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## South Florida Water Management District

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### GOVERNING BOARD MONTHLY MEETING AGENDA

December 14, 2023

9:00 AM

District Headquarters - B-1 Auditorium

3301 Gun Club Road

West Palm Beach, FL 33406

#### FINAL

1. Call to Order - Chauncey Goss, Chairman, Governing Board
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Employee Recognitions
  - December Employee of the Month: Lissette Sori, Section Administrator - Budget Support
  - December Team of the Month: STA 2 Plug Installation Project Team
  - 25-Year Service Award: Matahel Ansar, Section Administrator
  - 40-Year Service Award: Kevin Rodberg, Science Supervisor
4. Agenda Revisions
5. Agenda Item Abstentions by Board Members
6. Consider Approval of the Minutes for the November 9, 2023 Meeting
7. Executive Director's Report - Drew Bartlett
8. Information Provided by David Hazellief, Chairman, Okeechobee County Board of County Commissioners, at the Request of the Okeechobee County Commission
9. General Public Comment

10. Board Comment
11. Move Consent Agenda Items to Discussion Agenda
12. Public Comment on Consent Agenda Items
13. Board Vote on Consent Agenda

## **Consent Agenda**

14. Strategic Plan 2024-2029 (Staff contact, Jennifer Smith)

### **Agenda Item Background:**

The purpose of this agenda item is to present the District's 2024-2029 Strategic Plan and request Governing Board approval in accordance with the statutory requirement under Section 373.036, Florida Statutes (F.S.). The strategic plan is based on ongoing guidance received from the Governing Board and is updated to reflect agency strategic priorities, objectives, and policy direction. Staff reviews, updates, and requests approval by the Governing Board annually during October-December to establish high-level priorities for the upcoming preliminary budget development. The approved plan document will be submitted to the Governor and Legislature along with the Preliminary Fiscal Year 2024-2025 District budget due January 15, 2024. Public comments have been gathered and reviewed as part of this plan update. The document includes updates for Strategic Priorities, Success Indicators and Strategic Project recommendations to continue support of Governor DeSantis' Executive Order 23-06 "Achieving Even More Now for Florida's Environment" to advance Everglades restoration and improve water quality in the Sunshine State, the District's mission "To safeguard and restore South Florida's water resources and ecosystems, protect our communities from flooding, and meet the region's water needs while connecting with the public and stakeholders," and to deliver on the management and the resiliency of South Florida's primary water management infrastructure that provides flood control and water supply for over nine million residents and tens of millions of visitors.

### **Recommended Action:**

**Resolution No. 2023-1201 Adopt the updated 5-Year Strategic Plan of the District for the purpose of establishing Board Guidance, strategic priorities, goals, projects and success indicators.**

[Resolutions No. 2023-1201](#)

[Draft Strategic Plan 2024-2029](#)

15. Brewer Cattle Company, LLC, Cattle Grazing Lease, Martin County (Staff contact, Ray Palmer)

### **Agenda Item Background:**

Staff is seeking Governing Board authorization to amend Contract No. 4600002963-A03 to extend a cattle grazing lease on 460.99 acres located in Martin County for ten years. The property is located within the Indian River Lagoon-South Project, Allapattah Complex Component. If approved, the Lease will extend to January 15, 2034. Pursuant to the leasing policy, a ten-year lease extension on conservation lands may

be authorized with the current lessee's past satisfactory performance. The Lease has a provision for termination by the District for convenience of 180 days and continued adherence to best management practices. Additionally, the allowed carrying capacity of cattle on the property will continue at low density levels. The approximate annual revenue will be \$10,000.

**Recommended Action:**

**Resolution No. 2023 - 1202 Authorize entering into ten-year cattle grazing lease extension with Brewer Cattle Company, LLC on 460.99 acres, more or less, in Martin County. (Contract No. 4600002963-A03).**

[Resolution No. 2023-1202](#)

[Resolution Exhibit "A"](#)

[Resolution Exhibit "B"](#)

16. Proposed Audit Plan for Fiscal Year 2023-2024 and Long-Term Audit Plan for Fiscal Years 2025-2029 (Staff contact, Tim Beirnes)

**Agenda Item Background:**

State statute, Chapter 20.055(i), requires the agency inspector general submit annual and long-term audit plans to the agency head (Governing Board) for approval.

**Recommended Action:**

**Resolution No. 2023-1203 Approve the Audit Plan for Fiscal Year 2023-2024 and Long-Term Audit Plan for Fiscal Years 2025-2029**

[Resolution No. 2023-1203](#)

[Backup Presentation](#)

[Proposed Audit Plans](#)

17. Concurrence with Issuance of Emergency Water Shortage Order Imposing Modified Phase III Restrictions in Northeast Cape Coral (Staff contact, Maricruz R. Fincher)

**Agenda Item Background:**

To address the rapidly declining groundwater conditions in northeastern Cape Coral, Executive Director Bartlett issued Emergency Water Shortage Order No. 2023-063-DAO-WS imposing modified Phase III water shortage restrictions on landscape, recreation area, golf course, nursery, and agricultural uses that utilize groundwater from the mid-Hawthorn aquifer on November 28, 2023. As provided by section 40E-21.331, Florida Administrative Code, water shortage emergencies must be ratified by the Governing Board at its next meeting.

**Recommended Action:**

**Issue an order concurring with the Executive Director's emergency water shortage order imposing modified phase III water restrictions for groundwater uses utilizing the Mid-Hawthorn Aquifer in northeastern Cape Coral.**

[Emergency Order 2023-063-DAO-WS](#)

[Governing Board Concurrence Final Order](#)

18. Legal Services Contract Amendment with Kirwin Norris, P.A. (Staff contact, Maricruz R. Fincher)

**Agenda Item Background:**

Kirwin Norris, P.A. provides ongoing legal counsel to the District on construction law matters. The Office of Counsel requests an amendment to the District's contract with Kirwin Norris, P.A., to increase funds by \$840,000.

**Recommended Action:**

**Resolution No. 2023-1204 Authorize an amendment to Contract No. 4600004519 with Kirwin Norris, P.A. to increase the contract by \$840,000, for which dedicated funds (Land Acquisition Trust Fund and State General Revenue) are budgeted in the Fiscal Year 2023-2024 budget, to defend the District's interests and fully prosecute its claims related to the C-43 West Caloosahatchee Basin Storage Reservoir. (Contract No. 4600004519-A05)**

[Resolution No. 2023-1204](#)

19. Authorize the District's General Counsel, on behalf of the Governing Board, to Issue an Order Denying Petition for Declaratory Statement Filed by William G. Merryman on October 2, 2023 (Staff contact, Maricruz R. Fincher)

**Agenda Item Background:**

William G. Merryman ("Petitioner") filed a Petition for Declaratory Statement under section 120.565, Florida Statutes, with the South Florida Water Management District ("District") on October 2, 2023. As required by Florida law, the District published notice of the Petition for Declaratory Statement in the Florida Administrative Register.

The Petition requests the District to opine on decisions rendered by the St. Johns River Water Management District ("SJRWMD") when it permitted a 20-acre stormwater pond project in Clay County, which Petitioner believes has adversely affected his private property. The Petition also seeks the District's opinion as to the applicability of several statutes and rules and whether the Petitioner is entitled to reparations for damage caused to his property.

**Recommended Action:**

**Resolution No. 2023-1205 Authorize the General Counsel, on behalf of the Governing Board, to issue a Final Order denying the petition for declaratory statement filed by William G. Merryman on October 2, 2023.**

[Resolution No. 2023-1205](#)

20. SAP Technical Resource (Staff contact, Duane Piper)

**Agenda Item Background:**

This item is for an SAP Basis Administrator to provide SAP S/4 expertise to design, code, configure, and implement SAP business support solutions and code management. In addition to providing daily operational support, this resource will assist with future software implementations.

This request is to amend Purchase Order Number 4500113208 with Kyra Solutions, Inc. extending the services through September 30, 2025, and increasing the amount by \$208,520 for a revised purchase order total of \$688,350 for an SAP Basis Administrator, using the State of Florida Information Technology Staff Augmentation Services Contract Number 80101507-22-STC-ITSA. This contract was competed by

another government agency.

**Recommended Action:**

**Resolution No. 2023-1206 Authorize an amendment to Purchase Order Number 4500113208 with Kyra Solutions, Inc. extending the services through September 30, 2025, and increasing the amount of the purchase order by \$208,520 for a revised total of \$688,350 for an SAP Basis Administrator, using the State of Florida Information Technology Staff Augmentation Services Contract Number 80101507-22-STC-ITSA, for which \$77,480 is budgeted in Fiscal Year 2023-2024 and the remainder is subject to Governing Board approval of future years budgets. (Purchase Order Number 4500113208)**

[Resolution No. 2023-1206](#)

21. IT Security Hardware & Software Maintenance (Staff contact, Duane Piper)

**Agenda Item Background:**

The Information Technology (IT) Division depends on multiple products to secure business critical IT assets. IT Security hardware and software products are used for our corporate perimeter firewalls, remote Virtual private network (VPN) access, multifactor identity tokens, mobile device endpoint protection, and the deployment of Secure Software-Defined Wide Area Networking (SDWAN) to provide remote site network resiliency and security. Many of these products are subscription based as the security threats are constantly changing and require real time threat intelligence feeds to provide up to date threat protection.

This request is to issue a purchase order to World Wide Technology for IT Security hardware and software maintenance in the amount of \$697,578 for the time period January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2026 using the OMNIA Partners Technology Solutions Contract Number R210407. Issuing a purchase order for the three-year term results in an approximate \$152K savings. This contract was competed by another government agency.

**Recommended Action:**

**Resolution No. 2023-1207 Authorize issuing a purchase order to World Wide Technology for IT Security hardware and software maintenance, using the OMNIA Partners Technology Solutions Contract Number R210407, for the time period January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2026, for which \$697,578 is budgeted in Fiscal Year 2023-2024. (Purchase Order Number 4500143337)**

[Resolution No. 2023-1207](#)

22. University of Florida Board of Trustees Contract Amendment for Enhanced Invasive Reptiles Removal Efforts (Staff contact, Rich Virgil)

**Agenda Item Background:**

In 2019, the District entered into a three-year contract with two 1-year renewal options with the University of Florida Board of Trustees in the amount not-to-exceed of \$900,000. The contract was amended on November 1, 2022 (A03) to exercise the first-year renewal option and to increase the not-to-exceed amount by \$123,153 and on November 27, 2023 (A04) the contract was amended to extend the period of performance by exercising the first three months of the final one-year renewal option.

A proposed amendment to the existing contract will extend the period of performance by exercising the remaining nine months of the final one-year renewal option, in an amount not-to-exceed \$270,000, for a total revised contract amount of \$1,293,153.

Invasive animals, such as the Burmese python, Argentine black and white tegu, and green iguana, prey on native animal populations, cause significant damage to District infrastructure, and threaten to undermine Greater Everglades restoration efforts. Staff continues to actively manage nonnative animals on District land and applied scientific and expert logistical support is needed to augment these efforts. The University of Florida has developed the Everglades Invasive Reptile and Amphibian Monitoring Program (EIRAMP) with a unique capacity to provide expert science support for invasive reptile management in South Florida.

This contract would fund the removal and assessment of established populations of invasive reptiles within the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP) footprint, including spectacled caimans, Nile monitors, Argentine black and white tegus, and green iguanas. EIRAMP will conduct standardized surveys for early detection and monitoring of invasive reptiles and amphibians, as well as determine impacts of invasive species on native wildlife and responses of native wildlife to invasive wildlife removals. EIRAMP will provide technical input into South Florida Ecosystem Restoration related reports and remove nonnative wildlife through rapid response to sightings by District personnel. Additionally, EIRAMP will provide technical and science support for the District's Python Elimination Program by conducting necropsies and evaluating removal data. If this contract is approved, the District would have increased capacity to manage invasive wildlife, quantify impacts of invasive species to native wildlife populations and infrastructure, evaluate and improve efficacy of existing management programs, and make informed decisions on future policies.

**Recommended Action:**

**Resolution No. 2023-1208 Authorize entering into an amendment to Contract No. 4600004071 with the University of Florida Board of Trustees for invasive reptile monitoring and impact assessments, early detection and rapid response, and removal assistance for priority invasive reptiles, to extend the term by nine months, in an amount not to exceed \$270,000, for a total revised contract amount of \$1,293,153, for which dedicated funds (Lease Revenue) are budgeted in Fiscal Year 2023-2024; providing an effective date. (Contract No. 4600004071-A05)**

[Resolution No. 2023-1208](#)

23. Agreement with the U.S. Department of Agriculture - Agricultural Research Service for Research to Develop Biological Control Agents for Control of Old World Climbing Fern (Staff contact, Rich Virgil)

**Agenda Item Background:**

Old World climbing fern (*Lygodium microphyllum*) is a non-native invasive fern, which aggressively overtakes native vegetation and degrades wildlife habitat throughout central and southern Florida. The District currently utilizes herbicides to control this plant, but herbicidal control is costly and requires long term repeated treatments. To enhance control of Old World climbing fern, the District is developing an integrated pest management (IPM) strategy where multiple control tools are used synergistically

to improve management outcomes. Biological control, which employs insects that only attack the targeted pest plant, is an important component of many IPM strategies. The District has successfully integrated biological control for another priority invasive plant - melaleuca - resulting in substantial reductions in herbicide use and long-term savings to the District.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture - Agricultural Research Service's (USDA-ARS) Invasive Plant Research Laboratory in Davie, Florida has unique expertise in locating and vetting potential biological control agents for Old World Climbing Fern in the plant's native range. The CERP Biological Control Implementation Program is entering its 9th year of operations. This program partnership between the District, US Army Corps of Engineers, and USDA-ARS allocates resources for the rearing and release of approved agents that target invasive plants known to impact CERP restoration targets. However, the CERP program does not fund overseas research for development of new agents.

In FY2019, the District entered into a three year contract with two 1-year renewal options with the USDA-ARS in the amount of \$750,000. To date, their agents have been approved for release and established in South Florida. These agents are impacting the plant's growth and survival at local levels, but additional candidate insects are needed to expand the level of control. As more effective agents are established, long-term herbicide management costs are expected to decrease.

This agenda item requests a resolution of the Governing Board of the South Florida Water Management District to authorize a new three year contract with two 1-year options to continue research to develop additional agents for control of Old World climbing fern.

**Recommended Action:**

**Resolution No. 2023-1209 Authorize a 3-year contract with two 1-year renewal options with the USDA-ARS for research to develop biological control agents for control of the invasive plant Old World Climbing Fern (*Lygodium microphyllum*), in an amount not to exceed \$750,000, for which \$150,000 in dedicated funds (Lease Revenue) are budgeted in Fiscal Year 2023-2024 and the remainder is subject to Governing Board approval of future year budgets. (Contract No. 4600004878)**

[Resolution No. 2023-1209](#)  
[Statement of Work](#)

24. Pump Station S-9 Gearbox Refurbishment Project, Ft. Lauderdale Field Station Area of Responsibility, Broward County (Staff contact, Rich Virgil)

**Agenda Item Background:**

As part of the Operations and Maintenance Capital Improvement Plan, the S-9 Pump Station Gearbox Refurbishment Project is located in Broward County. The S-9 pump station was constructed in 1956, and the station was retrofitted with new gearboxes in 1990. Deficiencies were found during a recent inspection conducted by District staff, indicating the need for the refurbishment. The purpose of the project is to refurbish three Philadelphia Right-Angle Drive Speed Reducing Gearboxes. Philadelphia Gear Power Systems by Timken is the original equipment manufacturer; therefore, this

contract will be executed through a special procurement under Section 155-6, South Florida Water Management District's Policies and Procedures. This policy provides that licensing, warranty, compatibility requirements that limit the selection to the manufacturer, including purchases of parts, repairs, or maintenance services for field equipment from the original equipment manufacturer, seller, or authorized repair facility (e.g., pumps, generators, and specialized field equipment) are exempt from competition.

Due to the long lead time needed to manufacture parts, this project will refurbish one gearbox in Fiscal Year 2024-2025 and two gearboxes in Fiscal Year 2025-2026. Each refurbishment will take place during the dry season, with an estimated two months out of service. The work will need to be scheduled in conjunction with other activities taking place at the same time, such as the refurbishment of the main engines and pumps. Therefore, the work is anticipated to take place over a three-year period. The project efforts include modernization, replacement and/or refurbishment of all major components to ensure an additional 20 years of uninterrupted service; increased gearbox efficiency; and ensures continued reliability of the pump station to perform its intended functions by reducing the potential for a catastrophic failure of the gearboxes.

**Recommended Action:**

**Resolution No. 2023-1210 Authorize entering into a 1,095-day contract with Timken Gears & Services, Inc., for the Pump Station S-9 Right-Angle Drive Speed Reducing Gearbox Refurbishment Project in an amount not-to-exceed \$2,999,741 of which \$2,999,741 in dedicated funds (Land Acquisition Trust Fund) is budgeted in Fiscal Year 2023-2024. (Purchase Order No. 4500145489)**

[Resolution No. 2023-1210](#)

[Backup Presentation](#)

25. Mowing Contract - St. Cloud Field Station Area of Responsibility (Osceola, Orange and Polk Counties) (Staff contact, Rich Virgil)

**Agenda Item Background:**

Maintenance of District lands and rights of way is required to ensure that vegetation is controlled at the appropriate height to provide for optimal performance and operational efficiency of the District's flood control system. This project for the St. Cloud Field Station area of responsibility provides for the annual mowing of approximately 2,908 acres of various District lands and canal and levee rights of way in Osceola, Orange and Polk Counties.

**Recommended Action:**

**Resolution No. 2023-1211 Authorize a 3-year contract with two 1-year renewal options with Chavez's Lawn Services, Inc., the lowest responsive and responsible bidder, for flat mowing services of various District lands and rights of way in the St. Cloud Field Station area of responsibility in Osceola, Orange and Polk Counties in an amount not-to-exceed \$511,808 of which \$76,771.50 is budgeted in Fiscal Year 2023-2024 and the remainder is subject to Governing Board approval of future year budgets. (Contract No. 4600004883)**

[Resolution No. 2023-1211](#)

[Backup Presentation](#)



26. Indian River Lagoon-South C-23 Estuary Discharge Diversion Project Relocation Agreement with Florida Power & Light Company, Martin County (Staff contact, Lucine Dadrian, P.E.)

**Agenda Item Background:**

As part of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP) Indian River Lagoon-South (IRL-S) program, the C-23 Estuary Discharge Diversion Project is located in Martin County and will include the construction of approximately 6.85-miles of canal, a 250 cubic feet per second (cfs) pump station located on the C-23 Canal, two culvert crossings beneath CR-714 Martin Highway and Coca Cola Road, an STA access service bridge, and a discharge spillway into the C-44 Reservoir Western Perimeter Canal. This project will assist with the reduction of harmful discharges to the St. Lucie River and Estuary by routing excess water from the C-23 Canal, that cannot be captured by the future C-23/C-24 Reservoirs, to the South Fork of the St. Lucie River via the C-44 Reservoir and STA.

This Facilities Relocation Agreement (Agreement) addresses the need for relocation and removal of Florida Power & Light Company (FPL) distribution facilities within the project footprint to provide for distribution of power to maintain the existing level of service. The Agreement includes relocation of two distribution power lines, provides a perpetual easement to FPL for each of the relocated power lines, provides for the removal of the poles, and for FPL to remove infrastructure and release and terminate its existing easement rights within the Project footprint. This Resolution replaces Resolution No. 2022-1202 approved by the Governing Board in December of 2022 for \$151,114.06, and includes a redesign to an underground boring and cost increase of \$39,702.96 for a new total of \$190,817.02.

**Recommended Action:**

**Resolution No. 2023-1212 Authorize entering into a facilities relocation agreement with FPL for the design, relocation and removal of power distribution facilities within the C-23 Estuary Discharge Diversion Project footprint, in an amount not to exceed \$190,817.02 for which dedicated funds (Land Acquisition Trust Fund) are budgeted in Fiscal Year 2023-2024. (Contract No. 4600004688).**

[Resolution No. 2023-1212](#)

[Location Map](#)

27. Hydraulic to Cable Drum Conversions, Miami-Dade County (Staff contact, Lucine Dadrian, P.E.)

**Agenda Item Background:**

As part of the Operations and Maintenance Capital Program, the S-179, S-333, and S-335 conversions from hydraulic to cable drum hoists are part of the in-house phase of the Spillway Structure Conversion Plan. The plan is to replace the hydraulic hoists on all spillway structures that have had operational, maintenance, and installation problems, including gate drift, oil leaks, debris damage to seals, and difficulties installing replacement cylinders. The in-house phase of the plan consists of internal design, procurement of the cable drum hoist and control panels from a fabrication facility, and demolition of the hydraulic hoist components and the installation of the cable drum components by the District field station personnel.

The S-179, S-333, and S-335 spillways were constructed in the 1960s and 1970s and have operating platform designs that allow for the hoist conversions to be performed in-house. The spillways have at least eight feet of clearance between the top of the fully raised gate and the top of the operating platform which allow for the conversions to be completed without demolishing the equipment platform. The purpose of the project is to convert four hydraulic hoists to cable drum hoists. Van Linda Iron Works has completed several of these conversions for the District and is being recommended as a sole source supplier of these goods. This contract will be executed through a special procurement under Section 155-6 of the District's Policies and Procedures. This policy provides that licensing, warranty, compatibility requirements that limit the selection to the manufacturer, including purchases of parts, repairs, or maintenance services for field equipment from the original equipment manufacturer, seller, or authorized repair facility (e.g. pumps generators, and specialized field equipment) are exempt from competition.

This project will convert one hydraulic hoisting unit at a time during the dry season. Each conversion should be performed in conjunction with the major gate overhaul, if possible, with an estimated four weeks out of service. The project efforts include replacing the hoisting mechanism and control systems to ensure a longer service life, increased gate position precision, and less maintenance by removing the failure prone components.

**Recommended Action:**

**Resolution No. 2023-1213 Authorize entering into a sole source agreement with Van Linda Iron Works for the Spillway S-179, S-333, and S-335 Hydraulic to Cable Drum Conversion Project, for an amount not to exceed \$1,150,000, for which \$575,000 in Ad Valorem funds are budgeted in Fiscal Year 2023-2024 and the remainder is subject to Governing Board approval of future years budgets. (Purchase Order No. 4500145798).**

[Resolution No. 2023-1213](#)

[Location Map](#)

28. STA-1W Expansion #2 G-780 & G-781 Pump Stations Project, Change Order #9, Palm Beach County (Staff contact, Lucine Dadian, P.E.)

**Agenda Item Background:**

As part of Restoration Strategies, the STA-1W Expansion #2 G-780 and G-781 Pump Stations Project, located in Palm Beach County, is part of the project features for the STA-1W Expansion #2, which is located approximately six-miles south of the southern edge of the existing STA-1W and STA-1W Expansion #1 facilities. The STA-1W Expansion #2 area consists of approximately 2,071 acres of new STA connected to the existing STA-1W complex with a new connection canal to provide the hydraulic connection. The Project works in conjunction with the existing Everglades STAs to meet the Water Quality Based Effluent Limit to achieve compliance with the State of Florida's numeric phosphorus criterion for the Everglades Protection Area outlined in Rule 62-302.540, F.A.C. enforced by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

On November 12, 2020, the Governing Board awarded the STA-1W Expansion #2 G-780 and G-781 Pump Stations Project to Harry Pepper & Associates in the amount of \$76,122,514 (Contract No. 4600004334). The project includes construction of the two

500 cfs inflow pump stations and also includes portions of the canals and levees associated with these pump stations. The work is adjacent to another component of the overall project that is nearing completion. Dewatering activities are required for both projects to maintain low water levels in order to construct the project features and avoid flooding of adjacent owners. The adjacent contract is responsible for the construction of a concrete-lined channel that will deliver water from the pump stations to the completed STA expansion. That contract is nearing completion, but these dewatering activities are needed to complete the overall project. Work includes installing two 30-inch axial-flow temporary pumps including diesel drive units with appurtenances such as discharge piping and fuel supply systems for fully operational pumping systems.

Previously executed Change Orders No. 1 through 8 total \$1,278,025.23 and include access road repairs, weather delays, misc. items (air intake hoods, pump sole plates, etc.), credits for lube water system & fiber optic innerduct, and additional culverts and FPL work. Change Order No. 9 is \$298,307.49 and includes work associated with taking over the fueling and maintenance of dewatering operations from the STA Construction Contractor once that Contractor is Substantially Complete.

**Recommended Action:**

**Resolution No. 2023-1214 Authorize Change Order No. 9 to Contract No. 4600004334 with Harry Pepper & Associates, Inc. for construction of the STA-1W Expansion #2 G-780 & G-781 Pump Stations Project, for an additional amount not to exceed \$298,307.49 for which dedicated funds (Land Acquisition Trust Fund and Everglades Trust Fund) and Ad Valorem funds are budgeted in Fiscal Year 2023-2024. (Contract No.4600004334-CO09)**

[Resolution No. 2023-1214](#)

[Location Map](#)

29. STA-1W Expansion #2 G-782 Pump Station Project, Change Order #5, Palm Beach County (Staff contact, Lucine Dadrian, P.E.)

**Agenda Item Background:**

As part of Restoration Strategies, the STA-1W Expansion #2 G-782 Pump Station Project, located in Palm Beach County, is part of the project features for the STA-1W Expansion #2 which is located approximately six miles south of the southern edge of the existing STA-1W and STA-1W Expansion #1 facilities. The STA-1W Expansion #2 area consists of approximately 2,071 acres of new STA connected to the existing STA-1W complex with a new connection canal to provide the hydraulic connection. The Project works in conjunction with the existing Everglades STAs to meet the Water Quality Based Effluent Limit to achieve compliance with the State of Florida's numeric phosphorus criterion for the Everglades Protection Area outlined in Rule 62-302.540, F.A.C. enforced by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

On November 12, 2020, the Governing Board awarded the STA-1W Expansion #2 G-782 Pump Station Project to Harry Pepper & Associates in the amount of \$37,418,195 (Contract No. 4600004335). The project includes construction of the 625 cfs STA outflow pump station which includes portions of the canals and levees associated with pump station. The Project includes construction of the G-782 (outflow) pump station which includes the construction of the 625 cfs outflow pump stations and portions of

the canals and levees associated with these pump stations. This work is adjacent to another component of the overall project that is nearing completion. Dewatering activities are required for both projects to maintain low water levels in order to construct the project features and avoid flooding of adjacent owners. The adjacent contract is responsible for the construction of a concrete-lined channel and STA expansion that will deliver water from the completed STA expansion to the Hillsboro Canal (L-15 Canal). That contract is nearing completion, but these dewatering activities are needed to complete the overall project. Work includes installing two 30-inch axial-flow temporary pumps including diesel drive units with appurtenances such as discharge piping and fuel supply systems for fully operational pumping systems.

