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## GLOSSARY OF TECHNICAL TERMS

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**Acceler8:** An expedited course of action for achieving Everglades restoration. The program consists of eight projects (some with multiple components) that, when completed, will provide immediate environmental, flood control and water supply benefits.

**Acre-foot (ac-ft):** The volume of liquid required to cover one acre to a depth of one foot.

**Aquifer:** An underground, water-bearing layer of porous rock, sand, or gravel.

**Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR):** The injection of fresh water into a confined saline aquifer during times when supply exceeds demand (wet season), and recovering it during times when there is a supply deficit (dry season).

**Best Management Practices (BMPs):** Land, agricultural, industrial, and waste management techniques that reduce pollutant export from a specified area.

**Central and Southern Florida Project (C&SF Project):** A complete system of canals, storage areas, and water control structures spanning the area from Lake Okeechobee to both the east and west coasts and from Orlando south to the Everglades. It was designed and constructed during the 1950s by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to provide flood control and improve navigation and recreation.

**Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP):** The framework and guide for the restoration, protection, and preservation of the South Florida ecosystem. CERP also provides for water-related needs of the region, such as water supply and flood protection.

**Consumptive Use Permit (CUP):** A permit issued by the SFWMD under authority of Chapter 40E-2, F.A.C., allowing withdrawal of water for consumptive use.

**Critical Restoration Projects:** Seven projects determined to be critical to the restoration of the South Florida ecosystem, which were authorized in 1996, prior to CERP. These are comparatively small restoration projects undertaken by the USACE and the SFWMD, and are being implemented along with CERP projects.

**District Water Management Plan (DWMP):** Regional water resource plan developed by the District under Chapter 373.036, Florida Statutes.

**Environmental Resource Permit (ERP):** A permit issued by the SFWMD under authority of Chapter 40E-4 F.A.C. to ensure that land development projects do not cause adverse environmental, water quality, or water quantity impacts.

**Estuary:** The part of the wide lower course of a river where its current is met by ocean tides or an arm of the sea at the lower end of a river where fresh and salt water meet.

**Everglades Agricultural Area (EAA):** An area extending south from Lake Okeechobee to the northern levee of WCA-3A, from its eastern boundary at the L-8 canal to the western boundary along the L-1, L-2, and L-3 levees. The EAA incorporates almost 3,000 square kilometers (1,158 square miles) of highly productive agricultural land.

**Everglades Construction Project (ECP):** Twelve interrelated construction projects located between Lake Okeechobee and the Everglades. The cornerstone of the ECP is six large constructed wetlands known as Stormwater Treatment Areas (STAs). They use naturally occurring biological processes to reduce phosphorus that enters the Everglades. The ECP also contains four hydropattern restoration projects that will improve the volume, timing, and distribution of water entering the Everglades.

**Everglades Forever Act (EFA):** A 1994 Florida law (Section 373.4592, Florida Statutes), amended in 2003, to promote Everglades restoration and protection. This will be achieved through comprehensive and innovative solutions to issues of water quality, water quantity, hydroperiod, and invasion of exotic species to the Everglades ecosystem. The EFA establishes the plan, the enforceable schedule, and the funding for the various components of the Everglades Program.

**Everglades Protection Area (EPA):** As defined in the Everglades Forever Act, the EPA is comprised of Water Conservation Areas 1, 2A, 2B, 3A, and 3B, the Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge, and the Everglades National Park.

**Everglades Stormwater Program (ESP):** A program to ensure that water quality standards are met at all structures not included in the Everglades Construction Project.

**Expenditure:** The disbursement of appropriated funds to purchase goods or services.

**Fiscal Year (FY):** The South Florida Water Management District's fiscal year begins on October 1 and ends on September 30 the following year.

**Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP):** The SFWMD operates under the general supervisory authority of the FDEP, which includes budgetary oversight.

**Florida Statutes (F.S.):** The Florida Statutes are a permanent collection of state laws organized by subject area into a code made up of titles, chapters, parts, and sections. The Florida Statutes are updated annually by laws that create, amend, or repeal statutory material.

**Invasive exotic species:** Species of plants or animals that are not naturally found in a region (nonindigenous). They can sometimes aggressively invade habitats and cause multiple ecological changes, including the displacement of native species.

**Long-Term Plan:** The Conceptual plan for achieving and maintaining water quality goals for all discharges to the Everglades Protection Area. The Long-Term Plan contains activities to achieve that goal and to permit the State of Florida and the South Florida Water Management District to fulfill their obligations under the Everglades Forever Act.

**Minimum Flows and Levels (MFLs):** Florida law (Chapter 373, Florida Statutes) requires the state's water management districts to set water levels for each major body of water "...at which further withdrawals would be significantly harmful to the water resources or ecology of the area."

**Mitigation:** The acquisition, creation, restoration, or enhancement of wetlands to compensate for permitted wetland impacts.

**Mitigation Banking:** A process providing a unit of currency known as a "credit" that represents the increase in ecological benefit or "value" resulting from restoration, enhancement, preservation, or creation.

**National Geodetic Vertical Datum (NGVD):** A nationally established reference for elevation data.

**Performance Measure:** Performance measures quantify how well or how poorly an alternative meets a specific objective. Good performance measures are quantifiable, have a specific target, indicate when a target has been reached, and measure the degree to which the goal has been met.

**RECOVER (Restoration Coordination and Verification):** An interagency, interdisciplinary team sponsored by the USACE and the District. The role of RECOVER is to organize and apply scientific and technical information in ways that are most effective in supporting objectives of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan, and to ensure that the plan's systemwide goals and purposes are achieved.

**Regional Water Supply Plan:** Detailed water supply plan developed by the District under Section 373.0361, Florida Statutes, providing an evaluation of available water supply and projected demands at the regional scale. The planning process projects future demand for 20 years and develops strategies to meet identified needs.

**Reservoir:** A man-made or natural water body used for water storage.

**Revenue:** Monies received from all sources (with the exception of fund balances) that will be used to fund expenditures in a fiscal year.

**Save Our Rivers (SOR):** In 1981, the Florida legislature created the Save Our Rivers program for the water management districts to acquire environmentally sensitive land. The legislation produced Section 373.59, Florida Statutes, known as the Water Management Lands Trust Fund.

**Slough:** A channel in which water moves sluggishly, or a place of deep muck, mud or mire. Sloughs are wetland habitats that serve as channels for water draining off surrounding uplands and/or wetlands.

**Stormwater Treatment Area (STA):** A large, constructed wetland designed to remove pollutants, particularly nutrients, from stormwater runoff using natural processes.

**Structure:** Man-made pump stations, reservoirs, channel improvements canals, levees, and diversion channels.

**Surface Water Improvement and Management (SWIM) Plan:** A plan prepared pursuant to Chapter 373, Florida Statutes.

**Wastewater:** The waterborne discharge from residences, commercial buildings, industrial plants, and institutions together with any groundwater, surface runoff, or leachate that may be present.

**Water Conservation Areas (WCAs):** Diked areas of the remnant Everglades that are hydrologically controlled for flood control and water supply purposes. The primary targets of the Everglades restoration, and major components of the Everglades Protection Area.

**Water Preserve Areas (WPA):** Multipurpose water-holding areas located along the western border of Southeast Florida's urbanized corridor.

**Watershed:** A region or area bounded peripherally by a water parting and draining ultimately to a particular watercourse or body of water.

**Wetland:** An area that is inundated or saturated by surface water or groundwater with vegetation adapted for life under those soil conditions (for example, swamps, bogs, and marshes).