration. These are all, in and of themselves, complex matters with no easy solutions. It is my hope that with a face-to-face meeting, we would all be able to share our experience, concerns, and action plans for moving forward. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Joe Coviello, Mayor

Cc: John Szerlag, Cape Coral City Manager
Cape Coral City Council