Previously executed Change Orders No. 1 through 4 total \$893,787.44 and include dewatering changes, weather delays, misc. items (air intake hoods, pump sole plates, etc.), credits for lube water system & fiber optic innerduct, and temporary pumping costs to maintain water levels in the adjacent STA infrastructure. Change Order No. 5 is \$898,891.90 and includes work associated with taking over the dewatering operations from the STA Construction Contractor at the STA Outflow Canal once that Contractor is Substantially Complete.

**Recommended Action:**

**Resolution No. 2023-1215 Authorize Change Order No. 5 to Contract No. 4600004335 with Harry Pepper & Associates, Inc. for construction of the STA-1W Expansion #2 G-782 Pump Station Project, for an additional amount not to exceed \$898,891.90 for which dedicated funds (Land Acquisition Trust Fund and Everglades Trust Fund) and Ad Valorem funds are budgeted in Fiscal Year 2023-2024. (Contract No.4600004335-CO05)**

[Resolution No. 2023-1215](#)

[Location Map](#)

30. Stilling Well Platform Improvements, Broward and Miami-Dade Counties (Staff contact, Lucine Dadrian, P.E.)

**Agenda Item Background:**

As part of the District's Resiliency of Coastal Structures and Capital Improvement Program, the Stilling Well Platform Improvements Project, located in Broward and Miami-Dade Counties, install new stilling well platforms and stilling well instruments at 10 structures and three optional locations. The new stilling well instruments, mounted on the platforms, provide the District with more reliable real-time and continuous readings of the water levels in these water bodies, supporting remote operations of the coastal flood control structures. The new stilling well installations will also support the storm-resistant backup controller system and manatee protection equipment to be completed through a separate contract.

The design for each structure includes the installation of new headwater and tailwater stilling well and platform assemblies to replace the existing and obsolete monitoring wells and their associated outdated systems. Several of the existing well pipes are known to contain asbestos and will be removed in accordance with state regulations. New staff gauges will be installed, and the existing debris barriers and floating boat barriers will be adjusted to accommodate the new stilling well platforms.

This project is part of the Coastal Structures Enhancement and Self-Preservation Mode project, which is receiving grant funds from the Resilient Florida Program. The lowest responsive and responsible bidder is recommended for award. In accordance with District policy and consistent with state law for Request for Bids (RFB) procurements, this item was competitively bid through a sealed bid process. The bid opening for this project was on September 11, 2023.

**Recommended Action:**

**Resolution No. 2023-1216 Authorize entering into a 495-day contract with Interlaken, Inc., the lowest responsive and responsible bidder, for the Stilling Well Platform Improvements in Broward and Miami-Dade Counties Project, in the amount of \$8,794,931, for which \$5,452,857 in dedicated funds (State Revenue Sources) and Ad Valorem funds are budgeted in the Fiscal Year 2023-2024 and the remainder is subject to approval of future years budgets. (Contract No. 4600004866)**

[Resolution No. 2023-1216](#)

[Location Map](#)

## **Discussion Agenda**

31. Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands Cutler Flow Way Phase 2 Conveyance System Project, Miami-Dade County (Staff contact, Lucine Dadrian, P.E.)

**Agenda Item Background:**

As part of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan, the Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands (BBCW) - Cutler Flow Way - Phase 2 Conveyance System, located in Miami-Dade County, includes the construction of an above ground concrete lined channel approximately 7,000 feet in length, cast-in-place concrete box culvert, micro tunnel culvert, rehydration spreader canal approximately 2.5 miles in length and recreational features. The Conveyance System, together with the S-701 Pump Station being constructed under a separate contract, will complete the BBCW Cutler Flow Way Project.

The BBCW Cutler Flow Way Project was approved by Congress in Water Resource Development Act of 2014 and included 3 components: Deering Estate, L-31E Flow Way, and Cutler Wetlands. Deering Estate component was completed in 2012, L-31E Flow way culverts and S-709 Pump Station is complete and other remaining features are under construction, and Cutler Wetlands Phase 1 Pump Station is in construction and the Phase 2 Conveyance System will complete this component. The BBCW Cutler Flow Way Project will rehydrate coastal wetlands and reduce point-source freshwater discharge to Biscayne Bay and Biscayne National Park.

The lowest responsive and responsible bidder is recommended for award. In accordance with District policy and consistent with state law for Request for Bids (RFB) procurements, this item was competitively bid through a sealed bid process. The bid opening for this project was on November 14, 2023.

**Recommended Action:**

**Resolution No. 2023-1217 Authorize entering into a 572-day contract with Central**

**Florida Equipment Rentals, Inc, the lowest responsive and responsible bidder for the Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands Cutler Flow Way Phase 2 Conveyance System Project, in the amount of \$46,294,000 for which dedicated funds (Land Acquisition Trust Fund) and Ad Valorem funds in the amount of \$26,000,000 are budgeted in Fiscal Year 2023-2024 and the remainder is subject to Governing Board approval of future years budgets. (Contract No. 4600004890)**

[Resolution No. 2023-1217](#)

[Location Map](#)

32. L-28 Culvert Structures S-229A, S-229B and S-229C, Miami-Dade County (Staff contact, Lucine Dadrian, P.E.)

**Agenda Item Background:**

As part of early work for the Western Everglades Restoration Project, the L-28 Culvert Structures S-229A, S-229B and S-229C Project, located in Miami-Dade County, consists of constructing three remotely operable, gated culvert structures. S-229A, S-229B, and S-229C are designed to pass flows of 250 cfs, 350 cfs and 400 cfs, respectively. The work involves construction of the culverts with canal excavation, stilling wells, staff gauges, stainless steel walkways, levee construction and riprap stabilization. The project also includes a control building with instrumentation, telemetry, site lighting, and electric service conduit for each site.

These structures will work in conjunction with existing structures S-343A, S-343B and S-344 located on the L-28 Levee to equalize water between WCA-3A and Big Cypress National Preserve. The project will allow more water to flow west into the Big Cypress National Preserve and south into Everglades National Park, restoring freshwater flows through Lostman's Slough to Florida Bay and reestablish ecological connectivity and resilience of the historic wetland/upland mosaic of habitats. The structures will also work in conjunction with additional culverts under US 41 and Loop Road to ensure flows can move naturally across the landscape.

The lowest responsive and responsible bidder is recommended for award. In accordance with District policy and consistent with state law for Request for Bids (RFB) procurements, this item was competitively bid through a sealed bid process. The bid opening for this project was on December 5, 2023.

**Recommended Action:**

**Resolution No. 2023-1218 Authorize entering into a 1107-day contract with Phillips and Jordan, Incorporated, for the construction of the L-28 Culvert Structures S-229A, S-229B and S-229C Project, in the amount of \$46,717,331 for which \$15,000,000 in dedicated funds (Land Acquisition Trust Fund) and Ad Valorem funds are budgeted in Fiscal Year 2023-2024 and the remainder is subject to Governing Board approval of future years budgets. (Contract No. 4600004894).**

[Resolution No. 2023-1218](#)

[Location Map](#)

33. CEPP EAA Project Update and Board Actions (Staff contact, Lucine Dadrian, P.E.)

A. North New River Canal Conveyance Improvements, Palm Beach County

**Agenda Item Background:**

As part of the Central Everglades Planning Project, the North New River Canal Conveyance Project, located in Palm Beach County, will provide 200 cfs of additional capacity to the North New River Canal through widening and deepening approximately 11 miles of the canal in 3 segments. This Project will improve flow south from Lake Okeechobee to the A-2 Reservoir and Stormwater Treatment Area. These canal conveyance improvements include widening and deepening the North New River Canal using both mechanical and hydraulic dredging methods.

This project will play a crucial role by improving the quantity, timing, and distribution of water flows from Lake Okeechobee south to the central Everglades, Florida Bay, and Everglades National Park. Two future companion projects, currently under design, will provide an additional 1,000 cfs in the Miami Canal, further improving the District's ability to send water south from Lake Okeechobee.

The lowest responsive and responsible bidder is recommended for award. In accordance with District policy and consistent with state law for Request for Bids (RFB) procurements, this item was competitively bid through a sealed bid process. The bid opening for this project was on November 8, 2023.

**Recommended Action:**

**Resolution No. 2023-1219 Authorize entering into a 645-day contract with Ryan Incorporated Southern, the lowest responsive and responsible bidder, for the North New River Canal Conveyance Improvement Project, in the amount of \$86,213,656, for which \$33,000,000 in dedicated funds (Everglades Trust Fund, State General Revenue and Land Acquisition Trust Fund) and Ad Valorem funds are budgeted in Fiscal Year 2023-2024 and the remainder is subject to Governing Board approval of future years budgets. (Contract No.4600004891)**

[Resolution No. 2023-1219](#)

[Location Map](#)

B. Everglades Agricultural Area (EAA) A-2 STA Change Order, Palm Beach County

**Agenda Item Background:**

As part of the Central Everglades Planning Project (CEPP), the CEPP New Waters EAA Stormwater Treatment Area Project, located in Palm Beach County, will build approximately 6,500 acres of Stormwater Treatment Area (STA) including embankments, canals, pump stations, and control structures. The Project will help to dramatically reduce the volume of damaging discharges from Lake Okeechobee to the coastal estuaries for flood protection purposes. It will also provide storage, treatment and conveyance for an average of 370,000 acre-feet of additional water to the Southern Everglades each year. Governor DeSantis' Executive Order 19-12 (Achieving More Now for Florida's Environment) called for the District to immediately expedite the next phase of this project. On February 11, 2021, the Governing Board awarded the A-2 Stormwater Treatment Area Project to Phillips & Jordan, Inc. (Contract No. 4600004380).

The change order scope includes surveying, clearing, disking and grading of Cells 1, 2 & 3. Grading the cell bottoms will maximize the efficiency of nutrient removal in the

STA and minimize the risk of short-circuiting of the flow through the STA, which would require additional regrading in the future. The original contract did not include this scope, and performing work now is more cost effective and does not delay the start-up/grow-in period.

**Recommended Action:**

**Resolution No. 2023-1220 Authorize Change Order No. 9 to Contract No. 4600004380 with Phillips & Jordan, Inc., in the amount of \$22,924,603.66 for which dedicated funds (Everglades Trust Fund and Land Acquisition Trust Fund) and Ad Valorem funds are budgeted in Fiscal Year 2023-2024. (Contract No. 4600004380-CO9)**

[Resolution No. 2023-1220](#)

[Location Map](#)

## **Technical Reports**

- 34. Water and Ecological Conditions Report - John P. Mitnik and Lawrence Glenn

## **Staff Reports**

- 35. Monthly Financial Report - Candida Heater, Division Director - Administrative Services
- 36. General Public Comment
- 37. Board Comment
- 38. Adjourn

Materials for Agenda Item 8, Draft Presentations for Agenda Items 31, 32, 33, and 34, and Progress Update Sheets.

**Agenda Item Background:**

[8 Information Provided by Okeechobee County Commission](#)

[8 Letter from Okeechobee County](#)

[8 Letter to Okeechobee County](#)

[31 Dadrian Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands](#)

[32 Dadrian L-28 Culvert Structures](#)

[33 Dadrian CEPP EAA Project Update and Board Actions](#)

[34 Mitnik & Glenn Water & Ecological Conditions Report](#)

[CERP Progress Report](#)

[NEPP Project Update](#)

## **Public Comment Procedure**

The South Florida Water Management District Governing Board encourages the public to provide comment and input to the Governing Board. Public comment is accepted at the two dedicated General Public Comment periods at the beginning and the end of the meeting. Public comment is also accepted on the Consent Agenda and each Discussion Agenda item.



## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Governing Board Members

**FROM:** Jennifer Smith, Executive Office

**DATE:** December 14, 2023

**SUBJECT:** Strategic Plan 2024-2029

### **Agenda Item Background:**

The purpose of this agenda item is to present the District's 2024-2029 Strategic Plan and request Governing Board approval in accordance with the statutory requirement under Section 373.036, Florida Statutes (F.S.). The strategic plan is based on ongoing guidance received from the Governing Board and is updated to reflect agency strategic priorities, objectives, and policy direction. Staff reviews, updates, and requests approval by the Governing Board annually during October-December to establish high-level priorities for the upcoming preliminary budget development. The approved plan document will be submitted to the Governor and Legislature along with the Preliminary Fiscal Year 2024-2025 District budget due January 15, 2024. Public comments have been gathered and reviewed as part of this plan update. The document includes updates for Strategic Priorities, Success Indicators and Strategic Project recommendations to continue support of Governor DeSantis' Executive Order 23-06 "Achieving Even More Now for Florida's Environment" to advance Everglades restoration and improve water quality in the Sunshine State, the District's mission "To safeguard and restore South Florida's water resources and ecosystems, protect our communities from flooding, and meet the region's water needs while connecting with the public and stakeholders," and to deliver on the management and the resiliency of South Florida's primary water management infrastructure that provides flood control and water supply for over nine million residents and tens of millions of visitors.

### **Additional Item Background:**

The Strategic plan sets the priorities that align with the District's core missions.

### **Funding Source:**

Multiple funding sources fund the projects and process that align with the strategic plan priorities.

### **Staff Contact and/or Presenter:**

Jennifer Smith, [jsmith@sfwmd.gov](mailto:jsmith@sfwmd.gov), 561-682-6285  
Candida Heater, [cheater@sfwmd.gov](mailto:cheater@sfwmd.gov), 561-682-6486

### **ATTACHMENTS:**

[Resolutions No. 2023-1201](#)

[Draft Strategic Plan 2024-2029](#)

# **SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT**

## **Resolution No. 2023-12XX**

**A Resolution of the Governing Board of the South Florida Water Management District to adopt the updated 5-Year Strategic Plan of the District for the purpose of establishing Board Guidance, strategic priorities, goals, projects and success indicators.**

**WHEREAS**, the Governing Board of the South Florida Water Management District deems it necessary, appropriate and in the public interest to adopt the updated attached 5-year strategic plan to establish the strategic priorities of the District Governing Board; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to Section 373.036, Florida Statutes (F.S.) the 5-year strategic plan includes goals, deliverables and strategic level project and process metrics as measures of achieving the Governing Board's established priorities for restoration of water resources and ecosystems (natural systems and water quality), flood protection, water supply and public engagement and administration; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2022, the Florida Legislature passed legislation requiring water management district governing boards to develop a list of critical wetlands per Section 373.036, F.S.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BOARD OF THE SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT:**

**Section 1.** The Governing Board of the South Florida Water Management District hereby adopts the attached "Strategic Plan 2024-2029" of the South Florida Water Management District, authorizes staff to make edits as necessary, and be made available on the District's website.

**Section 2.** This resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

**PASSED and ADOPTED** this 14<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2023.



# 2024-2029 STRATEGIC PLAN

Restoration of Water  
Resources and Ecosystems

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Flood Protection

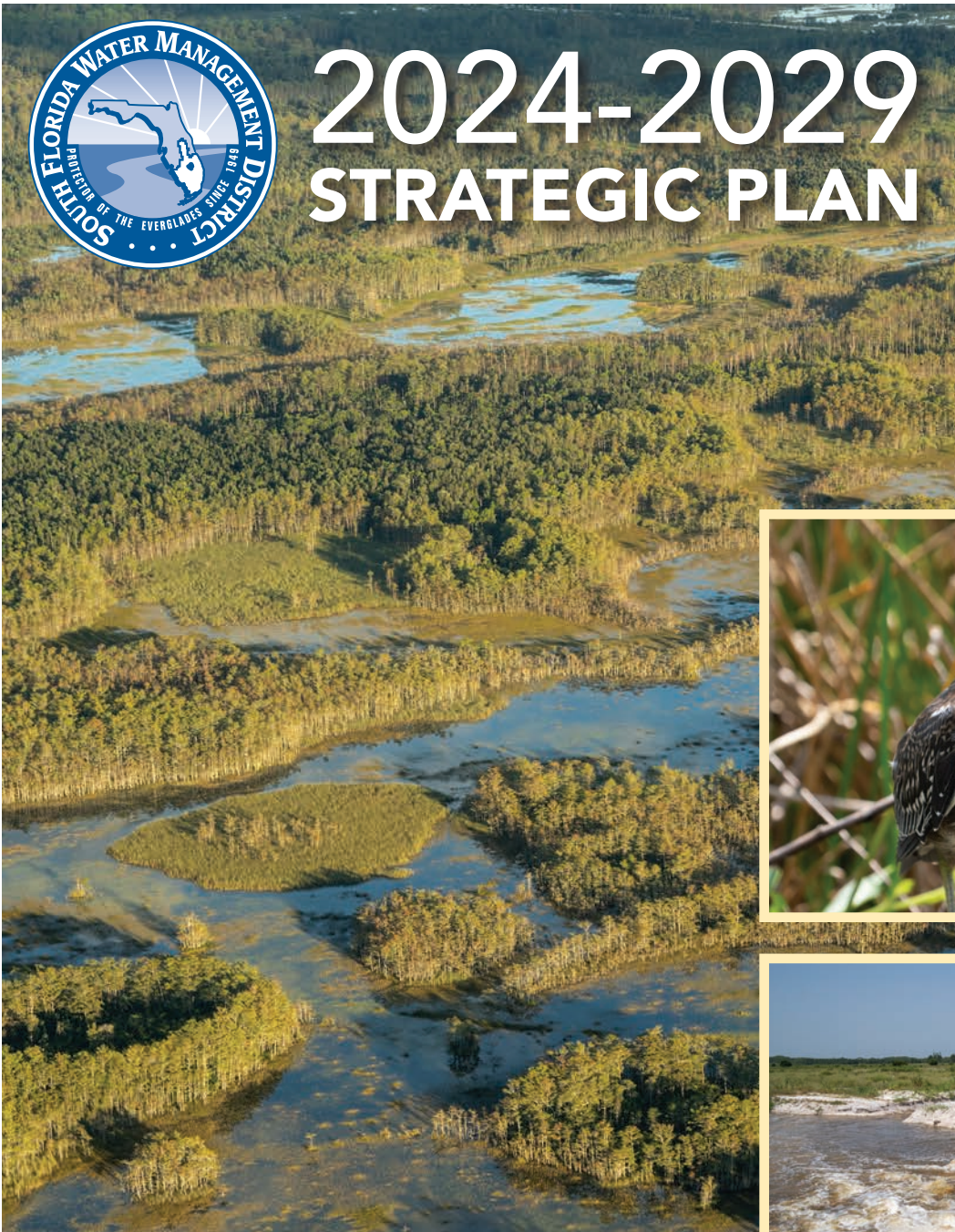
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Water Supply

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Public Engagement  
and Administration

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This document provides the South Florida Water Management District and the public it serves with a blueprint to successfully achieve balanced regional water resource management for the next five years and beyond.

Agency resources are focused on the agency's core mission to safeguard and restore South Florida's water resources and ecosystems while protecting communities from flooding and meeting the region's present and future water supply needs.

The commitments and strategies in this document will be put into action in order to make a positive and meaningful difference in South Florida.



## OUR MISSION

To **SAFEGUARD** and **RESTORE** South Florida's water resources and ecosystems, **PROTECT** our communities from flooding, and **MEET** the region's water needs while **CONNECTING** with the public and stakeholders.

## AGENCY OVERVIEW

Headquartered in West Palm Beach, the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD or the District) is a regional governmental agency that oversees the water resources in 16 counties from Orlando to the Florida Keys. With a population of more than 9 million, this region covers 17,930 square miles (31% of the entire state) and includes vast areas of urban development, agricultural lands and conservation areas.

Operating for over 70 years, the SFWMD is the oldest and largest of the state's five water management districts. State legislation further divides the District into two taxing basins: the Big Cypress Basin includes all of Collier County and a portion of mainland Monroe County; the larger Okeechobee Basin comprises the remaining area within SFWMD boundaries.

A nine-member Governing Board sets the mission and provides overall direction for the entire District. Board members are appointed by the Governor, confirmed by the Florida Senate and generally serve four-year terms. The annual budget is funded by a combination of property taxes and other sources such as federal, state and local revenue, licenses, permit fees, grants, agricultural taxes, investment income and reserve balances.

The SFWMD is charged with safeguarding the region's water resources today and for the future. This includes protecting water supplies and supporting water quality improvements in close collaboration with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). The agency also operates and maintains the Central and Southern Florida Project, one of the world's largest water management systems. It is made up of an extensive network of canals, levees, water storage areas, pump stations and other water control structures. The highly engineered system was built through one of the most diverse ecosystems in the world: the interconnected Greater Everglades Ecosystem, which the SFWMD is helping protect and restore.

South Florida itself encompasses a mosaic of diversity from landscapes and habitats to people and cultures. The District strives to ensure that the public is informed and engaged, and that both local and regional perspectives are considered and incorporated into decisions and actions.

In addition to the headquarters complex in West Palm Beach, three Regulatory Service Centers and eight Field Stations provide assistance and operational support on water management related issues. The Big Cypress Basin office in Naples provides intergovernmental and project support in the region.

# SFWMD LOCATIONS



**District Headquarters, West Palm Beach**



## HEADQUARTERS

- ▶ 3301 Gun Club Road  
West Palm Beach, FL 33406

## SERVICE CENTERS

- ▶ **Big Cypress Basin (Naples)**  
2660 N. Horseshoe Dr., Ste. 101A
- ▶ **Fort Myers**  
2301 McGregor Blvd.
- ▶ **Okeechobee**  
316 Northwest 5th St.
- ▶ **Orlando**  
1707 Orlando Central Pky., Ste. 200

## FIELD STATIONS

- ▶ **Big Cypress Basin (Naples)**  
3875 City Gate Blvd. N.
- ▶ **Clewiston**  
2425 Hookers Point Rd.
- ▶ **Fort Lauderdale**  
2535 Davie Rd.
- ▶ **Homestead**  
2195 NE 8th S.
- ▶ **Miami**  
9001 NW 58th St.
- ▶ **Okeechobee**  
1000 NE 40th Ave.
- ▶ **St. Cloud**  
3800 Old Canoe Creek Rd.
- ▶ **West Palm Beach**  
801 Sansburys Way

# CORE MISSION

## RESTORATION OF WATER RESOURCES AND ECOSYSTEMS

### *Safeguarding and Restoring South Florida's Delicate Ecosystem*

South Florida is characterized by its unique, diverse ecosystems including: the Northern Everglades covering the Kissimmee River, Lake Okeechobee, Caloosahatchee River and St. Lucie River watersheds; and the Southern Everglades encompassing the watersheds south of Lake Okeechobee to the Florida Keys.

A comprehensive effort is underway to protect and restore America's Everglades and make our water resources more resilient - now and for future generations. New data demonstrates the success of restoration and resilience projects across our region - proving recent investments and momentum are working. On January 10, 2023, Governor Ron DeSantis signed Executive Order 23-06 (Achieving *Even More Now* for Florida's Environment) to enhance ongoing efforts to expedite restoration projects and further advance the protection of Florida's natural resources. Executive Order 23-06 was issued exactly four years to the day after he signed Executive Order 19-12 (Achieving *More Now* For Florida's Environment) that resulted in record environmental funding, expedited Everglades projects, and water quality improvements. We have celebrated more than 60 ribbon cuttings, groundbreakings and major milestones on Everglades projects since January 2019.

Together with our partners at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers – Jacksonville District, the State of Florida will continue our significant efforts implementing Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP) projects to improve the quantity, quality, timing and distribution with the Greater Everglades Ecosystem. Unprecedented State funding and momentum are making a real difference to protect Florida's precious natural resources, support our economy and restore America's Everglades.

The scheduling and sequence for implementation of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP), Foundation, and Operational Modification projects are in the Integrated Delivery Schedule (IDS). The IDS provides the sequencing strategy for planning, designing, and constructing projects based on ecosystem needs, benefits and available funding. The IDS is a living document that reflects federal and state program and project priorities.



Groundbreaking for the Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands Project – Cutler Wetlands Component



Gov. DeSantis at the Old Tamiami Trail Roadbed Removal Groundbreaking Ceremony

#### Key Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP) Projects

- ◆ Everglades Agricultural Area (EAA) Reservoir Project
- ◆ Caloosahatchee Reservoir
- ◆ C-44 Reservoir and Stormwater Treatment Area
- ◆ Lake Okeechobee Watershed Restoration Project
- ◆ Central Everglades Planning Projects – North, South and New Water
- ◆ Indian River Lagoon - South Components
- ◆ Picayune Strand Restoration Project
- ◆ Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands
- ◆ Broward County Water Preserve Area
- ◆ Western Everglades Restoration Plan
- ◆ Biscayne Bay Southeastern Everglades Ecosystem Restoration

#### Foundation & Other Restoration Projects

- ◆ Everglades National Park (ENP)/South Dade Hydrologic Improvement (C-111 Detention Areas)
- ◆ Kissimmee River Restoration
- ◆ Improve Water Deliveries to ENP - Phase II: Tamiami Trail Road Raising
- ◆ C-139 Annex Wetland Restoration - Phase II
- ◆ South Dade Seepage Barrier
- ◆ Picayune Watershed Water Quality Project

#### Operational Modifications

- ◆ Herbert Hoover Dike Rehabilitation and Repair
- ◆ Lake Okeechobee System Operation Manual (LOSOM)
- ◆ Upper Kissimmee Chain of Lakes Regulation Schedule

#### Restoration Strategies and Clean Water for America's Everglades

- ◆ Bolles Canal Hydrologic Improvement
- ◆ Stormwater Treatment Area 1-West Expansion #2
- ◆ C-139 Flow Equalization Basin

#### Northern Everglades and Estuaries Protection Program (NEEPP)

- ◆ Brighton Valley Dispersed Water Management Project
- ◆ Bluefield Grove Water Farm
- ◆ Scott Water Farm
- ◆ Caulkins Water Farm
- ◆ Lake Hicpochee Restoration
- ◆ BOMA Flow Equalization Basin
- ◆ Caloosahatchee Reservoir Water Quality Feasibility Study



Roseate Spoonbills, Everglades National Park

# CORE MISSION

## RESTORATION OF WATER RESOURCES AND ECOSYSTEMS

### *Federal, State and Local Partnerships*

In partnership with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), the District is implementing Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP) to improve the quantity, quality, timing, and distribution of water delivered to freshwater and coastal systems in South Florida. Taxpayers have invested \$3.7 billion toward the acquisition of more than 255,000 acres required for CERP implementation, project construction and science-based research and monitoring.

The Kissimmee River and floodplain construction is complete. This project was completed in partnership with the USACE and produced a functioning mosaic of wetland plant communities. The District acquired 100,000 acres for the restoration effort and conducts on-going scientific evaluations of the ecosystem response. Backfilling the C-38 canal was completed in three phases by the USACE. Continuous water flow re-established 24 miles of the river's original course.

Governor Ron DeSantis directed the District to expedite the Everglades Agricultural Area (EAA) Reservoir Project. Construction began ahead of schedule on the Stormwater Treatment Area (STA), the state's portion of the EAA Reservoir Project, in April 2020 and will be complete by FY2024. The project will provide a significant increase in southern storage to reduce high-volume discharges from Lake Okeechobee to the northern estuaries and deliver increased clean freshwater south. Much of the District's efforts in the Northern and Southern Everglades are guided by state law in the Northern Everglades and Estuaries Protection Program (NEEPP) [Chapter 373.4595, Florida Statutes \(F.S.\)](#) and the Everglades Forever Act, [Chapter 373.4592, Florida Statutes \(F.S.\)](#), respectively. These efforts consist of projects, programs, and cooperative initiatives.

An extensive monitoring network is used to measure restoration progress and ensures that SFWMD science staff provides consistent environmental data to decision makers. The District recently expanded the existing monitoring network to transparently provide data on South Florida's waterways to support projects, programs, and efforts.

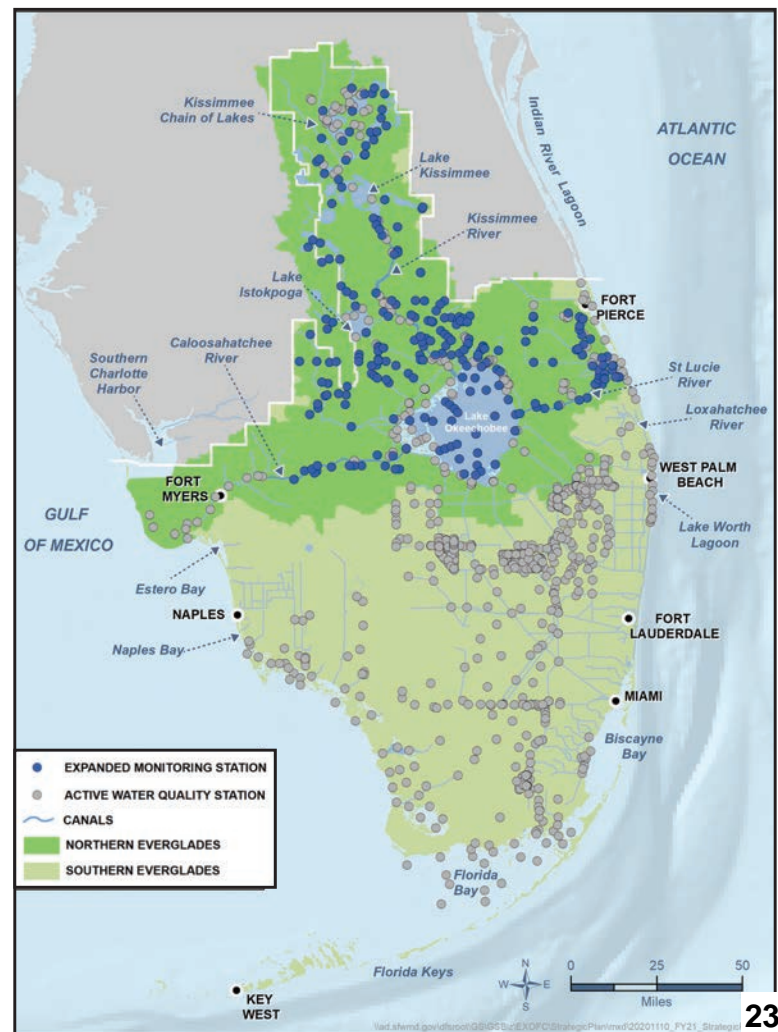
In the Northern Everglades, state law directs the coordinating agencies, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) and the SFWMD, to restore the health of Lake Okeechobee, its watershed, and the St. Lucie and Caloosahatchee River watersheds and estuaries, while continuing to balance flood protection, water supply, navigation and recreational needs. The District supports the coordinating agencies in implementing research, water quality monitoring, and providing technical support in hydrological and ecological evaluation and assessment methods needed to understand how the NEEPP is progressing. The District's three Watershed Protection Plans provide a comprehensive road map of activities the District will undertake to fulfill its role in the Northern Everglades program areas. Strategies involving one or more of the three coordinating agencies include construction projects; alternative treatment technologies; local water quality projects; public-private partnerships; habitat restoration; and agricultural and urban harmful nutrient reduction programs.

In the Southern Everglades, to achieve compliance with the long-term phosphorus water quality standards established for the Everglades Protection Area, a combination of approaches including STAs and programs like agricultural best management practices (BMPs) are in place. In the EAA and C-139 Basins, existing programs for implementing BMPs are a part of the overall strategy. As for the STAs, more than 57,000 acres of constructed marshes and 105,000 acre-feet of storage are now successfully at work improving Everglades water quality.

The State of Florida and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency reached consensus on supplemental strategies to further improve water quality. This program is referred to as the Restoration Strategies program. The District is implementing a technical plan to complete several projects that will create more than 6,500 acres of new STAs and approximately 120,000 acre-feet of additional water storage through construction of flow equalization basins (FEBs). The strategies also identify funding for additional sub-regional projects to further reduce phosphorus in areas where phosphorus levels are elevated.

Restoration Strategies includes a science plan that targets research and monitoring necessary to improve and optimize the performance of water quality treatment within the facilities. Additional projects south of Lake Okeechobee intended to further assist in managing flow and improving water quality continue to be implemented along with other sub-regional programs and habitat restoration. The District is also working with the USACE during the review of the Lake Okeechobee System Operating Manual (LOSOM) and encourages the public to participate in this process.

The District participates in several interagency working groups that seek to achieve ecosystem restoration and stormwater and flood protection improvements. Examples of these groups include the Charlotte Harbor Flatwoods Initiative, Loxahatchee River Preservation Initiative and Lehigh Headwaters Initiative. Projects developed by interagency working groups often complement restoration programs such as CERP and NEEPP.



# CORE MISSION

## RESTORATION OF WATER RESOURCES AND ECOSYSTEMS

### Expanding Storage Opportunities, Improving Habitats and Cleaning Water

Improved water storage, habitat restoration and water quality treatment in both the northern and southern reaches of the Greater Everglades Ecosystem are key to a healthy environment and strong economy. The natural environment will experience significant benefits as restoration projects come online and begin operating and delivering their desired results.

The District is committed to identifying and implementing cost-effective and sustainable solutions to meet the region's water quality and ecosystem restoration challenges. Specifically, the District will work collaboratively with DEP and Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) over the next five years to develop a road map to meet the storage and treatment goals described in the Basin Management Action Plans. The District provides natural resource protection and management while allowing compatible, multiple uses on select public lands in accordance with state law. The District primarily uses the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan's Integrated Delivery Schedule, Northern Everglades and Estuaries Protection Program, and funding opportunities to identify further restoration projects.

### Resiliency and Ecosystem Restoration

Ecosystem restoration supports the District's efforts to increase resiliency in the face of warmer temperatures, sea level rise and other climate change impacts. In particular, the restoration of beneficial freshwater flows, as the main Everglades restoration goal, slows down saltwater intrusion, promoting more sustainable aquifer recharge rates, healthier freshwater habitats, estuaries and bays, enhanced water quality, more stable coastlines, reduced marsh dry-outs, and greater coastal resiliency. Ecosystem restoration also results in increased freshwater flows to and within the Everglades, higher flexibility and storage options to address water management seasonal needs, increased wetland acreage, and increased connectivity to coastal ecosystems.



## Restoration of Water Resources and Ecosystems: Strategic Priorities and Success Indicators

### Mission – Expediting Restoration Results in the Everglades

**PRIORITY** – Advancing the projects identified by Governor DeSantis

#### Success Indicators:

- ◆ Complete project milestones on time and on budget to advance Key Everglades Restoration Projects identified by Governor DeSantis

**PRIORITY** – Maximizing use of available water storage features, such as reservoirs and flow equalization basins (FEBs)

#### Success Indicators:

- ◆ Fully utilize available interim and permanent water storage
- ◆ Identify storage needs by watershed to meet flood control, water supply, and environmental goals and increase resiliency by better managing extreme events for the benefit of communities and the environment
- ◆ Establish a series of milestones to meet the storage and treatment goals for the Lake Okeechobee watershed
- ◆ Meet all Restoration Strategies deadlines and complete associated STA refurbishments by 2024

**PRIORITY** – Implementing solutions to improve water quality treatment, reduce nutrient loads and reduce the likelihood of harmful algal blooms

#### Success Indicators:

- ◆ Attain ambient water quality standards for phosphorus in the Everglades Protection Area
- ◆ Improve water quality entering Lake Okeechobee and the Northern Estuaries
- ◆ Meet established EAA and C-139 Basin phosphorus reduction requirements
- ◆ Continue to encourage pre-application meetings to ensure

complete application submittals incorporate the full implementation of statutorily mandated water quality, water quantity and environmental resource conditions.

- ◆ Complete a cumulative summary of wetland and natural system restoration and report annually to each county within the District
- ◆ Continue to work with both public-public and public-private partnerships between state and local agencies, and cost-share funding programs to most efficiently leverage funding to support the Picayune watershed.

**PRIORITY** – Managing invasive exotic and nuisance vegetation and species

#### Success Indicators:

- ◆ Sweep 250,000 acres of District lands for invasive vegetation annually and treat 55,000 acres of invasive vegetation
- ◆ Investigate and implement alternative exotic control methods. Reduce herbicide use by a total of 20% between 2020 and the end of 2025
- ◆ Remove 1,200 Burmese pythons from the Everglades Region annually. Expand the adaptive management program to improve python detection and removal rates
- ◆ Ensure 80% of the fire-maintained plant communities on District conservation lands are within the appropriate burn rotation

**PRIORITY** – Increasing access and recreational opportunities on public lands when it does not conflict with ecosystem restoration goals

#### Success Indicators:

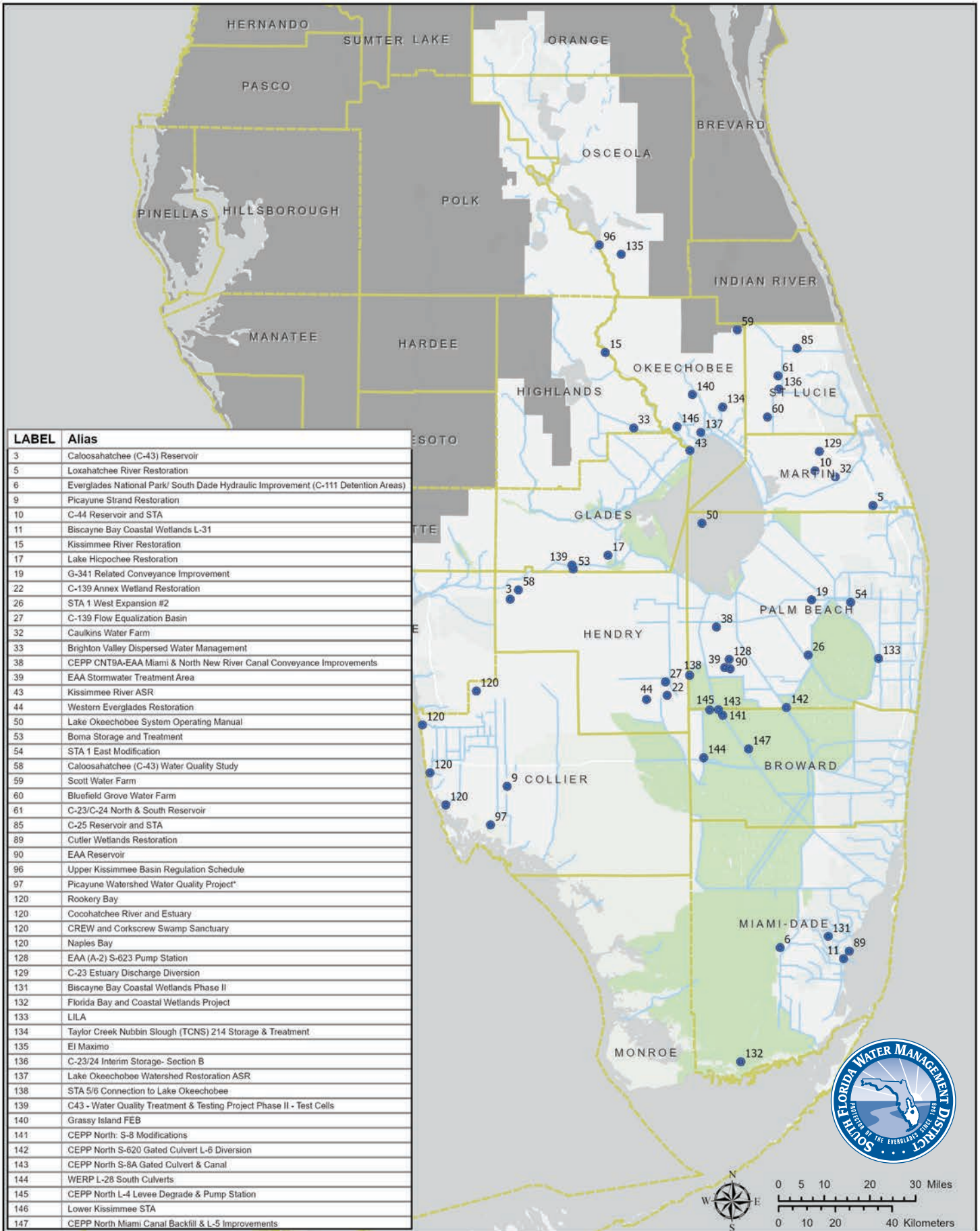
- ◆ Provide public recreational opportunities on lands acquired by the District in accordance with state law, maintain a minimum of 80% of all fee-owned lands open for public recreation and provide hunting opportunities where such use is consistent with restoration goals



# CORE MISSION

## RESTORATION OF WATER RESOURCES AND ECOSYSTEMS

Strategic Projects for Safeguarding and Restoring South Florida's Delicate Ecosystem



# CORE MISSION

## FLOOD PROTECTION

### *Protecting South Florida's Communities from Flooding, Ensuring & Managing Water Flow*

Tempering South Florida's weather extremes of flood and drought was the impetus for the creation of the District in 1949. That principal directive continues today through effective operation, maintenance and management of the primary canals, water control structures, pump stations and District-owned public lands. In addition, proper coordination with local governments, water control districts, homeowners and private landowners assists with the continual operation of secondary and tertiary systems.

South Florida receives 52 inches of rainfall per year on average, and approximately 75% of the region's annual rainfall typically falls in the six-month period from May through October, when intense rainfall is common. Flood protection is a critical responsibility. Rainfall fluctuates annually and conditions move quickly between flooding and drought, and the region is extremely vulnerable to hurricanes and tropical storms. These weather extremes add to the challenges of water resource management. Highly variable rainfall coupled with flat topography necessitates flood protection for more than 9 million residents in the region. When the regional Central and Southern Florida Project was designed in the late 1940s, its primary function was flood protection.

Since the USACE's construction of the public works project from the 1950s to 1970s, the District's responsibilities as local sponsor of the flood

protection system expanded to emphasize various aspects of water resource management and address changing conditions. These include land development, extreme rainfall, sea level rise, and other climate change impacts.

Today, the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) operates and maintains more than 2,175 miles of canals, 2,130 miles of levees/berms, 915 water control structures, 620 project culverts and 89 pump stations. The system is continuously expanding as new restoration projects such as stormwater treatment areas and resiliency projects such as coastal structure enhancements are completed or expanded.

Major flood protection responsibilities include operations, maintenance and refurbishment of system-wide infrastructure, vegetation management, along with hydrological data collection, flow determination and hydrological basin management.

Improvements and upgrades to the District's flood protection system include automation, pump station repair and refurbishment and new pump installations, gravity structure repair and enhancements, levee inspections and repair, and canal conveyance improvement. Project design efforts continuously consider the integration of green infrastructure into District capital projects.



G-103 Structure after Hurricane Ian

# CORE MISSION

## FLOOD PROTECTION

### *District's Sea Level Rise and Flood Resiliency Plan*

The SFWMD is strongly committed to addressing the impacts of climate change, including rising sea levels and changing rainfall patterns. Current SFWMD resiliency efforts focus on assessing how sea level rise and extreme events happen under current and future climate conditions and how they affect water resource management. The SFWMD's resiliency efforts also focus on understanding the impacts of future climate conditions on communities, ecosystems and restoration efforts. The SFWMD is making infrastructure adaptation investments that are needed to implement its mission of safeguarding and restoring water resources and ecosystems, protecting communities from flooding, and ensuring an adequate water supply for people and the environment with special attention to natural and green infrastructure solutions.

Resiliency efforts are in collaboration with the State of Florida through the Resilient Florida Program under:

- ◆ Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)
- ◆ Statewide Office of Resilience and the Hazard Mitigation Programs under the Florida Division of Emergency Management (FDEM)
- ◆ U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)
- ◆ Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)
- ◆ U.S. Geological Survey (USGS)
- ◆ Partners in Local Governments

The SFWMD's goal is to ensure flood protection needs into the future. The SFWMD is assessing the flood management risks from compounding drivers (rainfall, high tides, groundwater and surge) and exacerbating factors such as land development, and a changing climate. The results of these assessments support decision-making on prioritizing investments and implementing adaptation solutions which will provide long-term resiliency and ensure flood protection needs are met into the future.

The SFWMD accounts for sea level rise according to available projections advanced by federal agencies, including National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and USACE and the upcoming Statewide Sea Level Rise Projections being developed by the Florida Flood Hub for Applied Sciences and Innovation. Beyond sea level rise, the SFWMD is also estimating future extreme rainfall conditions and other future climate scenarios, based on the evaluation of existing climate model results in contrast to historic observation data. These observed datasets are being integrated into a set of water and climate resilience metrics to document and communicate trends and shifts in relevant water and climate data, informing the District's resiliency efforts.

A key piece of the SFWMD's resiliency efforts is the Flood Protection Level of Service Program (FPLOS). Under this program, the SFWMD studies the canals, structures and pump stations it operates. This ensures that they can provide the level of flood protection they were designed to under future conditions with consideration for sea level rise and other climate impacts. Where the studies identify canals and/or structures throughout the entire District boundary that will no longer adequately provide flood protection, improvements are recommended to ensure adequate flood protection. These improvements are being integrated into the SFWMD's Sea Level Rise and Flood Resiliency Plan for implementation, along with post-storm event project recommendations, Capital Improvement Plan project integration and other innovative strategies.

The SFWMD's Sea Level Rise and Flood Resiliency Plan sets a priority list for implementation of projects with the goal to reduce the risks of flooding, sea level rise, and other climate impacts on water resources and increasing community and ecosystem resiliency in South Florida. The plan is updated annually by September 1 and is available at: [sfwmd.gov/our-work/sea-level-rise-and-flood-resiliency-plan](http://sfwmd.gov/our-work/sea-level-rise-and-flood-resiliency-plan).



# CORE MISSION

## FLOOD PROTECTION

### Flood Protection: Strategic Priorities and Success Indicators

#### *Mission – Refurbishing, Replacing, Improving, and Managing the Components of Our Water Management System*

**PRIORITY** – Implementing flood protection infrastructure refurbishment projects

**Success Indicators:**

- ◆ Complete flood control strategic projects on time and on budget

**PRIORITY** – Incorporating new works into water management system operations

**Success Indicators:**

- ◆ Bring 100% of new works online on schedule, prior to project close out

**PRIORITY** – Assessing and operating the water management system to meet flood protection and water supply needs into the future considering sea level rise and the impacts of a changing climate

**Success Indicators:**

- ◆ Maintain operating water levels within established target ranges to the extent that weather and climatological conditions allow

**PRIORITY** – Coordinating with the USACE on infrastructure inspections and results

**Success Indicators:**

- ◆ Achieve passing rating for annual inspection of District infrastructure and provide results to USACE

**PRIORITY** – Coordinating with state/federal partners and assisting local governments to maintain the level of flood protection

**Success Indicators:**

- ◆ Reduce the average risk rating of District infrastructure through structure inspections and improvements
- ◆ Ensure that 90% of field station repairs are completed within one year of inspection reports
- ◆ Improve communication and coordination with adjacent landowners, including 298 Districts, by developing a process for reducing sources of litter to District-managed canals and other waterbodies
- ◆ Resolve Right of Way unpermitted encroachments

**PRIORITY** – Optimizing infrastructure maintenance by adhering to, or exceeding, industry standards and best management practices

**Success Indicators:**

- ◆ Perform at least 80% of all field maintenance work activities as planned work; no more than 20% as unplanned
- ◆ Expend no more than 20% of field maintenance funds for unplanned work

**PRIORITY** – Assessing sea level rise and changing weather patterns to determine impacts of future conditions on the District's mission

**Success Indicators:**

- ◆ Establish key water and climate resilience metrics to document and communicate observed trends and shifts in relevant water and climate data, informing the District's resiliency efforts and modernizing design standards
- ◆ Estimate future extreme rainfall conditions and other future climate scenarios, based on the evaluation of climate downsizing datasets in contrast to historic observation data

**PRIORITY** – Advancing adaption strategies and infrastructure investments, in coordination with local, regional, state and federal partners, to continue to increase resiliency of its flood protection system and other mission critical services

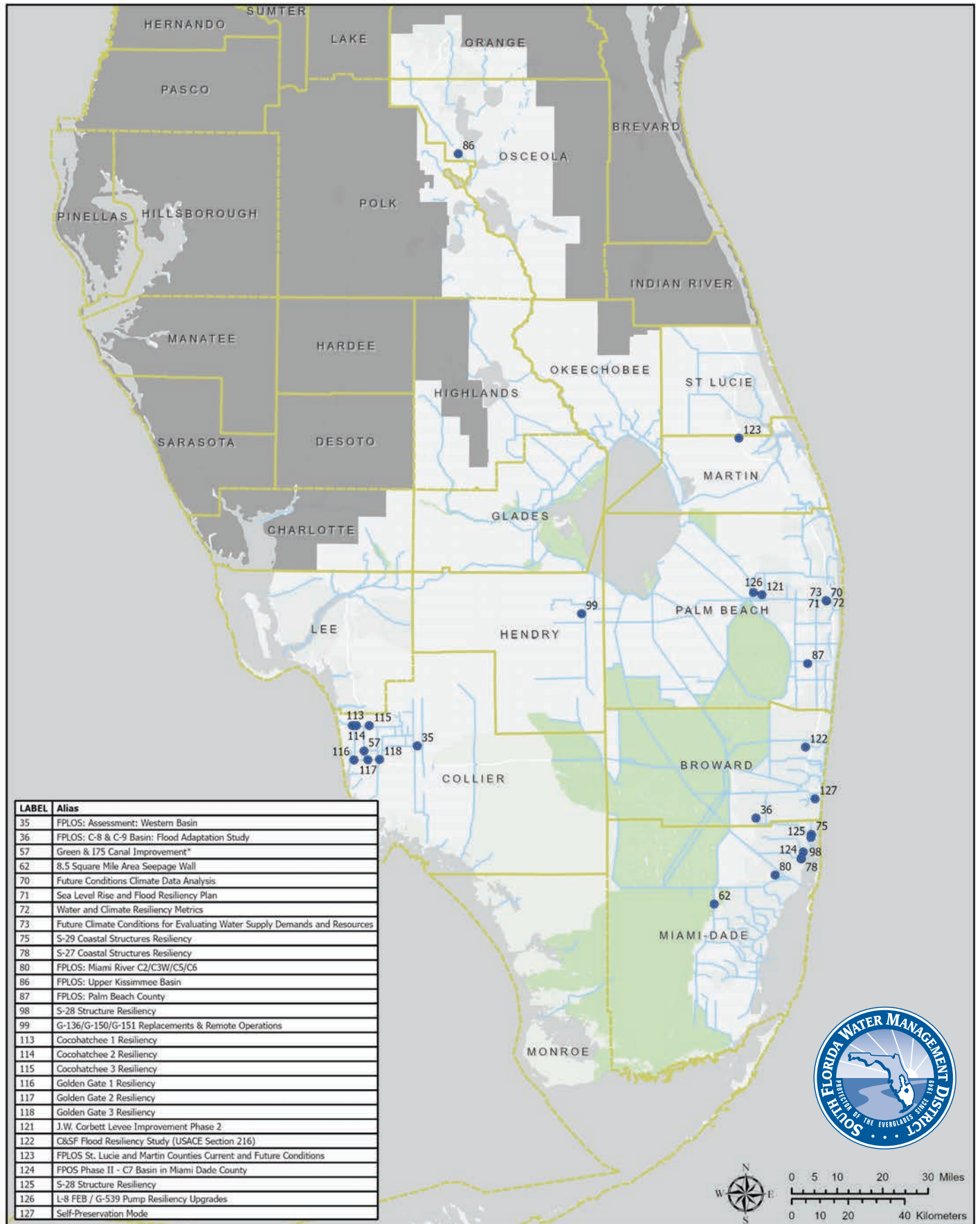
**Success Indicators:**

- ◆ Complete FPLOS Flood Vulnerability (Phase I) and Adaptation Planning (Phase II) Studies on time and on budget and in close coordination with local governments and stakeholders
- ◆ Complete the annual update of the District's Sea Level Rise and Flood Resiliency Plan and submit a list of projects to DEP for consideration into the Statewide Flood and Sea Level Resiliency Plan, and submit to the Governor, Legislators and DEP by Oct. 1
- ◆ Advance the Central and Southern Florida Flood Resiliency Study in partnership with USACE to revisit the C&SF Project, with the goal of addressing changed conditions and future climate impacts
- ◆ Complete District resiliency strategic projects on time and on budget, along with the identification and pursuit of funding alternatives to support full implementation of the recommended adaptation projects, including enhancement of coastal structures, levees, canals, and other critical flood protection infrastructure
- ◆ Plan and implement a curtain wall in South Miami-Dade County, to mitigate flooding and support Everglades restoration goals
- ◆ Partner with USACE in advancing the C&SF Flood Resiliency Study to revisit the C&SF Project, with the goal of addressing changed conditions and future climate impacts
- ◆ Coordinate restoration, flood protection and water supply efforts to incorporate actions to address climate related impacts and promote resilience adaptation strategies, based on consistent scenario planning and regional modeling approaches
- ◆ Communicate, engage, and collaborate with partner agencies, stakeholders, and the public to inform regional and local vulnerability assessments and resilience efforts, and continue to ensure the resilience and safeguarding of the District's valuable water resources and ecosystems

# CORE MISSION

## FLOOD CONTROL – DISTRICT RESILIENCY STRATEGIC PROJECTS

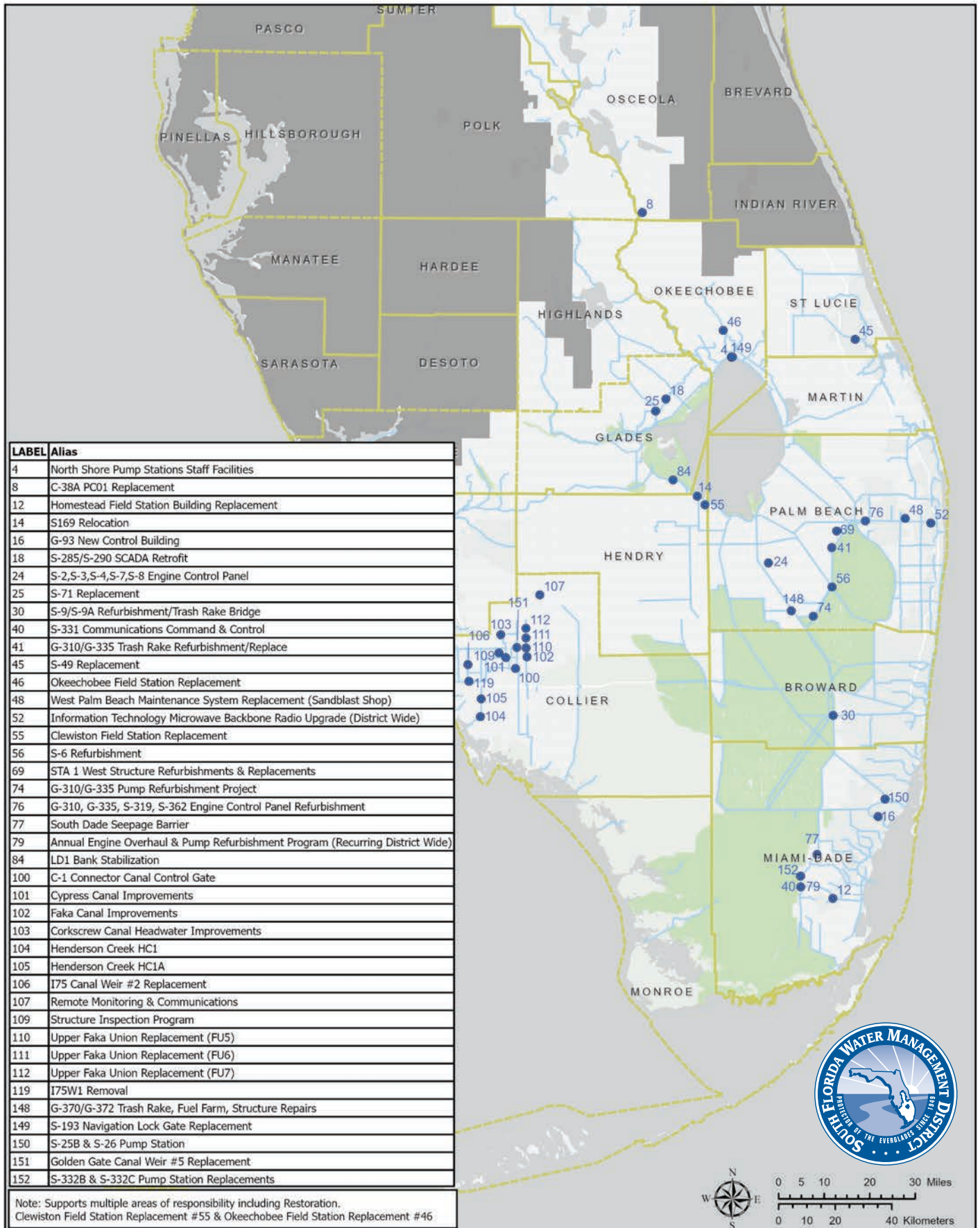
*Strategic Infrastructure Projects to Address  
Climate Change and Sea Level Rise*



# CORE MISSION

## FLOOD PROTECTION CORE MISSION STRATEGIC PROJECTS

*Strategic Projects for Protecting South Florida's Communities from Flooding, Ensuring and Managing Water Flow*



# CORE MISSION

## WATER SUPPLY

### *Ensuring Water for South Florida's Communities*

Water in the State of Florida is a public resource. The District utilizes a variety of tools and technologies to help ensure a reliable and sustainable supply of water for South Florida's environment, citizens, and communities.

Water supply needs are continually evaluated by the District and appropriate programs are developed to achieve sustainable water resources and related natural systems. Data, computer modeling and analysis are used to evaluate water source conditions for current and projected uses. Increasing development and population have resulted in higher demands for water supply over time and are projected to continue to increase into the future.

Planning for a growing water demand must be balanced while ensuring water remains available for natural systems. Changing climate patterns, such as increased rainfall variability, sea level rise, increased evapotranspiration, and warmer air temperatures, may affect water supply demands and sources. This needs to be taken into consideration in water supply plans and future water supply vulnerability analyses. Freshwater aquifers in coastal counties remain vulnerable to saltwater intrusion. Therefore, coordinated efforts with local governments and other partner agencies are necessary to ensure sustainable water supplies.



*Aquifer Storage and Recovery Wells Proof of Concept*

To meet Florida's future water demands, the state's water management districts are working with water users to best use the state's traditional water sources while also promoting the development and use of alternative sources. Water supply management strategies include sound planning and permitting; demand reduction through water conservation; development of alternative water sources such as new surface water storage, reclaimed water and desalination of brackish and saline water; and Everglades restoration.

Data collection to monitor conditions and increase our knowledge of water resources is integral to the sustainability of these resources. The District conducts groundwater monitoring, and aquifer system research through installation and testing of new wells.

### *Resiliency and Water Supply*

To support water supply plans, the District has several groundwater models that simulate current and future groundwater withdrawals and identify potential impacts on water resources, both for traditional fresh groundwater aquifer systems as well as the brackish Floridan Aquifer System (FAS). The SFWMD is currently developing the East Coast Surficial Model (ECSM), which is a density-dependent groundwater model. The ECSM will be able to explicitly simulate the effects of sea level rise and potential movement of the saltwater interface and climate change on the surficial groundwater system. The ECSM includes most of the Lower East Coast (LEC) planning region and the entire Upper East Coast (UEC) planning region and will be completed in 2024.

For assessing longer-term evolving conditions, Water Supply Vulnerability Assessments will utilize the existing surface water model and the enhanced groundwater ECSM model. These models will be used to evaluate the effects of sea level rise and climate change on water supplies. The outputs of the model runs will identify potential impacts on water resources and areas the District needs to focus on. The identification of strategies and projects can increase water supply resilience. The Water Supply Vulnerability Assessment was initiated in 2023, with data preparation tasks, and has a two-year estimated duration to complete. The Water Supply Vulnerability Assessment will look beyond the traditional water supply planning efforts and 20-year planning horizon. It will also incorporate additional climate scenarios and a longer planning horizon. This more detailed evaluation of the vulnerability of water supply sources can help inform the development of new projects. These new projects will enhance South Florida's water supply resiliency. This is part of an overall effort to help the District understand and plan around the complexities that factor into the current and future resilience of water supplies.



*C-51 Gate Structure*

# CORE MISSION

## WATER SUPPLY

### *Planning, Regulation and Conservation*

Water supply plans are updated every five years in collaboration with stakeholders in accordance with the statutory direction provided in Chapter 373, Florida Statutes. The FY2023 Five-Year Water Resources Development Program includes an estimated \$3.49 billion of projected expenditures for Fiscal Years 2023-2027 for water resource development activities and projects. This Work Program is included as Chapter 5A in the 2023 South Florida Environmental Report, Volume II.

Based on at least a 20-year outlook, water supply plans include water demand estimates and projections; an evaluation of regional water resources; identification of water supply-related issues and options; water resource and water supply development components, including funding; and recommendations for meeting projected demands while sustaining water resources and related natural systems.

Alternative water supplies, regional solutions and water conservation are encouraged through strategies that include public outreach/education, policy, voluntary efforts, and financial incentives.

The District regulates and manages the consumptive use of water through consumptive use permits. These permits ensure that proposed uses are reasonable and beneficial, will not interfere with any current

existing legal users and are consistent with the public interest. Rules protect water for Florida's natural systems and wetlands to preclude harm that could result from water supply over-pumping. In addition, the state's water reservations authority allows water to be set aside in an ecosystem for the protection of fish and wildlife. Minimum flows and minimum levels are established at specific water resource locations to protect the water resource and/or ecology of those areas from significant harm due to further withdrawals. Associated recovery or prevention strategies are also developed for all minimum flows and levels.

Effective planning and permitting, along with source diversification and water conservation, are key to ensuring that communities are less susceptible to water supply shortages. South Florida's primary water supply challenges include the need for storage, saltwater intrusion, changing climatic conditions and a growing demand coupled with competing uses.

Finding and implementing cost-effective solutions to resource protection and water supply availability issues require a collaborative approach. Water supply development projects that support the reuse of treated wastewater are included in regional water supply plans, and its beneficial use is encouraged with consideration to improve regional water quality.

## Water Supply: Strategic Priorities and Success Indicators

### *Mission – Meeting the Water Needs of the Environment and Preparing for Current and Future Demands of Water Users*

**PRIORITY** – Developing and implementing regional water supply plans in coordination with local governments, utilities, stakeholders and the public

#### Success Indicators:

- ◆ Approval of five-year water supply plan updates on schedule
- ◆ SFWMD water supply plans will identify sufficient water supply sources and future projects to meet existing and future reasonable-beneficial uses during 1-in-10 year drought conditions through 2045 while sustaining water resources and natural systems

**PRIORITY** – Planning for the region's water resource needs with consideration of climate change and sea level rise challenges

#### Success Indicators:

- ◆ Ensure cumulative percentage of the 2015-2040 increase in public water supply demand is met by planning region
- ◆ Incorporate sea level rise and other climate impacts as a part of advanced integrated water supply planning, with consideration of projected water demands and availability under future conditions
- ◆ Maintain and enhance saltwater interface groundwater monitoring network where appropriate; and expand variable density groundwater models to predict the extent and rate of inland movement of the saltwater interface
- ◆ Develop a range of sea level rise and other climate scenarios including Everglades Restoration efforts to evaluate strategies to slow saltwater intrusion
- ◆ Advance the Water Supply Vulnerability Assessment, utilizing the enhanced ECSM model for the Lower East Coast Region

- ◆ Complete the update of the ECSM with the density-dependent model to explicitly simulate the impacts of sea level rise and the potential movement of the saltwater interface inland

**PRIORITY** – Encouraging development of alternative water supply projects to diversify water supply

#### Success Indicators:

- ◆ Cooperative Funding Program, Alternative Water Supply and Water Conservation

**PRIORITY** – Promoting water conservation measures

#### Success Indicators:

- ◆ District-wide average annual uniform gross per capita water use public water supply is less than 135 gallons per capita daily

**PRIORITY** – Utilizing regulatory permitting and compliance authority

#### Success Indicators:

- ◆ Continue to encourage pre-application meetings to ensure complete application submittals incorporating full implementation of statutorily mandated consumptive use conditions of issuance

**PRIORITY** – Using water reservation and minimum flow and minimum level authority to protect water for natural systems

#### Success Indicators:

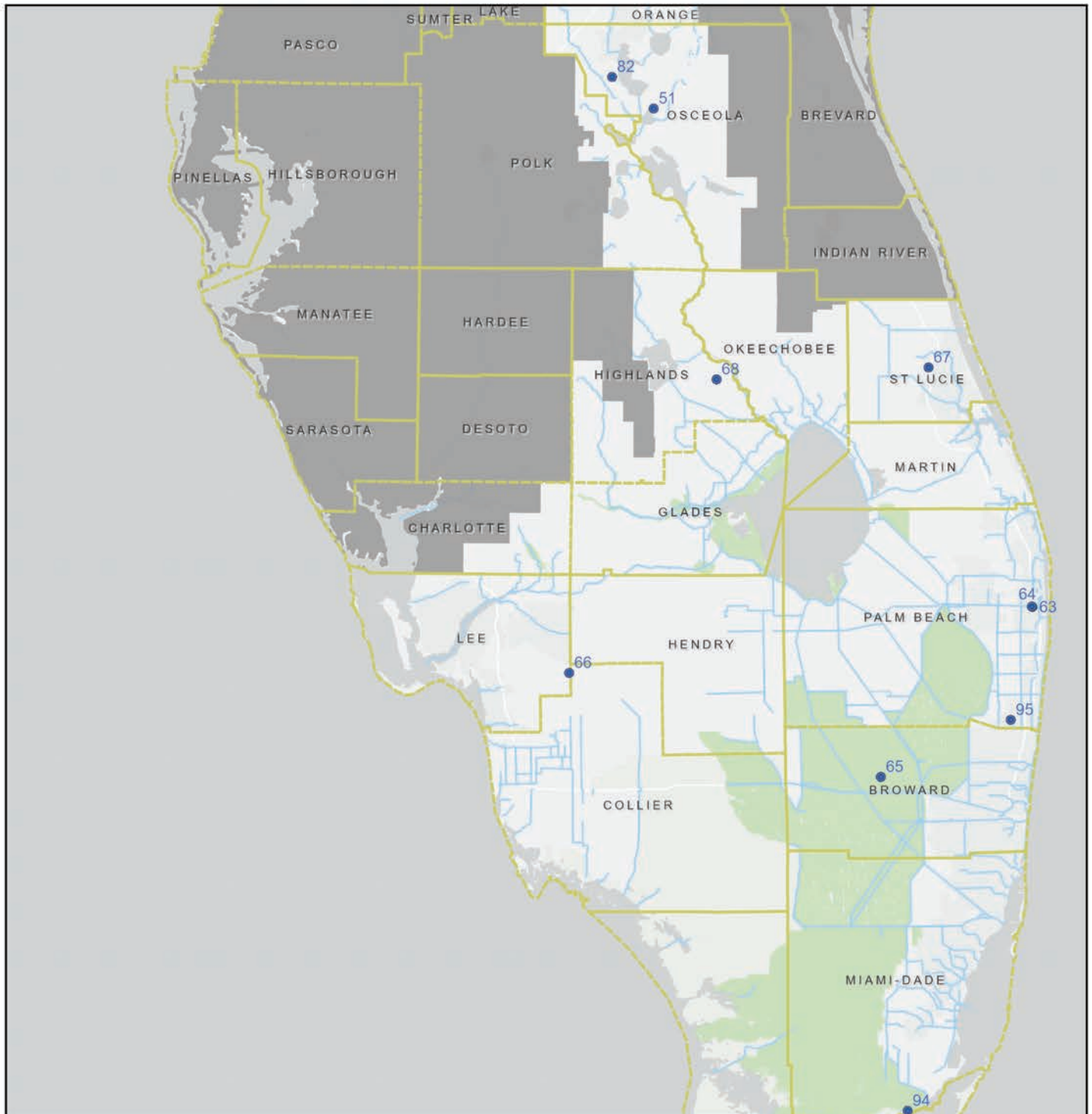
- ◆ Provide Priority Waterbody List and Schedule for the establishment of Minimum Flows and Levels and Water Reservations annually by November 1
- ◆ Complete reservations, minimum flow and minimum water levels analyses on schedule



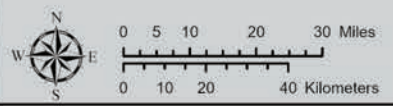
# CORE MISSION

## WATER SUPPLY STRATEGIC PROJECTS

*Strategic Projects for Ensuring Water for South Florida's Communities*



Number	Project Name
51	District Wide Ground Monitoring
63	Cooperative Funding Program (Alternative Water Supply & Conservation): Multiple Locations District Wide
64	Cooperative Funding Program (Alternative Water Supply & Conservation): Multiple Locations District Wide
65	Lower East Coast Water Supply Plan Update
66	Lower West Coast Water Supply Plan Update
67	Upper East Coast Water Supply Plan Update
68	Lower Kissimmee Basin Watershed Plan Update
82	Central Florida Water Initiative Water Supply Plan Update
94	Saltwater Interface Mapping
95	Saltwater Intrusion - Groundwater Modeling



# SUPPORT MISSION

## PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT & ADMINISTRATION

### *Delivering Efficient and Cost-Effective Services on Behalf of South Florida Citizens*

The District constantly looks for opportunities to implement strategies to improve operations, enhance fiscal efficiency, ensure public access and engagement, create more accountability and, most importantly, deliver the services and results that the public expects. Project and operational progress, along with overall organizational efficiency and effectiveness, are continuously measured and reported. Monthly financial statements are publicly presented at Governing Board meetings and posted online to clearly demonstrate how the District utilizes taxpayer dollars. By routinely collaborating with the public, state and federal agencies, local governments, non-governmental organizations, community organizations and the business community, the District works to further leverage public dollars by identifying additional cost-saving strategies.

### Public Engagement & Administration: Strategic Priorities and Success Indicators

#### **Mission – Ensuring South Florida Taxpayers Receive Efficient and Effective Customer Service**

**PRIORITY** – Focusing resources on core functions, minimizing administrative costs, and measuring performance

#### **Success Indicators:**

- ◆ Post monthly financial statements to the District’s publicly available website within 24 hours after each Governing Board meeting
- ◆ Submit annual audit to the Florida Department of Financial Services and Auditor General within 45 days after Governing Board acceptance but not later than nine months after the end of the prior fiscal year
- ◆ Complete required distribution of annual audit within 10 days after Governing Board acceptance and ensure posting on the District’s publicly available website within 10 days of acceptance

**PRIORITY** – Ensuring accountability, transparency, and public involvement in agency decisions

#### **Success Indicators:**

- ◆ Document, assign and respond to 90% of public records requests within 14 days

**PRIORITY** – Employing and developing a high-quality, diverse workforce

#### **Success Indicators:**

- ◆ Maintain workforce turnover rate at less than 6%
- ◆ Ensure more than 90% of new hires are retained after the six-month probation period
- ◆ Complete quarterly training events via e-learning, classroom and/or virtually that further develop employee and supervisor skills such as Respect in the Workplace, new supervisor training, and team building



SFWMD Governing Board Meeting in Coral Springs, February 2023



Great Egret, Everglades National Park

# AGENCY BUSINESS CYCLE

## PUTTING THE PLAN INTO ACTION



EAA Reservoir Construction

### *The Strategic Plan...*

The Strategic Plan is a key component of the South Florida Water Management District's integrated business cycle. It establishes the overall policy direction and strategic priorities set by the Governing Board to carry out the agency's core mission responsibilities. Serving as the agency blueprint for long-term planning and implementation, the Strategic Plan provides overarching guidance in development of the annual budget and work plan and the success indicators used for measuring progress.

### *Implementing the priorities identified in this Strategic Plan will result in:*

- ◆ Restoration of South Florida's ecosystem, including improvements of water flows and restored habitats
- ◆ Regional flood protection provided by a refurbished water management system
- ◆ Achievement of water quality standards
- ◆ Affordable and reliable water supplies
- ◆ Public and private partnerships that help stretch limited resources
- ◆ Efficient and effective customer service for the District's taxpayers
- ◆ Transparency to the public on the District's priorities

# OUR PROGRESS

## FOR THE RESILIENCY AND RESTORATION OF THE REGION'S WATER RESOURCES

GROUNDBREAKING SINCE 2019		GROUNDBREAKING	COMPLETION DATE (EST.)
1	El Maximo Dispersed Water Management	2022	2024
2	C-139 Wetland Restoration – Phase II	2021	2027
3	C-139 Water Storage Basin (FEB)	2021	2023
4	EAA Reservoir Project's Treatment Wetland	2020	2024
5	STA 2 Refurbishments	2020	2024
6	STA 1W – Expansion No. 2	2020	2023
7	Raising Tamiami Trail (FDOT)	2021	2024
8	Lake O Watershed – Aquifer Storage & Recovery Wells	2021	TBD
9	Caloosahatchee (C-43) Reservoir – Final Phase of Construction	2019	2025
10	Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands - L-31E Flow Way	2020	2026
11	C-23/C-24 Treatment Wetland	2022	2025
12	Everglades Nat'l Park Seepage Containment Wall – CEPP New Water	2022	2024
13	Bolles Canal Improvements – Final Segment	2022	✓
14	C-23/C-44 Canal to Divert Harmful Discharges to St. Lucie River	2022	2025
15	Old Tamiami Trail Roadbed Removal	2020	✓
16	Bluefield Grove Water Storage Farm	2020	✓
17	Scott Water Storage Farm	2020	✓
18	Everglades Nat'l Park Seepage Containment Wall – Phase I (8.5 SMA)	2021	✓
19	Taylor Slough Hydrologic Improvements	2023	✓
20	EAA Reservoir	2023	2030
21	ALJO Four Corners Rapid Infiltration Project	2023	✓
22	Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands – Cutler Wetlands	2023	2025
23	Central Everglades Planning Project (CEPP) North	2023	2030
24	Central Everglades Planning Project (CEPP) South	2020	2031

✓ Indicates these projects have been completed.



CEPP North Groundbreaking Ceremony



EAA Reservoir Groundbreaking Ceremony

MAJOR MILESTONE SINCE 2019		RECENT ACCOMPLISHMENT	COMPLETION DATE (EST.)
25	Biscayne Bay and Southeastern Everglades Ecosystem (BBSEER)	Began Planning Efforts	2026
26	Boma Water Storage Basin (FEB)	Started Design	2026
27	C-23/C-24 Interim Water Storage	Started Design	2025
28	C-23/C-24 North Reservoir	Completed Final Design	2030
29	C-23/C-24 South Reservoir	Started Design	2030
30	C-25 Reservoir and Treatment Wetland	Completed Land Acquisition, Started Design	2028
31	Lake Hicpochee Restoration – Phase II	Started Design	2025
32	Loxahatchee River Watershed Restoration	Authorized by Congress, Started Design	2032
33	S-332B Pump Station Replacement	Started Design	2026
34	Western Everglades Restoration-South Features	Began Final Design	2027
35	Western Everglades Restoration-Remaining Features	Began Planning	TBD
36	Lake O Watershed – Wetland Restoration	Began Real Estate Acquisition	TBD
37	Lower Kissimmee Treatment Wetland	Began Initial Planning and Design	TBD
38	EAA Reservoir Project Conveyance Improvements	Completed Design for the North New River	2027
39	EAA Reservoir Project Partnership Agreement Signed	Agreement Executed	2032
40	Faka Union Pump Station/Picayune Strand Wetland Restoration	Began Partial Rehydration of Drained Wetlands	2025
41	C-11 Water Storage Impoundment	Began Final Design	2028
42	Lake Okeechobee Component A Reservoir (LOCAR)	Began Planning	TBD

COMPLETED SINCE 2019	YEAR	
43	Taylor Slough Hydrologic Improvements	2023
44	Everglades Nat'l Park Seepage Containment Wall – Phase I (8.5 SMA)	2022
45	Allapattah Flats Wetland Restoration	2021
46	Bluefield Grove Water Storage Farm	2021
47	Bolles Canal Improvements – Segment 3	2020
48	Bolles Canal Improvements – Segment 4	2022
49	Brighton Valley Dispersed Water Storage and Management	2020
50	C-44 Reservoir and Treatment Wetland	2021
51	Caloosahatchee (C-43) Reservoir Water Quality Improvements Study	2021
52	Improved Water Deliveries for ENP (COP) and C-111 South Dade Project	2020
53	Kissimmee River Restoration	2021
54	Lake Hicpochee Restoration – Phase I	2020
55	Lakeside Ranch Treatment Wetland	2019
56	Old Tamiami Trail Roadbed Removal	2021
57	S-191A Pump Station	2021
58	S-333N Structure for Everglades Nat'l Park Water Deliveries	2020
59	Scott Water Storage Farm	2021
60	STA 1W – Expansion No. 1	2020
61	STA 1E Improvements	2022
62	STA 5/6 Improvements	2020
63	Bridging Tamiami Trail (FDOT)	2019
64	C-139 Wetland Restoration – Phase I	2019
65	ALJO Four Corners Rapid Infiltration Project	2023



CEPP New Water Seepage Containment Wall Groundbreaking Ceremony



ALJO Four Corners Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

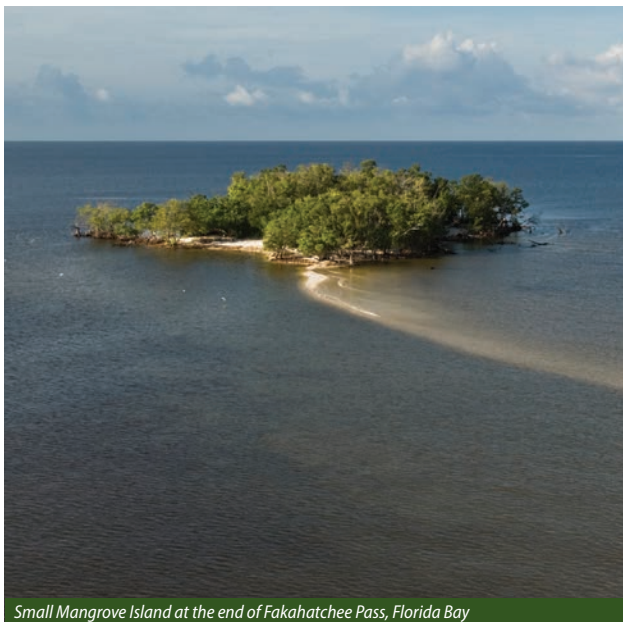
Additional accomplishments and performance metrics may be found within the South Florida Environmental Report Volume II, Chapter 36



Homes and Buildings along Naples Coastal Waterfront Area



Water Quality Researcher in Chemistry Lab



Small Mangrove Island at the end of Fakahatchee Pass, Florida Bay



Sandpiper in Stormwater Treatment Area 5/6

**Ron DeSantis**, Governor

**SFWMD Governing Board**

- Chauncey Goss, Chairman
- Scott Wagner, Vice Chairman
- Ron Bergeron Sr.
- Ben Butler
- Charlie E. Martinez
- Cheryl Meads
- Charlette Roman
- Jay Steinle

Shawn Hamilton, Secretary,  
Florida Department of  
Environmental Protection

**SFWMD Executive Management**

- Drew Bartlett, Executive Director
- John Mitnik, Asst. Executive Director & Chief Engineer
- Sean Cooley, Chief Communications & Public Policy Officer
- Jill Creech, Regulation Director
- Lucine Dadrian, Engineering, Construction & Modeling Director
- Maricruz Fincher, General Counsel
- Lawrence Glenn, Water Resources Director
- Candida Heater, Administrative Services Director
- Lisa Koehler, Big Cypress Basin Administrator
- Dr. Carolina Maran, Chief of District Resiliency
- Duane Piper, Chief Information Officer
- Jennifer Reynolds, Ecosystem Restoration Director
- Jennifer Smith, Chief of Staff
- Rich Virgil, Field Operations Director

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Learn more by signing up for the District's emails.  
Visit [SFWMD.gov](http://SFWMD.gov) and click on "Subscribe for Email Updates."

Connect with us on Facebook, X, Instagram,  
LinkedIn and YouTube.



3301 Gun Club Road  
West Palm Beach, FL 33406  
[SFWMD.gov](http://SFWMD.gov)

**SFWMD 2024 Critical Wetlands List**

Parcel ID	County	Project	Wetland Acres
10452500000061010	Lee	Six Mile Cypress I & II	3.88
10452500000062000	Lee	Six Mile Cypress I & II	12.70
10236360A00000050000	Okeechobee	Indian River Lagoon - South / FF only	27.17
12535360A00000010000	Okeechobee	Indian River Lagoon - South / FF only	684.21
10136360A00000010000	Okeechobee	Indian River Lagoon - South / FF only	279.21
10236360A0000002B000	Okeechobee	Indian River Lagoon - South / FF only	13.58
11236360A00000020000	Okeechobee	Indian River Lagoon - South / FF only	57.92
10236360A00000040000	Okeechobee	Indian River Lagoon - South / FF only	1.17
12335360A0000001B000	Okeechobee	Indian River Lagoon - South / FF only	313.90
10236360A0000003A000	Okeechobee	Indian River Lagoon - South / FF only	0.67
12335360A000000100	Okeechobee	Indian River Lagoon - South / FF only	300.39
292417200100002	Orange	Shingle Creek	1.04
292418199700001	Orange	Shingle Creek	17.05
332528000000800000	Osceola	Reedy Creek	2.69
332528351001060010	Osceola	Reedy Creek	4.86
282528000000100000	Osceola	Reedy Creek	474.57
332528000000900000	Osceola	Reedy Creek	12.00
2526286170000F0180	Osceola	Reedy Creek	2.29
19252900U002020000	Osceola	Shingle Creek	1.23
2526286120000C0020	Osceola	Reedy Creek	0.75
2526286100000B0010	Osceola	Reedy Creek	6.96
3225284520000A0110	Osceola	Reedy Creek	0.33
2526286170000E0040	Osceola	Reedy Creek	2.22
272528000000500000	Osceola	Reedy Creek	10.15
332528000000470000	Osceola	Reedy Creek	3.85
192529000000250000	Osceola	Shingle Creek	0.16
272528000000200000	Osceola	Reedy Creek	0.00
062529411000010040	Osceola	Shingle Creek	3.26
252528000001100000	Osceola	Shingle Creek	48.76
262528000000100000	Osceola	Reedy Creek	43.31
092729000000600000	Osceola	Reedy Creek	40.41
142528000000300000	Osceola	Reedy Creek	0.47
142528000000300000	Osceola	Reedy Creek	163.34
3225284520000C0150	Osceola	Reedy Creek	0.68
332528000000700000	Osceola	Reedy Creek	1.57
312528000000200000	Osceola	Reedy Creek	0.10
2526286170000F0020	Osceola	Reedy Creek	2.37
2526286170000F0200	Osceola	Reedy Creek	2.29
3625281271000100B0	Osceola	Shingle Creek	1.08
2526286170000E0050	Osceola	Reedy Creek	2.08
2526286170000E0060	Osceola	Reedy Creek	2.23
3425280000001850000	Osceola	Reedy Creek	2.13
342528000000750000	Osceola	Reedy Creek	15.68
2526286170000G0040	Osceola	Reedy Creek	3.23

**SFWMMD 2024 Critical Wetlands List**

<b>Parcel ID</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>Project</b>	<b>Wetland Acres</b>
032628000000200000	Osceola	Reedy Creek	31.64
2526286170000F0060	Osceola	Reedy Creek	3.19
2526286170000F0070	Osceola	Reedy Creek	2.90
2526286170000F0040	Osceola	Reedy Creek	2.58
2526286170000F0050	Osceola	Reedy Creek	2.45
362528000003000000	Osceola	Shingle Creek	0.78
362528000006000000	Osceola	Shingle Creek	0.52
362528000001650000	Osceola	Shingle Creek	3.83
332528000003400000	Osceola	Reedy Creek	0.87
342528000003400000	Osceola	Reedy Creek	5.12
3225284520000B0170	Osceola	Reedy Creek	0.19
3225284520000B0180	Osceola	Reedy Creek	4.54
3225284520000C0010	Osceola	Reedy Creek	0.80
3225284520000C0160	Osceola	Reedy Creek	0.00
33252800000032000	Osceola	Reedy Creek	0.03
332528000000300000	Osceola	Reedy Creek	0.26
3325280000003300000	Osceola	Reedy Creek	2.52
2526286170000F0080	Osceola	Reedy Creek	1.85
122528000001700000	Osceola	Shingle Creek	7.23
332528000000500000	Osceola	Reedy Creek	2.40
2526286155000A0011	Osceola	Reedy Creek	200.59
2526286170000F0190	Osceola	Reedy Creek	1.94
2526286170000F0160	Osceola	Reedy Creek	2.29
332528000000200000	Osceola	Reedy Creek	1.72
332528000000280000	Osceola	Reedy Creek	2.89
2526286170000E0390	Osceola	Reedy Creek	1.89
2526286188000D0010	Osceola	Reedy Creek	10.72
2526286188000D0020	Osceola	Reedy Creek	5.22
2526286188000F0010	Osceola	Reedy Creek	4.96
2526286188000J0010	Osceola	Reedy Creek	18.01
322528360500010030	Osceola	Reedy Creek	0.46
2526286170000G0020	Osceola	Reedy Creek	2.85
2526286170000F0030	Osceola	Reedy Creek	2.28
362528000001510000	Osceola	Shingle Creek	2.13
362528000001600000	Osceola	Shingle Creek	1.43
25262861880000011	Osceola	Reedy Creek	0.46
2526286170000D0030	Osceola	Reedy Creek	2.36
332528000000400000	Osceola	Reedy Creek	4.22
072628000000200000	Osceola	Reedy Creek	9.83
322528000000300000	Osceola	Reedy Creek	71.54
362528000001500000	Osceola	Shingle Creek	16.81
332528000001400000	Osceola	Reedy Creek	4.58
2526286155000H0010	Osceola	Reedy Creek	13.31
2526286155000F0020	Osceola	Reedy Creek	0.13

**SFWMD 2024 Critical Wetlands List**

Parcel ID	County	Project	Wetland Acres
2526286170000F0110	Osceola	Reedy Creek	2.31
3125280000002A0000	Osceola	Reedy Creek	10.32
362628285300010080	Osceola	Reedy Creek	0.01
332528000001300000	Osceola	Reedy Creek	2.38
332528000000450000	Osceola	Reedy Creek	0.00
362528000001560000	Osceola	Shingle Creek	8.04
2526286170000C0010	Osceola	Reedy Creek	461.13
252628617000000040	Osceola	Reedy Creek	3.17
192529000002400000	Osceola	Shingle Creek	0.33
332528000001700000	Osceola	Reedy Creek	0.45
322528360500010050	Osceola	Reedy Creek	0.36
092729000000100000	Osceola	Reedy Creek	30.48
192529000002030000	Osceola	Shingle Creek	1.51
2526286170000F0010	Osceola	Reedy Creek	4.18
2526286170000D0010	Osceola	Reedy Creek	1.68
2526286170000E0010	Osceola	Reedy Creek	27.77
2526286170000F0010	Osceola	Reedy Creek	0.45
2526286170000F0010	Osceola	Reedy Creek	5.10
2526286170000F0010	Osceola	Reedy Creek	0.48
2526286170000F0010	Osceola	Reedy Creek	0.45
2526286170000F0010	Osceola	Reedy Creek	1.82
2526286170000G0010	Osceola	Reedy Creek	13.28
2526286170000H0010	Osceola	Reedy Creek	22.44
2526286170000G0010	Osceola	Reedy Creek	1.39
322528360500010040	Osceola	Reedy Creek	0.37
192529000002700000	Osceola	Shingle Creek	0.18
2526286120000C0010	Osceola	Reedy Creek	2.62
3225284520000A0100	Osceola	Reedy Creek	0.01
322528360500010010	Osceola	Reedy Creek	1.94
332528000003600000	Osceola	Reedy Creek	0.82
332528000009200000	Osceola	Reedy Creek	2.12
252628618600010010	Osceola	Reedy Creek	18.75
36252800U000150000	Osceola	Shingle Creek	5.03
2526286170000G0030	Osceola	Reedy Creek	3.03
122528000000800000	Osceola	Shingle Creek	4.81
36252800U000190000	Osceola	Shingle Creek	8.52
192529000002000000	Osceola	Shingle Creek	3.58
2526286170000E0410	Osceola	Reedy Creek	1.53
092528318100010010	Osceola	Reedy Creek	1.30
2526286170000F0170	Osceola	Reedy Creek	2.28
162729000000100000	Osceola	Reedy Creek	18.83
162729000000100000	Osceola	Reedy Creek	25.89
2526286170000E0030	Osceola	Reedy Creek	2.59
342528000002900000	Osceola	Reedy Creek	1.98



**SFWMD 2024 Critical Wetlands List**

<b>Parcel ID</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>Project</b>	<b>Wetland Acres</b>
2526286155000A0020	Osceola	Reedy Creek	176.58
2526286155000E0010	Osceola	Reedy Creek	2.56
182529214800010010	Osceola	Shingle Creek	1.56
062628000001350000	Osceola	Reedy Creek	0.10
082628000000200000	Osceola	Reedy Creek	1,063.52
332528000002400000	Osceola	Reedy Creek	3.27
2526286155000J0010	Osceola	Reedy Creek	1.28
3225284520000B0160	Osceola	Reedy Creek	0.01
2526286170000E0070	Osceola	Reedy Creek	3.00
3625281271000100E0	Osceola	Shingle Creek	6.44
3625281271000100M0	Osceola	Shingle Creek	65.94
2525281646TRAC00H0	Osceola	Shingle Creek	15.05
30252900U000800000	Osceola	Shingle Creek	123.86
25252800U001100000	Osceola	Shingle Creek	328.21
2525281425000100J0	Osceola	Shingle Creek	0.25
012528000000100000	Osceola	Shingle Creek	139.68
232628000000400000	Osceola	Reedy Creek	80.37
252628617000000010	Osceola	Reedy Creek	1.85
313211200010006	St. Lucie	Indian River Lagoon - South / FF only	246.97
311632300020001	St. Lucie	Indian River Lagoon - South / FF only	7.35
412011100010009	St. Lucie	Indian River Lagoon - South / FF only	479.86
311632300010004	St. Lucie	Indian River Lagoon - South / FF only	48.19
410841100010002	St. Lucie	Indian River Lagoon - South / FF only	195.54
312911100010003	St. Lucie	Indian River Lagoon - South / FF only	262.04

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Governing Board Members

**FROM:** Ray Palmer, Real Estate

**DATE:** December 14, 2023

**SUBJECT:** Brewer Cattle Company, LLC, Cattle Grazing Lease, Martin County

### **Agenda Item Background:**

Staff is seeking Governing Board authorization to amend Contract No. 4600002963-A03 to extend a cattle grazing lease on 460.99 acres located in Martin County for ten years. The property is located within the Indian River Lagoon-South Project, Allapattah Complex Component. If approved, the Lease will extend to January 15, 2034. Pursuant to the leasing policy, a ten-year lease extension on conservation lands may be authorized with the current lessee's past satisfactory performance. The Lease has a provision for termination by the District for convenience of 180 days and continued adherence to best management practices. Additionally, the allowed carrying capacity of cattle on the property will continue at low density levels. The approximate annual revenue will be \$10,000.

### **Additional Item Background:**

The District acquired the property in March 2002 for natural storage and water quality treatment uses. Brewer Cattle Company, LLC has leased this property since January 2014. This Lease is set to expire on January 15, 2024. The Lessee is requesting that the due date for the annual lease payments be in August of each year to coincide with its annual cattle sales. All leased lands are inspected on a semi-annual basis and the annual rent is based on the cattle grazing formula.

### **Core Mission and Strategic Priorities:**

The objective of this Lease is to obtain assistance in the stewardship and maintenance of this land. The revenues generated from this Lease will assist Land Stewardship in managing this and other District-owned lands.

### **Funding Source:**

There are no District costs associated with this item other than the cost of administering the lease. The Lease is estimated to bring in anticipated revenue of approximately \$100,000 over the ten-year term.

### **Staff Contact and/or Presenter:**

Ray Palmer, rpalmer@sfwmd.gov, 561-682-2246

### **ATTACHMENTS:**

[Resolution No. 2023-1202](#)

[Resolution Exhibit "A"](#)

Resolution Exhibit "B"

# **SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT**

## **RESOLUTION NO. 2023 - 12XX**

**A Resolution of the Governing Board of the South Florida Water Management District to authorize entering into a ten-year cattle grazing lease extension with Brewer Cattle Company, LLC on 460.99 acres, more or less, in Martin County as more particularly described herein; providing an effective date. (Contract No. 4600002963-A03)**

**WHEREAS**, the Governing Board, pursuant to Section 373.093, Florida Statutes, may lease lands or interests in land under terms and conditions determined by the Governing Board; and

**WHEREAS**, the District and the Lessee desire to extend Lease Contract No. 4600002963-A03, Lease Encumbrance ID GM10E-015, for ten years; and

**WHEREAS**, the Lessee's main use of the Premises is cattle grazing, which will assist in the stewardship of the property; and

**WHEREAS**, the Governing Board of the South Florida Water Management District deems it appropriate and in the public interest to authorize the ten-year extension for cattle grazing with Brewer Cattle Company, LLC on 460.99 acres, more or less, in Martin County, see Exhibit "A", with ten-year anticipated revenue in the amount of \$100,000. The additional four surrounding leases located in the Allapattah Complex are shown in Exhibit "B".

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BOARD OF THE SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT:**

**Section 1.** The Governing Board of the South Florida Water Management District hereby authorizes entering into a ten-year cattle grazing lease with Brewer Cattle Company, LLC on approximately 460.99 acres, in Martin County.

**Section 2.** This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

**PASSED and ADOPTED** this 14<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2023.

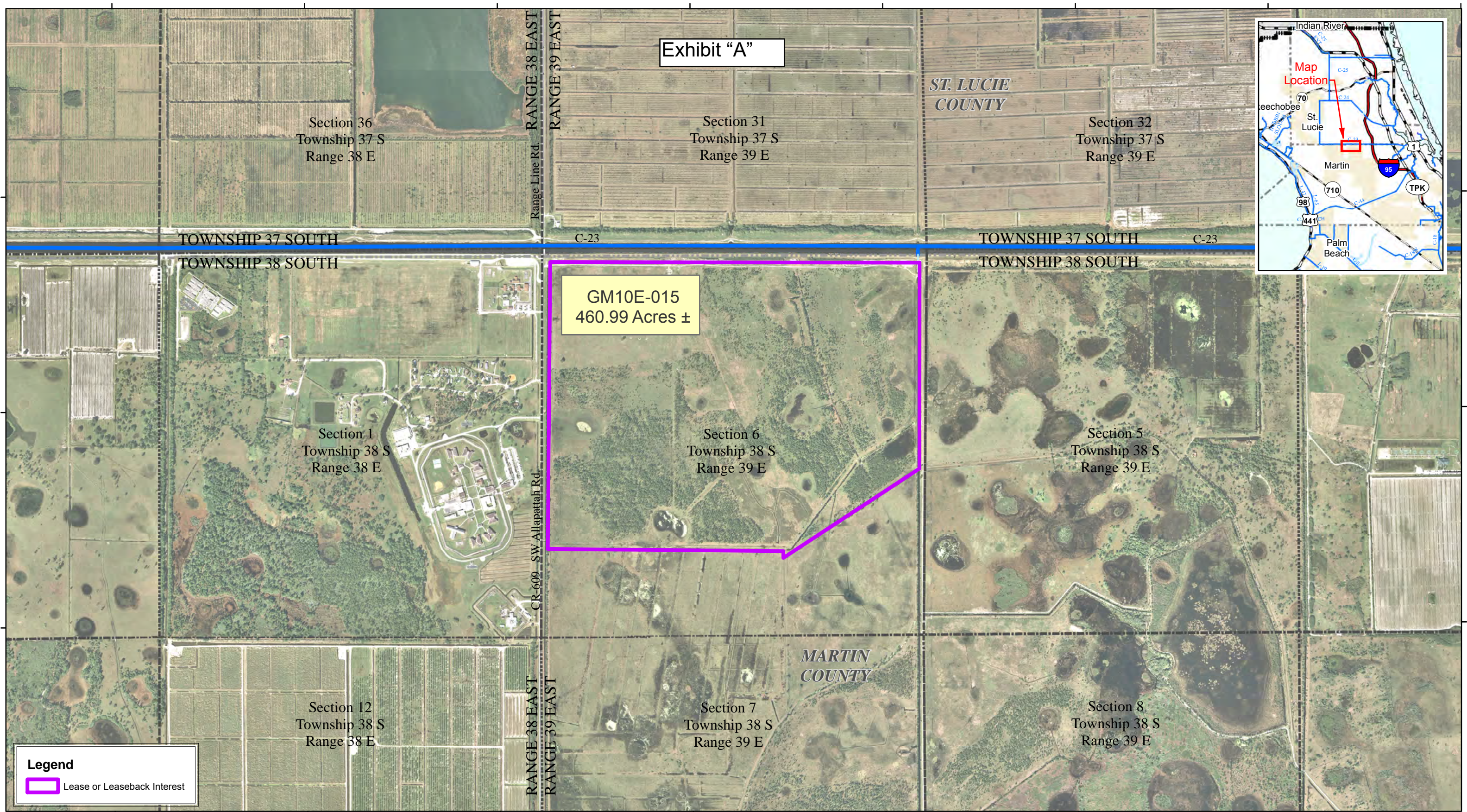



Exhibit "A"

GM10E-015  
460.99 Acres ±

**Legend**


Lease or Leaseback Interest



**BASE CREDITS:**

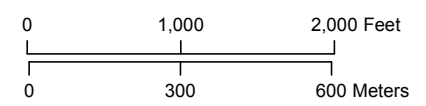
- Base map from South Florida Water Mgmt. District
- State Plane Projection, Florida East Zone, NAD 83-HARN, US feet
- 2016 Martin & St. Lucie County 6-inch RGB Natural Color Aerial

South Florida Water Management District  
3301 Gun Club Rd, West Palm Beach, FL 33406  
(561) 686-8800; www.sfwmd.gov



## Encumbrance GM10E-015


### Martin County, Florida



0 1,000 2,000 Feet  
0 300 600 Meters

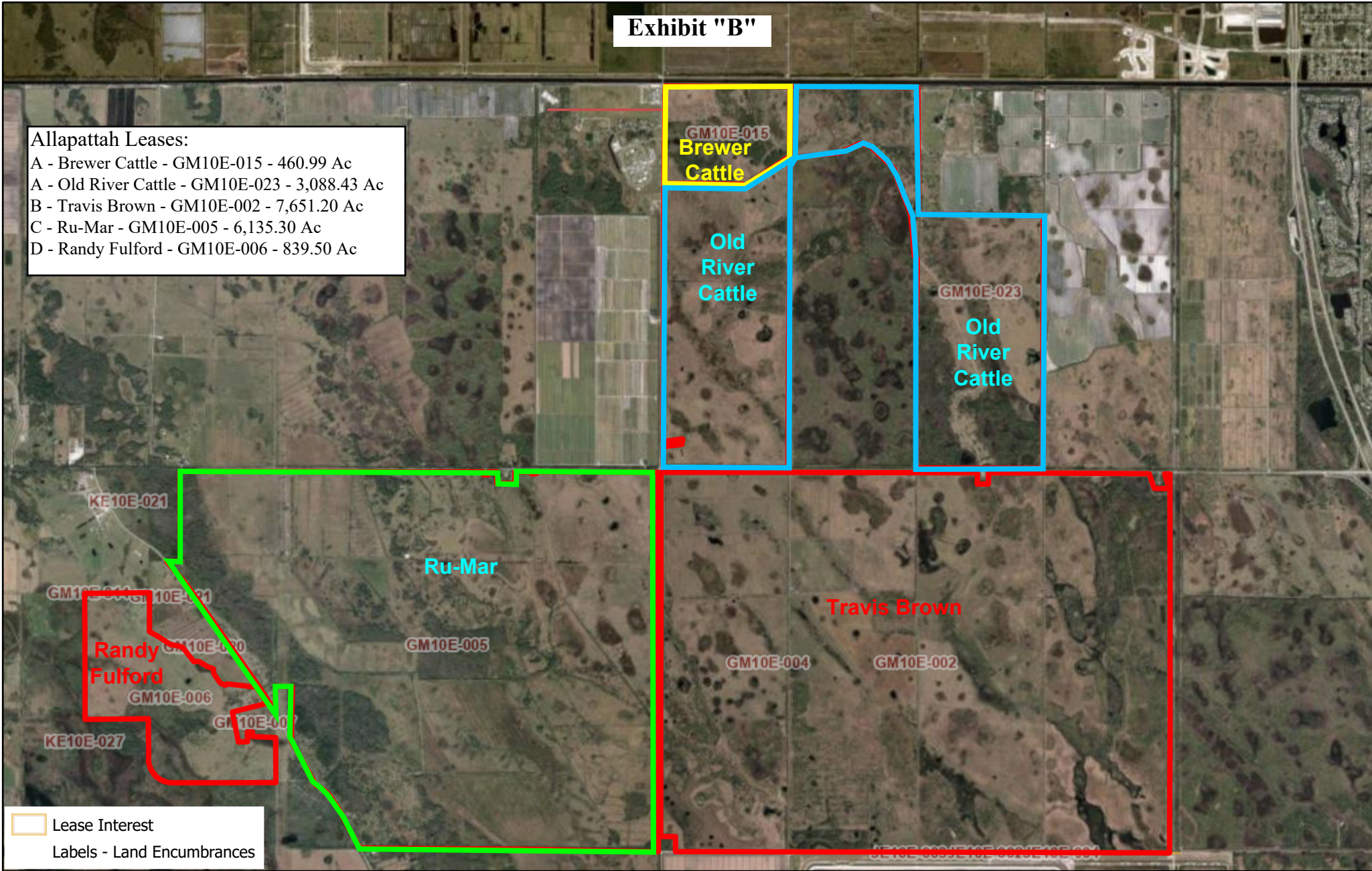
**IMPORTANT DISCLAIMER:**  
This map is a conceptual or planning tool only. The South Florida Water Management District does not guarantee or make any representation regarding the information contained herein. It is not self-executing or binding, and does not affect the interests of any persons or properties, including any present or future right or use of real property.

**Map Date: November 2017**



# Exhibit "B"

**Allapattah Leases:**  
 A - Brewer Cattle - GM10E-015 - 460.99 Ac  
 A - Old River Cattle - GM10E-023 - 3,088.43 Ac  
 B - Travis Brown - GM10E-002 - 7,651.20 Ac  
 C - Ru-Mar - GM10E-005 - 6,135.30 Ac  
 D - Randy Fulford - GM10E-006 - 839.50 Ac



Lease Interest  
 Labels - Land Encumbrances

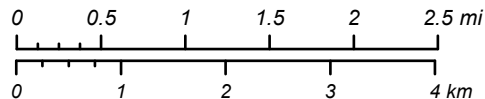


[sfwmd.gov](http://sfwmd.gov)

South Florida Water Management District  
 3301 Gun Club Road, West Palm Beach, Florida 33406  
 561-686-8800; [www.sfwmd.gov](http://www.sfwmd.gov)



## Allapattah Leases



**DISCLAIMER:**

This map is a conceptual or planning tool only that was created using a South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) publicly accessible web application, which allows any user to add information, graphics, and other markings, the accuracy of which has not been verified by the SFWMD. The South Florida Water Management District does not guarantee or make any representation regarding the information contained herein. It is not self-executing or binding, and does not affect the interests of any persons or properties, including any present or future right or use of real property and is exempt from public records disclosure and confidential under Section 119.071(3)(a)(1), Florida Statutes.

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Governing Board Members

**FROM:** Tim Beirnes, Inspector General

**DATE:** December 14, 2023

**SUBJECT:** Proposed Audit Plan for Fiscal Year 2023-2024 and Long-Term Audit Plan for Fiscal Years 2025-2029

**Agenda Item Background:**

State statute, Chapter 20.055(i), requires the agency inspector general submit annual and long-term audit plans to the agency head (Governing Board) for approval.

**Additional Item Background:**

**Core Mission and Strategic Priorities:**

The audit plan provides for conducting audits and investigations of District activities for the purpose of promoting economy and efficiency in the administration of, or preventing and detecting fraud and abuse in, its programs and operations.

**Funding Source:**

Funding for audit activities is provide for in the General Fund's annual budget for the Office of Inspector General.

**Staff Contact and/or Presenter:**

Tim Beirnes, tbeirnes@sfwmd.gov, 561-682-6398

**ATTACHMENTS:**

[Resolution No. 2023-1203](#)

[Backup Presentation](#)

[Proposed Audit Plans](#)

# **SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT**

## **Resolution No. 2023 - XXXX**

### **A Resolution of the Governing Board of the South Florida Water Management District to approve the Audit Plan for Fiscal Year 2023-2024 and Long-Term Audit Plan for Fiscal Years 2025-2029**

**WHEREAS**, State statute, Chapter 20.055(i), requires the agency inspector general to submit annual and long-term audit plans to the agency head (Governing Board) for approval; and

**WHEREAS**, the audit plan provides for conducting audits and investigations of District activities for the purpose of promoting economy and efficiency in the administration of, or preventing and detecting fraud and abuse in, its programs and operations.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BOARD OF THE SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT:**

**Section 1.** The Governing Board of the South Florida Water Management District hereby approves the Audit Plan for Fiscal Year 2023-2024 and Long-Term Audit Plan for Fiscal Years 2025-2029.

**Section 2.** This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

**PASSED** and **ADOPTED** this 14<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2023.



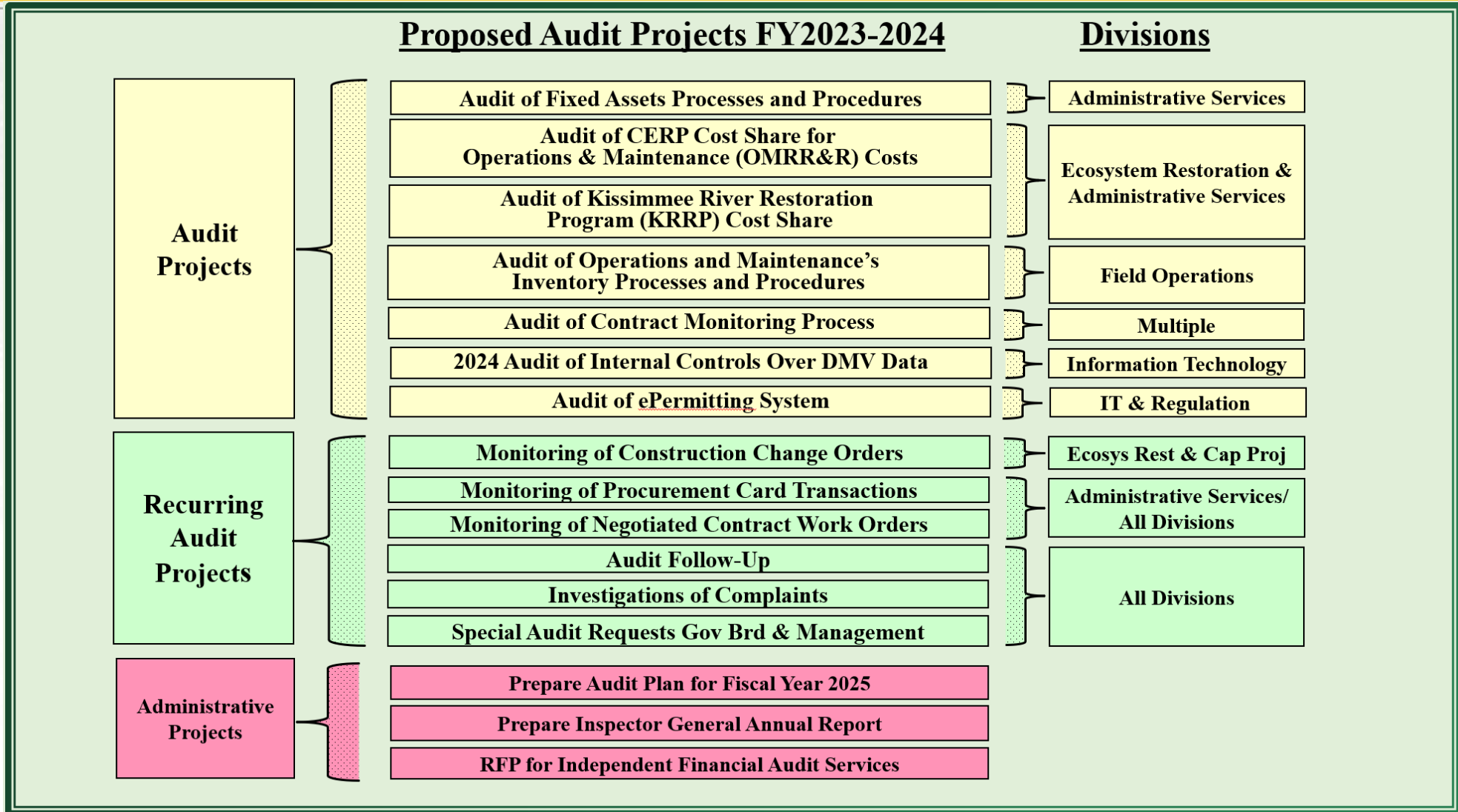


# **Proposed Audit Plan for FY 2023-2024 and Long-Term Audit Plan for FY 2025-2029**

**Tim Beirnes**  
Inspector General  
December 14, 2023

# Planning Approach

- **Review Current Strategic Plan**
- **Reviewing FY 2023-2024 Budget**
- **Identifying those programs, activities and functions that we consider to present potential risk to the District**
- **Considering time since programs were last audited**
- **Obtaining input from executive management and the Governing Board**



# Audit of Fixed Assets Processes and Procedures

## Objective:

- **Provide an independent review of the District's asset management processes and procedures for fixed assets; including a comparison of the District's procedures to industry best practices in order to identify potential improvements.**

# Audit of CERP Cost Share for Operations & Maintenance (OMRR&R) Costs

## Objectives:

- **Examine the District's system for identifying and tracking CERP OMRR&R cost to determine whether the system is effective in capturing all eligible CERP costs.**

# Audit of Kissimmee River Restoration Program (KRRP) Cost Share

## Objectives:

- **Examine the District's process for preparing In-Kind Credit Requests to ensure the District is requesting credit for all eligible costs related to the KRR project. Also determine that adequate supporting documentation is maintained for such expenditures.**

# Audit of Operations and Maintenance's Inventory Processes and Procedures

## Objectives:

- **Assess whether operations and maintenance's internal controls over consumable inventory are adequate and functioning properly.**

# Audit of Contract Monitoring Process

## Objectives:

- **Objectives of this audit will include:**
  - **Determining if contract monitoring policies and procedures are adequate and in compliance with regulatory requirements,**
  - **Assessing the adequacy of contract manager training and development,**
  - **Identifying potential best practices by evaluating contract monitoring processes.**



# 2024 Audit of Internal Controls Over DMV Data

## Objectives:

- **Determine whether District internal controls related to the drivers license information received from the DMV are sufficient to ensure that DMV records are adequately protected from unauthorized access, distribution, use, modification, or disclosure.**

# Audit of the District's ePermitting System

## Objectives

### Determine whether:

- **The system provides the desired operational and business needs.**
- **Computer physical assets are adequately safeguarded.**
- **Technical administrative support is adequate.**
- **User needs are being properly supported and measured.**
- **The system contains adequate access controls to prevent unauthorized access.**

# Monitoring of Construction Contract Change Orders

## Objective:

**On an on-going basis, periodically verifying cumulative change order amounts as a percentage of original construction contracts and compare such to industry averages.**

# Monitoring of Procurement Card Transactions

## Objective:

Periodically examine procurement card transactions to ensure they are:

- Appropriate District expenditures**
- Contain adequate supporting documentation**
- Properly recorded in the accounting records**

# Monitoring of Negotiated Contract Work Orders

## Objective:

- Periodically select a sample of contracts to ensure that work orders are properly negotiated in a manner that maintains the District's best interest

# Other Audit Projects

## Objective:

- **Audit Follow-Up**
- **Investigate Whistle-Blower Complaints**
- **Audit Requests from Governing Board and District Management**
  - **Our Office periodically receives request for audits and investigations from the Governing Board and Executive Management on an as needed basis**

# Administrative Projects

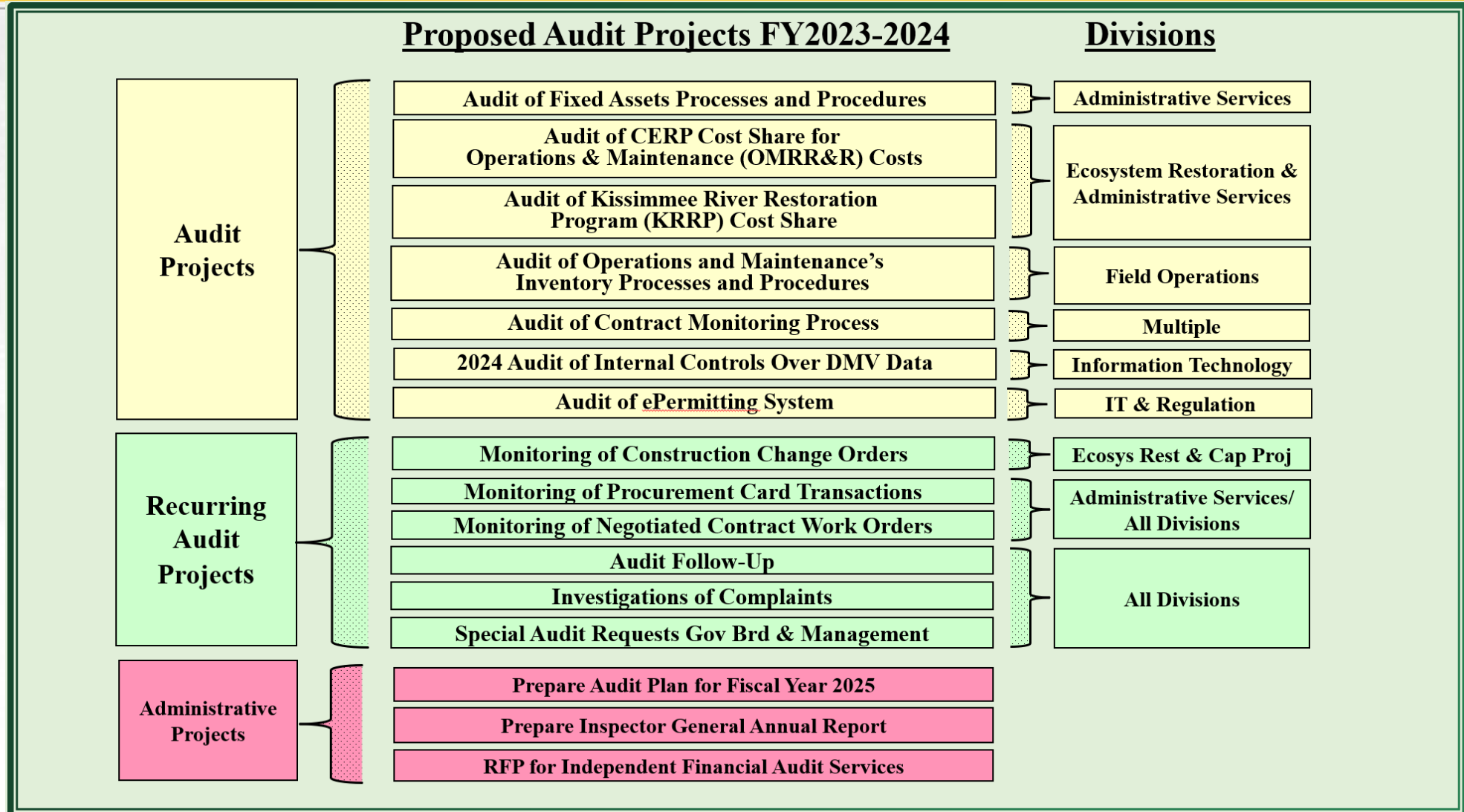
- **Audit Plan for Fiscal Year 2025**
- **Office of Inspector General Annual Report**

# Long-Term Audit Plan FY 2025-2029

- **Designed to provide sufficient audit coverage over time to reach all significant programs, activities, and functions.**
- **Provides a listing of proposed audit projects and associated audit objectives for the next five years.**
- **Audit cycle time between audits for the audit population varies based on risk assessment for the audit area.**
- **Five-year plan updated annually.**
- **Provides flexibility to incorporate additional audit subjects to meet the Governing Board's and management's needs**



# Discussion & Questions ?



# Recommendation

- Recommend Approval of the Audit Plan for Fiscal Year 2023-2024 and Long-Term Audit Plan for Fiscal Years 2025-2029**



**Proposed Audit Plan  
For Fiscal Year 2023-2024  
and  
Long-Term Audit Plan for  
Fiscal Years 2025-2029**

**Prepared by  
Office of Inspector General**

**J. Timothy Beirnes, CPA, Inspector General**



# SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

## MEMORANDUM

**To:** Audit and Finance Committee Members

**From:** J. Timothy Beirnes, CPA, Inspector General,  
Office of Inspector General

**Date:** December 14, 2023

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "JTB", is written over the "From" field.

**Subject: Proposed Audit Plan for Fiscal Year 2023-2024**

---

I am pleased to present our Proposed Audit Plan for Fiscal Year 2023-2024. The development of the plan was shaped using a systematic approach to help us decide what audits need to be done. The planning process helps us to develop the theme for our audits and identify an appropriate mix of various types of audits. The audit plan helps us to determine how we can best allocate our resources and capitalize on our individual strengths.

Effective audit planning is crucial to the success of the Inspector General's Office. Our planning process involves understanding our responsibility, recapping where we have been, and identifying the auditable universe and the risks associated with various programs and activities. The Internal Audit Charter requires the Audit and Finance Committee to approve the final annual audit plan. The proposed plan will be presented to the Audit and Finance Committee for approval on December 14, 2023.

### **Our Guidance**

The first step in our current planning process was to ask ourselves what is the Inspector General Office's mandate. Our mandate to perform audits is clearly specified in Section 20.055 F.S., *Agency Inspectors General*. It states that in carrying out our audit mandate we should:

1. Review and evaluate the internal controls that ensure fiscal accountability.
2. Review post audit sampling of payments and accounts, where appropriate.
3. Advise in the development of performance measures for evaluating District programs.
4. Conduct financial, compliance, electronic data processing and performance audits of the District.

While the scope and assignment of audits is entirely left to the discretion of the Inspector General, the statute provides that the agency head may, at any time, direct the Inspector General to perform an audit of a program function or organizational unit. In the past, we received a number of requests from both the Governing Board and District staff to perform necessary Inspector General projects. Therefore, executing our work plan necessitates flexibility to accommodate special requests and investigations.

### **Our Planning Approach**

Each year the District prepares a five-year Strategic Plan to guide management and staff in fulfilling the District's mission. The 2023-2028 Strategic Plan is the product of the yearly planning cycle, which is the approach to establishing priorities, allocating resources, implementing projects, and providing accountability. The budget process then allocates resources to accomplish the planned activities.

Our audit planning process began with reviewing the 2023-2028 Strategic Plan and the FY 2023-2024 Budget to identify those programs, activities and functions that we consider present potential risk to the District. In addition to specific programs, we also focused on identifying processes that are critical to the planning cycle that affect all programs.

The audit plan reflects a consideration of risk and its relationship to the District's mission and objectives. The most ubiquitous risks to the District's mission revolve around spending, operations, data integrity and reliability, disaster recovery/contingency planning, regulatory compliance, and public perception. Some District programs, such as our many restoration projects, depend on land acquisition and construction processes, which represent high risks due to the mere magnitude of the financial resources to be consumed. Others, such as regulation, have inherent risks that are not necessarily related to program expenditures or dollar magnitude but rather represent high risk due to the nature of the function where consistency, objectivity, integrity, and strict adherence to rules and regulations are essential.

Our audit planning process is designed to provide sufficient coverage over time to reach all significant programs, activities, and functions. Thus, the audit plan also includes the Proposed Long-Term Audit Plan for Fiscal Years 2025 through 2029, which itemizes the audit projects we envision for the audit planning cycle over the next five years. The Long-Term Audit Plan will be updated annually to reflect a rolling five-year outlook of future audit projects and to incorporate modifications as needed to reflect the Governing Board's and management's audit priorities.

During FY 2023-2024, we will continue to use our best judgment in prioritizing audit activities so as to be responsive to the most immediate needs of the District's Governing Board and executive management. Our proposed work plan for FY 2023-2024 provides audit projects for specific District programs, as well as, audits of processes that affect all District programs.

**Proposed Audit Plan FY 2023-2024**

**December 14, 2023**

**Page 3 of 3**

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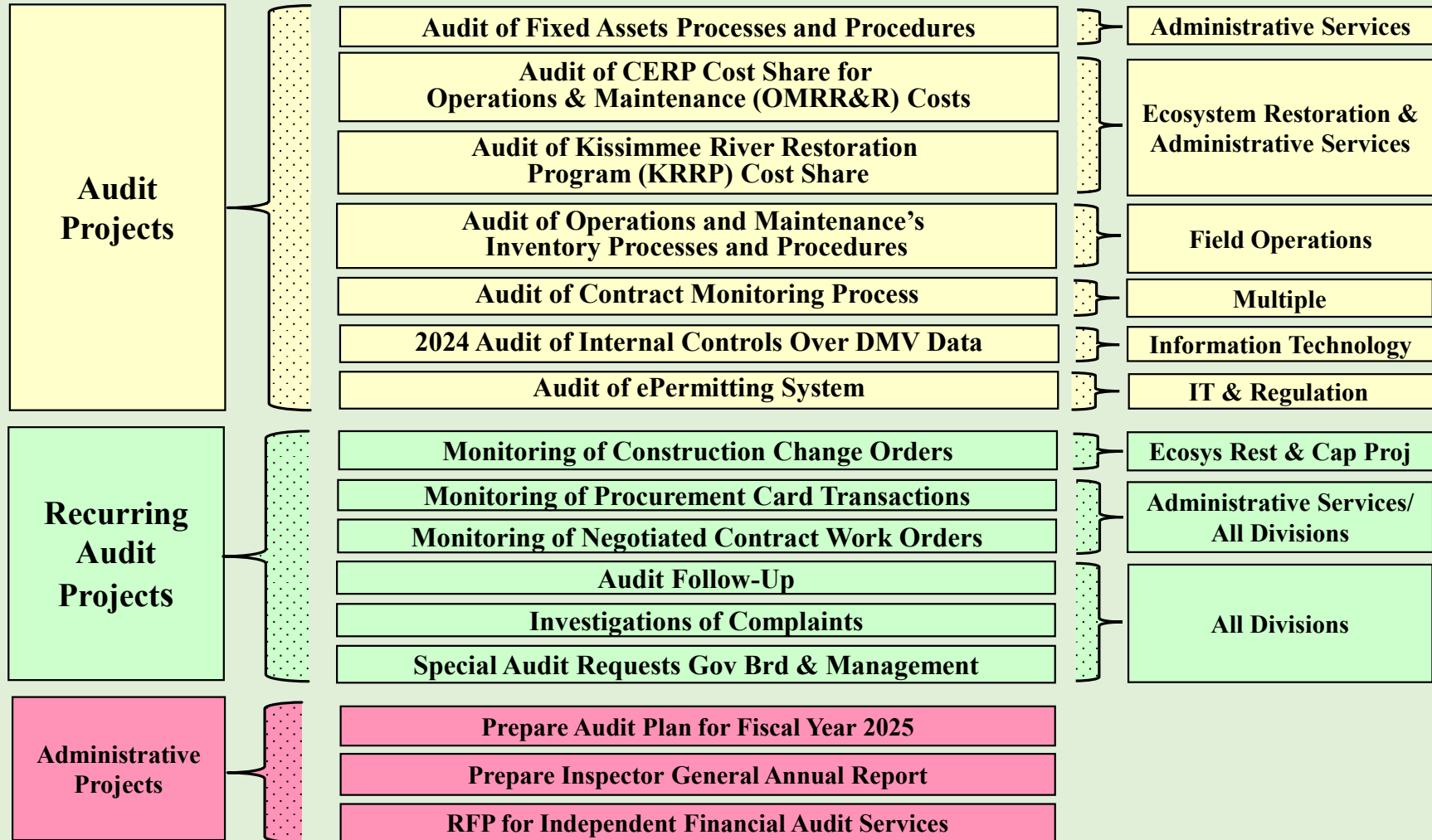
Provision is also made for following up on the status of implementing prior audit recommendations as required by *Government Auditing Standards* and the District's *Internal Audit Charter*. Additionally, the audit plan provides flexibility to investigate Whistle-blower complaints and for special audit requests from the Governing Board and senior District management.

The attached schedules present the Proposed Audit Plan for Fiscal Year 2023-2024 and the Proposed Long-Term Audit Plan for Fiscal Years 2025 – 2029.

cc: Drew Bartlett  
Jennifer Smith  
John Mitnik  
Sean Cooley  
Jill Creech  
Maricruz Fincher  
Lawrence Glenn  
Candida Heater  
Suelynn Kirkland  
Ray Palmer  
Duane Piper  
Jennifer Reynolds  
Rich Virgil  
Lourdes Woytek

## Proposed Audit Projects FY2023-2024

## Divisions



**South Florida Water Management District**  
**Office of Inspector General**  
**Approved Audit Plan for Fiscal Year 2023-2024**

Division	Bureau/ Section	Project Title	Background	Objectives	Rational for Audit	Estimated Resources
<b>Audit Projects</b>						<b>Hours</b>
Administrative Services	Accounting	Audit of Fixed Assets Processes and Procedures	The District has established policies, procedures, and process for acquiring, safeguarding, transferring, and disposing of fixed assets. The policies incorporate requirements specified in Florida Statutes. Assets are recorded in the SAP system and periodic physical inventories are performed.	Provide an independent review of the District's asset management processes and procedures for fixed assets; including a comparison of the District's procedures to industry best practices in order to identify potential improvements.	Recent legislation changed the accounting methodology for fixed assets with values under \$5,000. The Audit will assess the implementation of the changes to the fixed asset inventory process to implement the required legislative changes.	510
Ecosystem Restoration/ Administrative Services	Ecosystem Restoration & Accounting	Audit of CERP Cost Share for Operations & Maintenance (OMRR&R) Costs	The CERP Master Agreement with the US Army Corps of Engineers provides for a 50/50 cost share for operations, maintenance, repair, replacement, and rehabilitation (OMRR&R) for CERP projects after they are placed in service.	Examine the District's system for identifying and tracking CERP OMRR&R cost to determine whether the system is effective in capturing all eligible CERP costs.	The first CERP project is now completed and placed in operation.	860
Ecosystem Restoration/ Administrative Services	Ecosystem Restoration & Accounting	Audit of Kissimmee River Restoration Program (KRRP) Cost Share	In 1992, the U.S. Congress authorized the Kissimmee River Restoration and the Headwaters Revitalization Projects (the "KRR"). The KRR project is a \$578 million partnership between the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and the SFWMD (Local sponsor). A large portion of the projects expenditures will be cost shared 50/50 between the SFWMD and USACE. The District will provide most of the land and the USACE will incur most of the engineering and construction cost. The District is also incurring some non-land cost, which must also be submitted to the USACE in order to receive credit towards the non-federal 50% share of the project cost.	Examine the District's process for preparing In-Kind Credit Requests to ensure the District is requesting credit for all eligible costs related to the KRR project. Also determine that adequate supporting documentation is maintained for such expenditures.	Failure to claim credit for eligible expenditures that may have been overlooked would result in additional cost to the District.	820



**South Florida Water Management District**  
**Office of Inspector General**  
**Approved Audit Plan for Fiscal Year 2023-2024**

Division	Bureau/Section	Project Title	Background	Objectives	Rational for Audit	Estimated Resources
Field Operations	Field Operations - Regions	Audit of Operations and Maintenance's Inventory Processes and Procedures	The District spends significant funds every year on consumable goods that are flowed through the inventory system. Most of these purchases take place at field stations and pump stations for operation and maintenance functions	Assess whether Operations and Maintenance's internal controls over consumable inventory are adequate and functioning properly.	The O&M inventory process was last audited in FY 2011.	480
All Programs	Multiple	Audit of Contract Monitoring Process	A significant portion of the District's activities are provided through vendors for construction, supplies, and services. The contracts are monitored by numerous project managers throughout the District.	Objectives of this audit will include: 1) Determining if contract monitoring policies and procedures are adequate and in compliance with regulatory requirements, 2) Assessing the adequacy of contract manager training and development, 3) Identifying potential best practices by evaluating contract monitoring processes.	Proper controls in monitoring contracts is imperative in ensuring that the District receives specified goods and services and that payments are made as contractually agreed.	620
Information Technology	IT Operations Section	2024 Audit of Internal Controls Over DMV Data	District employee's driving records are received monthly from the Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles (DMV). The data is reviewed by the Occupational Safety manager for current driver license suspensions, and other major infractions, for those employees authorized to drive District vehicles. The data is received pursuant to a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the DMV.	Determine whether District internal controls related to the drivers license information received from the DMV are sufficient to ensure that DMV records are adequately protected from unauthorized access, distribution, use, modification, or disclosure.	The MOU requires the District to complete this audit to ensure proper and authorized use and dissemination of the DMV data.	200

**South Florida Water Management District  
Office of Inspector General  
Approved Audit Plan for Fiscal Year 2023-2024**

Division	Bureau/ Section	Project Title	Background	Objectives	Rational for Audit	Estimated Resources
<b>IT &amp; Regulation</b>	IT Applications & Environmental Resources	Audit of the District's ePermitting System	The e-Permitting Information System is an IT solution that is used to manage permit application processing, approval, monitoring, and enforcement.	Determine the extent to which the following occur with ePermitting: 1) The system provides the desired operational and business needs 2) Physical computer assets are adequately safeguarded 3) Technical administrative support is adequate 4) User needs are being properly supported and measured 5) System contains adequate access controls to prevent unauthorized access.	The E-Permitting System supports the District's regulatory responsibilities. Periodic reviews should be performed of information systems to ensure that the systems are functioning as designed and that the systems are used in manners that maximizes their benefits.	<b>660</b>

**South Florida Water Management District**  
**Office of Inspector General**  
**Approved Audit Plan for Fiscal Year 2023-2024**

Division	Bureau/ Section	Project Title	Background	Objectives	Rational for Audit	Estimated Resources
<b>Recurring Audit Projects</b>						
Ecosystem Restoration and Capital Projects	Engineering and Construction	Monitoring of Construction Change Orders	District is executing large construction contract for restoration projects. Most contractors are selected through a fixed sealed bid process. Change orders can potentially add to the already significant cost of these projects resulting in projects running over budget.	On an on-going basis, periodically verifying cumulative change order amounts as a percentage of original construction contracts and compare such to industry averages.	The District's various environmental restoration projects entails executing many large construction contracts. These contracts are generally awarded through a fix bid process. Change orders for these contracts can potentially add significant additional cost to projects. Controlling change order costs are essential to ensuring projects are completed on time and within budget.	180
Administrative Services	Procurement	Monitoring of Procurement Card Transactions	The District issues procurement cards to certain District employees to provide an efficient payment method for small purchases. The Procurement Department manages the program.	Periodically examine procurement card transactions to ensure that they are: 1) Appropriate District expenditures. 2) Contain adequate supporting documentation. 3) Properly recorded in the accounting records.	Although procurement cards are used to pay for small purchases, they represent a significant number of transactions annually.	390
Administrative Services	Procurement/ All Bureaus	Monitoring of Negotiated Contract Work Orders	The District engages firms for various types of services under work order type contracts. Firms are prequalified through a Request for Proposal (RFP) or Request for Qualifications (RFQ) process and work orders are negotiated with the prequalified firms as services are needed.	Periodically select a sample of contracts to ensure that work orders are properly negotiated in a manner that maintains the District's best interest.	The work order contract approach provides significant efficiency to the procurement process; however, it also increases the risk that staff may not represent sufficient diligence in negotiation the best possible cost for the District. Continuous audit oversight of negotiated work orders will assist in mitigate this risk.	230
All Divisions	All Bureaus	Audit Follow-Up	Generally Accepted Government Audit Standards require follow-up regarding the implementation status of pervious audit findings and recommendations.	Verify that recommendations in prior audit reports have been appropriately implemented in a timely manner and provide a written report to the Executive Management team and the Governing Board.	Follow-up on previous audit recommendations is required by Government Auditing Standards and the District's Internal Audit Charter.	160
All Divisions	All Bureaus	Investigate Whistle-Blower and Other Complaints	The Office of Inspector General periodically receives Whistle-Blower complaints. Our office has a statutory responsibility to investigate these complaints and issue a report of our findings and conclusions.	Review each complaint to assess its validity. Whistle-blower complaints are received intermittently during the year.	The IG is responsible for performing investigations per Section 20.055, F. S., and the District's <i>Internal Audit Charter</i> .	1000
All Divisions	All Bureaus	Audit Requests from Governing Board and Senior District Staff	The Inspector General's Office will entertain requests for audit and investigations from Governing Board and Senior District Staff on an as needed basis.	As specified in the Inspector General Act & District Policy (Internal Audit Charter)	Provides flexibility in the audit plan to accommodate special requests for audits and investigations from the Governing Board and senior management that arise throughout the year.	250

South Florida Water Management District Office of Inspector General Approved Audit Plan for Fiscal Year 2023-2024						
Division	Bureau/ Section	Project Title	Background	Objectives	Rational for Audit	Estimated Resources
<b>Administrative Projects</b>						
N/A	N/A	Audit Plan for Fiscal Year 2025	The Audit and Finance Committee Charter requires the Inspector General to submit an annual work plan to the committee for approval	Prepare an annual work plan and submit it to the Audit and Finance Committee for approval in accordance with the Audit and Finance Committee Charter.	N/A	120
N/A	N/A	Office of Inspector General Annual Report for FY 2023	State Statutes, Section 20.055(7) requires the Inspector General to submit an annual report to the agency head.	Prepare an annual report summarizing each audit and investigation completed during the year.	N/A	100
N/A	N/A	Request for Proposal for Independent Financial Audit Services	The District's current contract with RSM US, LLP, expires September 30, 2024.	Coordinate with Procurement to prepare and solicit a Request for Proposal for Annual Independent Financial Audits services to replace the expiring contract. Proposals will be evaluated by a team of District staff. The proposal rankings will be presented to the Audit and Finance Committee for consideration and selection of a firm to recommend to the full Governing Board.	N/A	200

**South Florida Water Management District  
Office of Inspector General  
Approved Long-Term Audit Plan for Fiscal Years 2025-2029**

Fiscal Year	Previous FY Audited	Project Number	Audit Project	Objectives
<b>Audit Projects</b>				
<b>2025</b>	2011	10-01	Audit of Land Acquisition and Management Processes	Examine the land acquisition process which included the process used to prioritize, budget and purchase land for projects and conservation. This included examining the appraisal process which entailed focusing on the outside appraiser selection process.
	2015	14-07	Audit of Dispersed Water Management Program	Assess the effectiveness of the District's Dispersed Water Management Program and compare the programs cost efficiency to other storage alternatives.
	2016	15-06	Audit of IT Resource Approval Process	The audit will focus on the process for purchasing IT hardware, software, and services and obtaining the required resource approval from the IT Bureau. The audit will examine how well District departments are complying with the approval requirement.
	2017	16-01	Audit of Procurement of Professional Engineering Services for Restoration Projects	Objectives of the audit will determine whether: 1) work orders are assigned to engineering firms under the Professional Engineering Services for Restoration Projects in an equitable manner 2) engineering firms are achieving established Small Business Enterprise (SBE) utilization goals 3) District project managers are negotiating work order pricing with the professional engineering firm 4) project managers are preparing contractor evaluations upon project completion.
	2018	17-06	Audit of Operations & Maintenance Capital Program	Assess whether the Operations and Maintenance (O&M) Capital Program is meeting the District's flood control mission.
	2022	20-21	Audit of Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Program (CERP) Real Estate Cost Share	Examine the District's process for preparing In-Kind Credit Requests to ensure the District is requesting credit for all eligible costs related to the CERP Project. The audit will also assess whether adequate supporting documentation is maintained for such expenditures.
				Other Audit Projects

**South Florida Water Management District  
Office of Inspector General  
Approved Long-Term Audit Plan for Fiscal Years 2025-2029**

Fiscal Year	Previous FY Audited	Project Number	Audit Project	Objectives
<b>2026</b>	2014	13-19	Audit of Land Lease Financial Provisions	Determine whether lease revenues are collected in accordance with lease agreements and whether lessees have complied with lease financial provisions such as procurement of contractually required insurance and remittance of required tax payments in a timely manner.
	2016	15-07	Audit of Cash Receipts	Determine whether adequate internal controls over cash receipts are in place and functioning properly to ensure that cash collections are safeguarded, deposited in a timely manner and accurately recorded in the District's financial records.
	2016	15-08	Audit of Permit Application Process	Examine the consistency of the application review and approval process among District staff and determining whether application fees are assessed and collected in accordance with established statutes, regulations, and guidelines.
	2017	16-03	Audit of Bid Solicitation & Award Process	Assess compliance with the District's procurement policies and procedures from RFB solicitations to contract award.
	2017	16-09	Audit of the Payroll Process	Determine whether the payroll process provides for adequate segregation of duties and that established internal controls over the payroll process are functioning as designed.
	2017	17-10	Audit of Vegetation Management Program	Determine whether the vegetation management program is meeting its goals and the herbicide application work orders are adequately monitored.
	2018	17-09	Audit of the Integrated Real Estate Information System	Determine the extent to which the following occur with IRIS: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· System provides the desired operational and business needs</li> <li>· Physical computer assets are adequately safeguarded</li> <li>· Technical administrative support is adequate</li> <li>· User needs are being properly supported and measured</li> <li>· The system contains adequate access controls to prevent unauthorized access.</li> </ul>
	2019	18-08	Audit of KRRP Real Estate Cost Share	Determining whether the District requests credit for all eligible KRRP land acquisition related expenses and whether adequate supporting documentation is maintained for such expenditures.
			Other Audit Projects	Other audit projects to meet Governing Board and management's needs.

**South Florida Water Management District  
Office of Inspector General  
Approved Long-Term Audit Plan for Fiscal Years 2025-2029**

Fiscal Year	Previous FY Audited	Project Number	Audit Project	Objectives
<b>2027</b>	2017	17-02	Audit of Land Survey Contracts	The primary objectives of our audit were to determine whether: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Work orders were assigned to professional survey firms in an equitable manner</li> <li>· Professional survey firms achieved Small Business Enterprise (SBE) utilization goals</li> <li>· District project managers negotiated work order pricing</li> <li>· Project managers prepared contractor evaluations upon project completion</li> </ul>
	2018	18-05	Audit of the IT Continuity of Operations/Disaster Recovery Plan	The objective of the audit will evaluate the IT Department's continuity of operations strategy (COOP) to determine whether: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· The District has a comprehensive and up-to-date business continuity plan</li> <li>· The District has defined locations where the Disaster Recovery Plan could be executed</li> <li>· The documented Disaster Recovery Plan was periodically tested, and any necessary adjustments were incorporated into the plan.</li> </ul>
	2019	18-17	Audit of the Employee Separation Process	Determine the extent to which controls over retracting district property and revoking access to District facilities and information systems are adequate when an individual separates from the District.
	2022	NA	Audit of DMV File Security	Determine whether District internal controls related to the drivers license information received from the DMV are sufficient to ensure that DMV records are adequately protected from unauthorized access, distribution, use, modification, or disclosure.
	2020	20-03	Audit of Employee Time Coding Process	Determine whether District employees' time charges reflect activities performed.
	2021	21-07	Audit of Construction Change Orders	Determine that change orders are negotiated in accordance with contract terms and conditions. The audit will also include verifying cumulative change order amounts as a percentage of original contracts and compare such to industry averages.
	2023	22-20	Audit of Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Program (CERP) Real Estate Cost Share	Determine whether the District requests credit for all eligible CERP project land acquisition related expenses and whether adequate supporting documentation is maintained for such expenditures.
			Other Audit Projects	Other audit projects to meet Governing Board and management's needs.

**South Florida Water Management District  
Office of Inspector General  
Approved Long-Term Audit Plan for Fiscal Years 2025-2029**

Fiscal Year	Previous FY Audited	Project Number	Audit Project	Objectives
<b>2028</b>	2018	18-12	Audit of the Python Elimination Program	Examine the internal controls over hourly wages and bounty payments made to python hunters.
	2018	18-13	Audit of the Cell Phone Stipend	Evaluate the effectiveness of the District's cell phone stipend program and determine whether: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Established criteria for determining eligibility for receiving a stipend is applied consistently</li> <li>· Employees are compensated according to the designated stipend level.</li> </ul>
	2020	19-14	Audit of Contract Workers	This audit will assess whether contract workers are used in a cost-effective manner for job functions that appear to be: 1) temporary in nature and/or, 2) requires specific expertise for a one-time project and/or. 3) to fill in for an employee that is on a temporary leave of absence.
	2020	19-07	Audit of Software Licenses	Examine the process for negotiating and executing software license agreements. The audit will also assess whether all software used within the District is purchased from legitimate vendors, properly accounted for, and properly licensed.
	2020	20-06	Audit of the Information Technology Solution Center	Assess the efficiency and effectiveness of the IT Help Desk function in responding to employee's needs. The audit will also review system controls for the RemedyForce system.
	2022	NA	Audit of Investment Management	Determine whether adequate internal controls related to investment management are in place and functioning properly to ensure that investment purchases are made in accordance with the Investment Policy and properly recorded in District financial records.
	2022	NA	Audit of Procurement of Professional Engineering Services for Restoration Projects	Objectives of the audit will determine whether: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) work orders are assigned to engineering firms under the Professional Engineering Services for Restoration Projects in an equitable manner</li> <li>2) engineering firms are achieving established Small Business Enterprise (SBE) utilization goals</li> <li>3) District project managers are negotiating work order pricing with the professional engineering firm</li> <li>4) project managers are preparing contractor evaluations upon project completion.</li> </ol>
			Other Audit Projects	Other audit projects to meet Governing Board and management's needs.



**South Florida Water Management District  
Office of Inspector General  
Approved Long-Term Audit Plan for Fiscal Years 2025-2029**

Fiscal Year	Previous FY Audited	Project Number	Audit Project	Objectives
<b>2029</b>	2020	19-17	Audit of the Education Reimbursement Program	Determining whether tuition reimbursements are made in accordance with the District's policy and procedures. The audit will also included assessing the value the program provides in preparing District employees to take on higher job responsibilities
	2023	21-10	Audit of Fleet Maintenance Operations	Objectives of this audit will include: 1) Assessing the effectiveness and efficiency of the vehicle maintenance function. 2) Examining the vehicle replacement cycle process.
	2021	20-10	Audit of Outsourced Functions	Audit objectives will entail analyzing the cost of outsourced functions compared to what these functions would cost if performed using in-house resources.
	2023	21-17	Audit of ERP Enforcement	Determine whether the Environmental Resources and Regulatory Support Bureau's enforcement activities ensure compliance with state laws, regulations, and individual ERP permits.
	2023	21-08	Audit of Private Mitigation Banks	Examine the process for monitoring private mitigation banks to ensure compliance with permit conditions and determine whether perpetual maintenance funds are sufficient to pay for mitigation bank maintenance in perpetuity.
	2021	20-04	Audit of Grant Monitoring	Assess the effectiveness of the District's grant monitoring processes in ensuring that grantees adhere to the provisions of the grant agreements.
	2022	21-09	Audit of Fleet Utilization and Replacement	Determining whether the fleet size is adequate to carry out the District's mission, fleet units meeting replacement requirements are replaced in a timely manner, rentals are cost effective, vehicle/equipment are adequately utilized, and fleet purchases are procured using state and other government contracts.
			Other Audit Projects	Other audit projects to meet Governing Board and management's needs.

**South Florida Water Management District  
Office of Inspector General  
Approved Long-Term Audit Plan for Fiscal Years 2025-2029**

Fiscal Year	Previous FY Audited	Project Number	Audit Project	Objectives
<b>Recurring Audit Projects</b>				
<b>Annually</b>			Monitoring of Construction Change Orders	On an on-going basis, periodically verifying cumulative change order amounts as a percentage of original contracts and compare such to industry averages.
			Monitoring of Procurement Card Transactions	Periodically examine procurement card transactions to ensure that they are: 1) Appropriate District expenditures. 2) Contain adequate supporting documentation. 3) Properly recorded in the accounting records.
			Monitoring of Negotiated Contract Work Orders	Periodically select a sample of contracts to ensure that work orders are properly negotiated in a manner that maintains the District's best interest.
			Audit Recommendations Follow-Up	Verify that recommendations in prior audit reports have been appropriately implemented in a timely manner and provide a written report to the Executive Management team and the Governing Board.
			Investigate Whistle-Blower and Other Complaints	Review each complaint to assess its validity. Whistle-blower complaints are received intermittently during the year.
			Audit Requests from Governing Board and Senior District Staff	As specified in the Inspector General Act & District Policy (Internal Audit Charter).

**South Florida Water Management District  
Office of Inspector General  
Approved Long-Term Audit Plan for Fiscal Years 2025-2029**

Fiscal Year	Previous FY Audited	Project Number	Audit Project	Objectives
<b>Administrative Projects</b>				
<b>Annually</b>			Audit Plan for the Next Fiscal Year	Prepare an annual work plan and submit it to the Audit and Finance Committee for approval in accordance with the Audit and Finance Committee Charter.
			Office of Inspector General Annual Report for the Prior Fiscal Year	Prepare an annual report summarizing each audit and investigation completed during the year.
<b>2025</b>	2025	NA	Office of Inspector General Peer Review	Arrange for a peer review of the Inspector General Office, which will provide an evaluation of adherence to the professional standards. We plan to have the peer review performed through the Association of Local Governmental Auditors (ALGA) peer review program. The Office of Inspector General's Peer Review was performed FY 2022; thus the next Peer Review will be required in FY 2025. Florida Statutes require Inspector General's to adhere to Government Auditing Standards established by the U.S. Government Accounting Office (GAO). Such standards require a peer review be performed every three years.
<b>2026</b>	2026	NA	Coordinate Auditor General Performance Audit	Coordinate the Auditor General's performance audit. Section 11.45(2)(f), Florida Statutes, was amended in 2011 to add water management districts to the list of agencies that the Auditor General is required to audit at least every 3 years.

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Governing Board Members

**FROM:** Maricruz R. Fincher, Office of Counsel

**DATE:** December 14, 2023

**SUBJECT:** Concurrence with Issuance of Emergency Water Shortage Order Imposing Modified Phase III Restrictions in Northeast Cape Coral

### **Agenda Item Background:**

To address the rapidly declining groundwater conditions in northeastern Cape Coral, Executive Director Bartlett issued Emergency Water Shortage Order No. 2023-063-DAO-WS imposing modified Phase III water shortage restrictions on landscape, recreation area, golf course, nursery, and agricultural uses that utilize groundwater from the mid-Hawthorn aquifer on November 28, 2023. As provided by section 40E-21.331, Florida Administrative Code, water shortage emergencies must be ratified by the Governing Board at its next meeting.

### **Additional Item Background:**

As of November 27th, 2023, the current groundwater level at United States Geological Survey (USGS) monitor well L-4820 (L-4820), located in northeastern Cape Coral, is at -87.4 feet National Geodetic Vertical Datum (NGVD). This is more than a half foot decrease, from the level that was last recorded on November 20, 2023. Further declines at this weekly rate are projected to result in an MFL violation; therefore, immediate action was required to prevent significant harm to the resources. Compared to November 27th of each of the last four years at well L-4820, the current elevation is approximately 15 feet lower, due in large part to the below-normal wet-season rainfall of 2023 in the area. These conditions are expected to worsen as we enter the dry season, resulting in further anticipated declines in groundwater elevations.

Based on the cumulative assessment of rainfall deficit, the groundwater availability, current water demands, and the climate forecast, there is significant potential that there will be insufficient water available to meet anticipated future demands and protect the water resources from significant harm.

Section 40E-21.371, Florida Administrative Code, allows the Executive Director to impose water use restrictions needed to alleviate the threats to water availability and impacts to the water resource where there is insufficient time to convene the Board.

### **Staff Contact and/or Presenter:**

Maricruz R. Fincher, mfincher@sfwmd.gov, 561-682-6457

### **ATTACHMENTS:**

[Emergency Order 2023-063-DAO-WS](#)



**BEFORE THE GOVERNING BOARD OF THE  
SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT**

Order No.: 2023-063-DAO WS

IN RE:

Emergency Declaration of Modified  
Phase III Water Shortage Restrictions  
for the Recreation Area, Golf Course,  
Landscape Irrigation, Nursery, and  
Agriculture Use Classes Withdrawing  
Groundwater From the Mid-Hawthorn  
Aquifer within northeastern Cape Coral  
and a portion of unincorporated Lee County.

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**RECEIVED  
DISTRICT CLERK'S OFFICE**

3:46 pm Nov 28, 2023

**SOUTH FLORIDA  
WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT**

*AMB*

**EMERGENCY ORDER DECLARING WATER SHORTAGE AND  
IMPOSING MODIFIED PHASE III RESTRICTIONS**

The Executive Director of the South Florida Water Management District (“District”), after considering the recommendations of District Staff and being otherwise fully apprised, issues this Emergency Order pursuant to Sections 373.083, 373.119(2), 373.175, and 373.246(7), Florida Statutes (“Fla. Stat.”), and Chapter 40E-21, Florida Administrative Code (“Fla. Admin. Code”), based upon the following Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law:

**AREA OF APPLICATION**

1. The area subject to this Emergency Order is the northeastern portion of the City of Cape Coral and a portion of unincorporated Lee County, Florida (“northeastern Cape Coral”) located in the District’s Lower West Coast (“LWC”) Planning Region, generally bounded by Gator Slough Canal to the north, NE 24th Ave and Garden Blvd to the east, Pine Island Road to the South, and Nelson Rd N to the west. A map depicting the area governed by this Order is attached hereto as **Exhibit A**.

2. The source(s) of water affected by this Emergency Order is groundwater in the Mid-Hawthorn aquifer (“MHA”), as defined in subsection 40E-8.021(14), Fla. Admin. Code, in northeastern Cape Coral.

3. As identified in Chapter 40E-21, Fla. Admin. Code, the recreation<sup>1</sup>, golf course<sup>2</sup>, landscape irrigation<sup>3</sup>, nursery<sup>4</sup>, and agricultural<sup>5</sup> use classes, utilizing the MHA as a water source in northeastern Cape Coral are subject to this Emergency Order.

### **FINDINGS OF FACT**

4. The hydrologic dry season runs from November 1st through May 31st. During these dry times, water demands from users typically increase to meet the supplemental irrigation needs of crops, nurseries, landscaping, golf courses, etc. These additional water demands further reduce available supplies and lower the groundwater levels.

5. The U.S. Drought Monitor publishes a weekly drought conditions report. The November 22, 2023, report indicates that the Cape Coral area is in an “Abnormally Dry” to “Moderate Drought” Condition.

6. As of November 27th, 2023, the current groundwater level at United States Geological Survey (USGS) monitor well L-4820 (“L-4820”), located in northeastern Cape Coral, is at -87.4 feet National Geodetic Vertical Datum (“NGVD”). This is more than a half foot decrease from the level recorded on November 20, 2023. Further declines at this

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<sup>1</sup> Subsection 40E-21.651(3)(d), Fla. Admin. Code.

<sup>2</sup> Subsection 40E-21.651(3)(e), Fla. Admin. Code.

<sup>3</sup> Subsection 40E-21.651(3)(b) and (c), Fla. Admin. Code.

<sup>4</sup> Subsection 40E-21.651(3)(a), Fla. Admin. Code.

<sup>5</sup> Subsection 40E-21.651(2)(a), Fla. Admin. Code.

weekly rate are projected to result in an MFL violation; therefore, immediate action must be taken.

7. The current elevation level at well L-4820 is approximately 15 feet lower than the elevation recorded on November 27th in each of the four preceding years, due in large part to the below-normal wet-season rainfall of 2023 in the area. These conditions are expected to worsen as we enter the dry season, resulting in further anticipated declines in groundwater elevations. The historical hydrograph for well L-4820 is shown in **Exhibit B**.

8. Further, the current groundwater level at L-4820 is below the maximum developable limit (“MDL”) established for this well. The MDL for L-4820 is set at -82 feet<sup>6</sup> NGVD, which is 20 feet above the top of the MHA. The established minimum flow and minimum water level (MFL) for well L-4820 is approximately -102 feet NGVD, which is the elevation of the top of the MHA.<sup>7</sup> The established MDL and MFL are permitting criteria implemented by the District to prevent harm to the MHA.

9. In last year’s dry season, the groundwater level declined approximately 20 feet between November 1, 2022, and May 31, 2023, which is a typical decline associated with the dry season. Should this typical 20-foot decline in groundwater level occur during this dry season, an MFL violation would occur<sup>8</sup> resulting in significant harm to the resource.

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<sup>6</sup> The maximum developable limit, as set forth in Section 3.9.3 of the *Applicant’s Handbook for Water Use Permit Applications within the South Florida Water Management District*, is incorporated by reference in Rule 40E-2.091, Fla. Admin. Code.

<sup>7</sup> The minimum level for the Mid-Hawthorn Aquifer is set forth in Rule 40E-8.331, Fla. Admin. Code, and is implemented as permitting criteria in section 3.9 of the *Applicant’s Handbook for Water Use Permit Applications within the South Florida Water Management District*.

<sup>8</sup> Pursuant to Rule 40E-8.331, Fla. Admin. Code, the minimum level for the Mid-Hawthorn aquifer is set at the structural top of the aquifer, which is located at -102 feet NGVD. Given the current water level at



10. While other wells (e.g., L-2700, L-2646) located in the MHA in northern Cape Coral have experienced groundwater elevation declines associated with the below-normal rainfall of the 2023 wet season, the only well projected to experience an MFL violation is well L-4820 because the top of the aquifer elevation for the MHA becomes deeper in all directions from well L-4820. This means water levels would have to drop deeper in the other wells to experience an MFL violation.

11. In light of the above factors, conservation of groundwater sources in the MHA and mandatory water restrictions must be immediately implemented upon the aforementioned use classes. There is great potential for water supplies over the remainder of the dry season to decline resulting in insufficient water to meet the present and anticipated requirements of water users and protect the water resources from serious harm.

12. District staff will continue to monitor water usage and groundwater levels to assess the effectiveness of this water shortage emergency order. Invoking mandatory water use restrictions is intended to equitably distribute the remaining water supplies and prevent serious harm to the groundwater resources. District staff recognize that if water conditions improve, water shortage restrictions can be relaxed; however, if water conditions worsen, the potential for increased or additional water shortage restrictions may be necessary.

### **CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

13. The Executive Director of the District is authorized to issue emergency orders without prior notice, in the event of an emergency requiring the immediate action

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USGS monitoring well L-4820 is -86 feet NGVD, an MFL violation for the Mid-Hawthorn Aquifer will occur (-86 feet NGVD – 20 feet = -106 feet NGVD, which is 4 feet below the structural top of the aquifer).

to protect the public health, safety, or welfare, with the concurrence of the Governing Board.<sup>9</sup>

14. The District's water shortage plan regulating the withdrawal of water and protection of the water resources is set forth in Chapter 40E-21, Fla. Admin. Code.<sup>10</sup>

15. In accordance with the water shortage plan, the District may impose restrictions on one or more water use classes to protect the water resources within an area from serious harm.<sup>11</sup>

16. The District may declare a water shortage emergency to equitably distribute supply through the implementation of the District's Water Shortage Plan in Chapter 40E-21, Fla. Admin. Code<sup>12</sup>.

17. The District may increase water resource and demand monitoring pursuant to Rule 40E-21.401, Fla. Admin. Code.

18. The specific restrictions contained in Part V, Chapter 40E-21, Fla. Admin. Code, are water use restrictions that may be ordered during a declared water shortage emergency.<sup>13</sup> The Executive Director may order any additional combination of restrictions necessary to achieve the percent reduction in user demand.<sup>14</sup>

19. Without the imposition of mandatory water use restrictions, based on the cumulative assessment of rainfall deficit, the groundwater availability, current water demands, and the climate forecast, there is a significant potential that there will be

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<sup>9</sup> See §§ 373.119(2), 373.246(7), Fla. Stat., Rules 40E-0.107 and 40E-21.331(4), Fla. Admin. Code.

<sup>10</sup> See *also* § 373.246, Fla. Stat.

<sup>11</sup> See § 373.246(3), Fla. Stat.

<sup>12</sup> See subsection 40E-21.331, Fla. Admin. Code.

<sup>13</sup> See subsection 40E-21.371(2), Fla. Admin. Code.

<sup>14</sup> See subsection 40E-21.371(2), Fla. Admin. Code.

insufficient water available to meet anticipated future demands and protect the resources from significant harm, which would result in an MFL violation.

20. Considering the findings above and Rules 40E-21.331 and 40E-21.541, Fla. Admin. Code, the Executive Director finds it necessary to impose Modified Phase III Water Shortage Restrictions on recreation area, golf course, landscape, nursery, and agricultural uses that utilize groundwater from the MHA within northeastern Cape Coral.

21. The District requests that the local officials in Cape Coral and Lee County assist the District in the enforcement of this Emergency Order within their respective jurisdictional areas.<sup>15</sup>

### **ORDER**

Pursuant to Section 373.119(2), 373.175, and 373.246(7), Fla. Stat., and Rules 40E-0.107 and 40E-21.331, Fla. Admin Code., and based upon the above Findings of Fact and Conclusions of law, the Executive Director orders that:

22. Modified Phase III Water Shortage Restrictions be implemented for recreation area, golf course, landscape, nursery, and agricultural uses that utilize groundwater from the MHA within northeastern Cape Coral.

23. Permitted and exempt irrigation users within northeastern Cape Coral, shall comply with the landscape irrigation restrictions contained in **Exhibits C and D**, attached hereto and incorporated into this Emergency Order.

24. Golf courses that use the MHA within northeastern Cape Coral shall implement a management plan that reduces the total irrigation by 45% of their monthly allocation, derived from the AFSIRS calculation. Actual pumpage shall be reported on a

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<sup>15</sup> See Rule 40E-21.421(1), Fla. Admin. Code

weekly basis to the District's water shortage website available at <https://www.sfwmd.gov/community-residents/water-shortage>. Reporting for the preceding week is due by noon every Monday.

25. Athletic turf fields shall be irrigated according to best management practices, designed to reduce water use while protecting the health and safety of athletes using the fields, and developed in consultation with District staff.

26. Recreation area users, except for athletic turf fields, within northeastern Cape Coral shall comply with the restrictions contained in **Exhibit E**, attached hereto and incorporated into this Emergency Order.

27. Nursery users within northeastern Cape Coral shall comply with restrictions contained in **Exhibit F**, attached hereto and incorporated into this Emergency Order.

28. Agriculture users within northeastern Cape Coral shall comply with the restrictions contained in **Exhibit G**, attached hereto and incorporated into this Emergency Order.

29. Permitted users shall continue submitting water usage monitoring data in accordance with permit conditions. The Water Use Bureau Chief or the Water Use Bureau Chief's designee is authorized to make written requests to permitted users, whose permit conditions require the submittal of water usage monitoring, to provide additional data or increase the frequency of submittals, as deemed appropriate.

30. A permitted water user may request relief from this Order by filing an application for variance under pursuant to Rule 40E-21.275, Fla. Admin. Code. The user must meet the imposed restrictions until the Governing Board or Executive Director grants the requested variance.

31. Any variance from this Order shall expire upon declaration by the District that the water shortage in the affected area no longer exists, rescinding this Order, or when a more restrictive water use declaration is imposed (unless otherwise provided in the water shortage order).

32. Persons whose substantial interests are affected by this Emergency Order shall have the right, pursuant to Chapter 120 and Section 373.119(3), Fla. Stat., and as stated in the Notice of Rights, to petition for an administrative hearing. A notice of rights is attached hereto as **Exhibit H**.

33. This Order shall become effective on November 28, 2023, and shall remain in effect until modified or rescinded by the Governing Board, Executive Director, or the Executive Director's designee, if the circumstances in subsection 40E-21.291(5), Fla. Admin. Code., are present.

34. This Emergency Order is subject to the Governing Board's concurrence at its next regularly scheduled meeting.

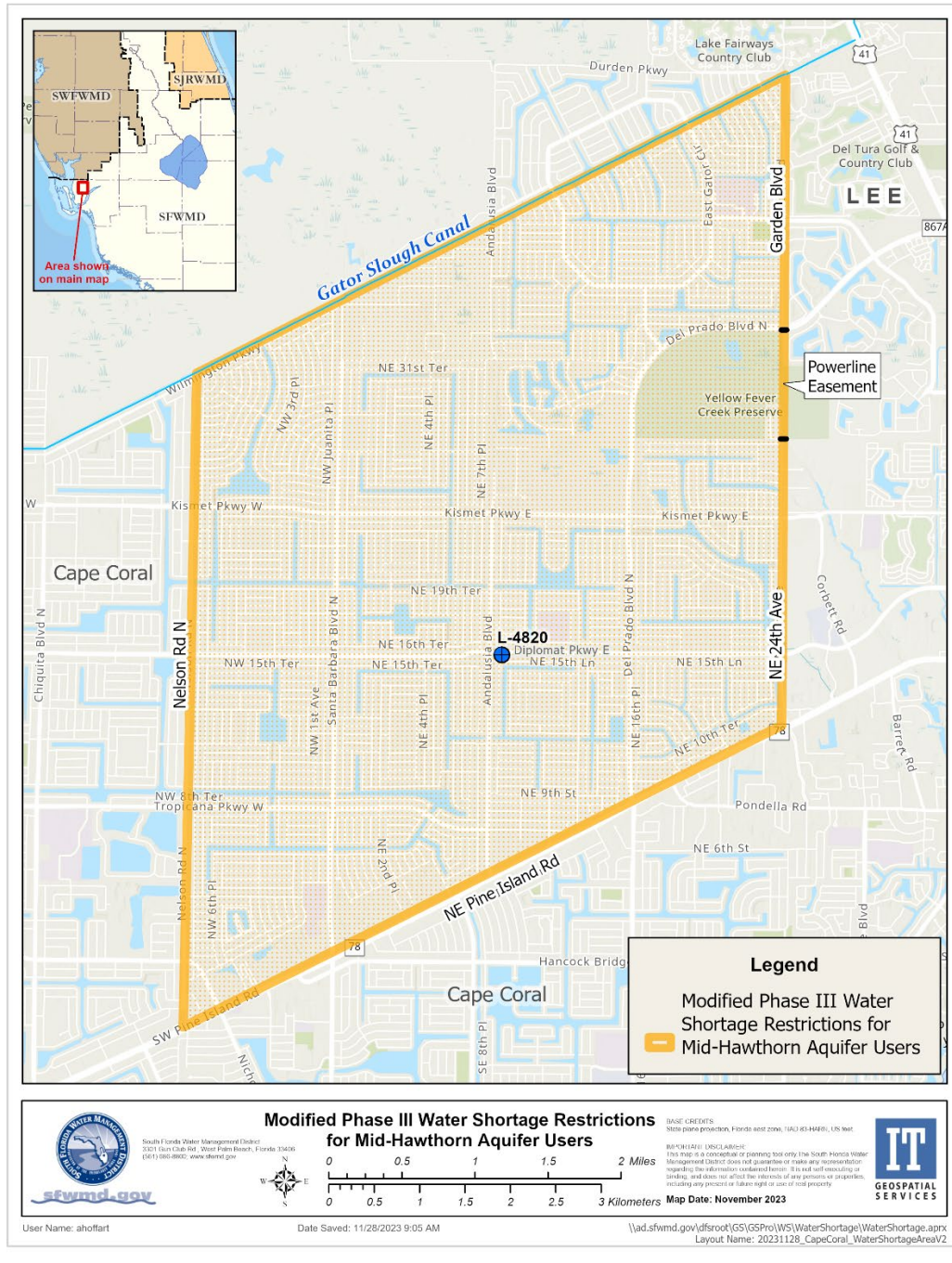
**DONE AND SO ORDERED** in West Palm Beach, Florida on this 28th day of November, 2023.

SOUTH FLORIDA WATER  
MANAGEMENT DISTRICT  
By its Executive Director

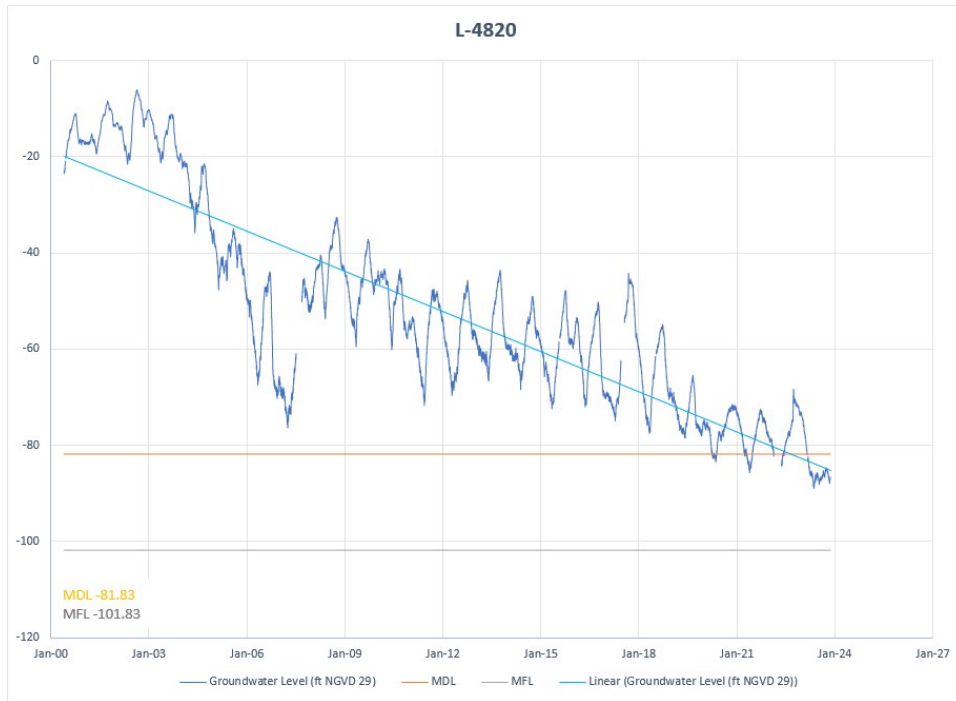


Drew Bartlett

# EXHIBIT A



## EXHIBIT B



## Exhibit C

### **Modified Phase III Restrictions for Landscape Irrigation Uses Within the City of Cape Coral in Northeastern Cape Coral**

1. Affects users withdrawing groundwater from the Mid-Hawthorn Aquifer
2. All wasteful and unnecessary water use is prohibited.
3. Low volume irrigation, i.e., drip irrigation and microjet irrigation, shall be voluntarily reduced.
4. Hand watering of existing landscape utilizing a self-canceling nozzle is allowed anytime for no more than 10 minutes per area for stress relief or to prevent plant die-off.
5. Landscape irrigation for existing installations is limited to one day per week as set forth in the City of Cape Coral Code of Ordinances Subsection 19-91 Emergency Stage 1 landscape irrigation restrictions as copied below.
  - a. For existing installations less than 5 irrigated acres, landscape irrigation shall be restricted for all types of irrigation, as set forth below:
    - i. Installations with an address that ends in 0 shall be permitted to irrigate on Monday from 12:00 a.m. to 4:00 a.m.
    - ii. Installations with an address that ends in 1 shall be permitted to irrigate on Friday from 4:00 a.m. to 8:00 a.m.
    - iii. Installations with an address that ends in 2 shall be permitted to irrigate on Thursday from 12:00 a.m. to 4:00 a.m.
    - iv. Installations with an address that ends in 3 shall be permitted to irrigate on Wednesday from 12:00 a.m. to 4:00 a.m.



- v. Installations with an address that ends in 4 shall be permitted to irrigate on Sunday from 12:00 a.m. to 4:00 a.m.
  - vi. Installations with an address that ends in 5 shall be permitted to irrigate on Saturday from 12:00 a.m. to 4:00 a.m.
  - vii. Installations with an address that ends in 6 shall be permitted to irrigate on Thursday from 4:00 a.m. to 8:00 a.m.
  - viii. Installations with an address that ends in 7 shall be permitted to irrigate on Wednesday from 4:00 a.m. to 8:00 a.m.
  - ix. Installations with an address that ends in 8 shall be permitted to irrigate on Sunday from 4:00 a.m. to 8:00 a.m.
  - x. Installations with an address that ends in 9 shall be permitted to irrigate on Saturday from 4:00 a.m. to 8:00 a.m.
- b. Existing installations with no address, or which irrigate both odd and even-numbered addresses, including multi-family units, shall be permitted to irrigate on Monday from 4:00 a.m. to 8:00 a.m.
  - c. Existing installations equal to or more than 5 irrigated acres, including those which irrigate both odd and even-numbered addresses, such as multi-family units, shall be permitted to irrigate on Monday from 12:00 a.m. to 8:00 a.m.
6. Watering of new lawns and landscaping during a 45-day establishment period shall be permitted on any day of the week from 2:00 a.m. to 8:00 a.m.

## Exhibit D

### **Modified Phase III Restrictions for Landscape Irrigation Uses In Unincorporated Lee County in Northeastern Cape Coral**

1. Affects users withdrawing groundwater from the Mid-Hawthorn Aquifer
2. All wasteful and unnecessary water use is prohibited.
3. Low volume irrigation, i.e., drip irrigation and microjet irrigation, shall be voluntarily reduced.
4. Hand watering of existing landscape utilizing a self-canceling nozzle is allowed anytime for no more than 10 minutes per area for stress relief or to prevent plant die-off.
5. Landscape irrigation users located in unincorporated portions of northeastern Cape Coral, are prohibited from irrigating between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.
6. Landscape irrigation for existing installations located in unincorporated portions of northeastern Cape Coral is limited to one day per week as set forth below:
  - a. Even-numbered addresses, installations with irrigation systems that irrigate both even and odd-numbered addresses within the same zones, such as multi-family units and homeowners' associations, and rights-of-way or other locations with no address, shall accomplish necessary landscape irrigation only on Sunday.
  - b. Odd-numbered addresses shall accomplish necessary landscape irrigation only on Saturday.
7. Irrigation of new landscaping, installations which have been in place for less than 30 days, is:

- a. Restricted to the hours of 4:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m., Monday, Wednesday, and Saturday for less than 5 irrigated acres.
  - b. Restricted to the hours of 12:01 a.m. to 9:00 a.m., Monday, Wednesday, and Saturday for equal to or more than 5 irrigated acres.
8. Water use for cleaning, adjusting, or repairing irrigation systems is:
- a. Restricted to 10 minutes per zone, per week, for existing irrigation systems.
  - b. Restricted to 10 minutes per zone on a one-time basis, for new irrigation systems.

## Exhibit E

### **Modified Phase III Restrictions for Recreation Area Uses Within Northeastern Cape Coral**

1. Affects users withdrawing groundwater from the Mid-Hawthorn Aquifer
2. All wasteful and unnecessary water use is prohibited.
3. Landscape irrigation for new recreation areas, those that have been in place for less than 30 days, shall be restricted to the following hours:
  - a. For areas that are less than 5 irrigated acres in size, water use for irrigation shall be restricted to the hours of 2:00 a.m. to 7:00 a.m., Monday, Wednesday, and Friday; and,
  - b. For areas that are 5 irrigated acres, or greater, in size, water use for irrigation shall be restricted to the hours of 12:01 a.m. to 7:00 a.m., Monday, Wednesday, and Friday.
4. Landscape irrigation for existing recreation areas shall be restricted to the hours of 4:00 a.m. to 7:00 a.m., for all types of irrigation, except low volume irrigation, and 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. for low volume hand watering only, one day per week.
5. Watering of pervious non-vegetated recreational/sporting surfaces shall be restricted to ten minutes of application prior to each recreational/sporting event. Low volume watering shall be used.

## Exhibit F

### **Modified Phase III Restrictions for Nursery Uses Within Northeastern Cape Coral**

1. Affects users withdrawing groundwater from the Mid-Hawthorn Aquifer
2. All wasteful and unnecessary water use is prohibited.
3. Low volume irrigation uses and low volume hand watering shall be voluntarily reduced.
4. Overhead irrigation uses shall be restricted as follows:
  - a. Inside – 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., on odd numbered days.
  - b. Outside – 12:01 a.m. to 7:00 a.m., on odd numbered days.
  - c. Outside overhead irrigation for containerized nursery stock moisture stress reduction on stock grown in containers up to and including one gallon in size shall be allowed daily for 10 minutes per irrigation zone from 11:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., 1:30 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
5. Flood irrigation systems shall be restricted to 4 days per month.

## Exhibit G

### **Modified Phase III Restrictions for Agricultural Uses Within Northeastern Cape Coral**

1. Affects users withdrawing groundwater from the Mid-Hawthorn Aquifer
2. All wasteful and unnecessary water use is prohibited.
3. Overhead irrigation shall be restricted to the hours of 7:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m.
4. Low volume irrigation hours shall not be restricted.
5. All irrigation systems shall be operated in a manner that will maximize the percentage of water withdrawn and held which is placed in the root zone of the crop and will minimize the amount of water which is withdrawn and released or lost to the user but is not immediately available for other users.
6. Users having access to more than one source class shall maximize the use of the lesser or least restricted source class.
7. Overhead irrigation for field grown citrus nursery stock moisture stress reduction shall be allowed daily for 10 minutes per irrigation zone from 11:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., 1:30 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
8. Livestock water use shall be voluntarily reduced.
9. Aquacultural water use shall be voluntarily reduced.
10. Soil Flooding:
  - a. Soil flooding for vegetable seed planting, rice planting, burning of sugarcane prior to harvest and to permit harvesting of sod shall be voluntarily reduced.
  - b. Soil flooding for all other purposes shall be prohibited.

11. Water use for freeze protection shall be restricted to situations in which official weather forecasting services predict temperatures likely to cause permanent damage to crops.

## **Exhibit H**

### **NOTICE OF RIGHTS**

As required by Chapter 120, Florida Statutes, the following provides notice of the opportunities which may be available for administrative hearing pursuant to Sections 120.569 and 120.57, Florida Statutes, or judicial review pursuant to Section 120.68, Florida Statutes, when the substantial interests of a party are determined by an agency. Please note that this Notice of Rights is not intended to provide legal advice. Some of the legal proceedings detailed below may not be applicable or appropriate for your situation. You may wish to consult an attorney regarding your legal rights.

#### **RIGHT TO REQUEST ADMINISTRATIVE HEARING**

A person whose substantial interests are or may be affected by the South Florida Water Management District's (District) action has the right to request an administrative hearing on that action pursuant to Sections 120.569 and 120.57, Florida Statutes. Persons seeking a hearing on a District decision which affects or may affect their substantial interests shall file a petition for hearing in accordance with the filing instructions set forth herein within 21 days of receipt of written notice of the decision unless one of the following shorter time periods apply: (1) within 14 days of the notice of consolidated intent to grant or deny concurrently reviewed applications for environmental resource permits and use of sovereign submerged lands pursuant to Section 373.427, Florida Statutes; or (2) within 14 days of service of an Administrative Order pursuant to Section 373.119(1), Florida Statutes. "Receipt of written notice of agency decision" means receipt of written notice through mail, electronic mail, posting, or publication that the District has taken or intends to take final agency action. Any person who receives written notice of a District decision and fails to file a written request for hearing within the timeframe described above waives the right to request a hearing on that decision.

If the District takes final agency action that materially differs from the noticed intended agency decision, persons who may be substantially affected shall, unless otherwise provided by law, have an additional point of entry pursuant to Rule 28-106.111, Florida Administrative Code.

Any person to whom an emergency order is directed pursuant to Section 373.119(2), Florida Statutes, shall comply therewith immediately, but on petition to the board shall be afforded a hearing as soon as possible.

A person may file a request for an extension of time for filing a petition. The District may grant the request for good cause. Requests for extension of time must be filed with the District prior to the deadline for filing a petition for hearing. Such requests for extension shall contain a certificate that the moving party has consulted with all other parties concerning the extension and whether the District and any other parties agree to or oppose the extension. A timely request for an extension of time shall toll the running of the time period for filing a petition until the request is acted upon.

#### **FILING INSTRUCTIONS**

A petition for administrative hearing must be filed with the Office of the District Clerk. Filings with the Office of the District Clerk may be made by mail, hand-delivery, or e-mail. Filings by facsimile will not be accepted. A petition for administrative hearing or other document is deemed filed upon receipt during normal business hours by the Office of the District Clerk at the District's headquarters in West Palm Beach, Florida. The District's normal business hours are 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., excluding weekends and District holidays. Any document received by the Office of the District Clerk after 5:00 p.m. shall be deemed filed as of 8:00 a.m. on the next regular business day. Additional filing instructions are as follows:



- Filings by mail must be addressed to the Office of the District Clerk, 3301 Gun Club Road, West Palm Beach, Florida 33406.
- Filings by hand-delivery must be delivered to the Office of the District Clerk. Delivery of a petition to the District's security desk does not constitute filing. It will be necessary to request that the District's security officer contact the Office of the District Clerk. An employee of the District's Clerk's office will receive and process the petition.
- Filings by e-mail must be transmitted to the Office of the District Clerk at [clerk@sfwmd.gov](mailto:clerk@sfwmd.gov). The filing date for a document transmitted by electronic mail shall be the date the Office of the District Clerk receives the complete document.

### **INITIATION OF AN ADMINISTRATIVE HEARING**

Pursuant to Sections 120.54(5)(b)4. and 120.569(2)(c), Florida Statutes, and Rules 28-106.201 and 28-106.301, Florida Administrative Code, initiation of an administrative hearing shall be made by written petition to the District in legible form and on 8 1/2 by 11 inch white paper. All petitions shall contain:

1. Identification of the action being contested, including the permit number, application number, District file number or any other District identification number, if known.
2. The name, address, any email address, any facsimile number, and telephone number of the petitioner, petitioner's attorney or qualified representative, if any.
3. An explanation of how the petitioner's substantial interests will be affected by the agency determination.
4. A statement of when and how the petitioner received notice of the District's decision.
5. A statement of all disputed issues of material fact. If there are none, the petition must so indicate.
6. A concise statement of the ultimate facts alleged, including the specific facts the petitioner contends warrant reversal or modification of the District's proposed action.
7. A statement of the specific rules or statutes the petitioner contends require reversal or modification of the District's proposed action.
8. If disputed issues of material fact exist, the statement must also include an explanation of how the alleged facts relate to the specific rules or statutes.
9. A statement of the relief sought by the petitioner, stating precisely the action the petitioner wishes the District to take with respect to the District's proposed action.

### **MEDIATION**

The procedures for pursuing mediation are set forth in Section 120.573, Florida Statutes, and Rules 28-106.111 and 28-106.401–405, Florida Administrative Code. The District is not proposing mediation for this agency action under Section 120.573, Florida Statutes, at this time.

### **RIGHT TO SEEK JUDICIAL REVIEW**

Pursuant to Section 120.68, Florida Statutes, and in accordance with Florida Rule of Appellate Procedure 9.110, a party who is adversely affected by final District action may seek judicial review of the District's final decision by filing a notice of appeal with the Office of the District Clerk in accordance with the filing instructions set forth herein within 30 days of rendition of the order to be reviewed, and by filing a copy of the notice with the appropriate district court of appeals via the Florida Courts E-Filing Portal.

**BEFORE THE GOVERNING BOARD OF THE  
SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT**

Order No.: \_\_\_\_\_

IN RE:

Emergency Declaration of Modified  
Phase III Water Shortage Restrictions  
for the Recreation Area, Golf Course,  
Landscape Irrigation, Nursery, and  
Agriculture Use Classes Withdrawing  
Groundwater From the Mid-Hawthorn  
Aquifer within northern Cape Coral.

\_\_\_\_\_ /

**FINAL ORDER OF GOVERNING BOARD CONCURRENCE WITH EXECUTIVE  
DIRECTOR'S ORDER DECLARING WATER SHORTAGE EMERGENCY**

The matter came before the Governing Board of South Florida Water Management District ("District") on December 14, 2023, for concurrence with Order No. 2023-063-DAO-WS, which was issued by the District's Executive Director. After being otherwise fully apprised of the matter, the Governing Board issues this Final Order of Governing Board Concurrence, based upon the following Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law:

**FINDINGS OF FACT**

1. On November 29, 2023, the Executive Director issued Emergency Water Shortage Order No. 2023-063-DAO-WS imposing modified phase III water shortage restrictions on recreation area, golf course, landscape irrigation, nursery, and agriculture use classes withdrawing groundwater from the Mid-Hawthorn aquifer within northeastern Cape Coral. A copy of Emergency Order No. 2023-063-DAO-WS is attached hereto as **Exhibit A**.

2. Based on the cumulative assessment of rainfall deficit, the groundwater availability, current water demands, and the climate forecast, there is a significant and

imminent potential that there will be insufficient water available to meet anticipated future demands and protect the resources from significant harm, which would result in an MFL violation, without the imposition of mandatory water use restrictions.

3. Accordingly, the Executive Director determined that the issuance of a water shortage emergency order imposing modified phase III restrictions was warranted to avoid impacts to the public health, safety, and welfare of the citizens in northern Cape Coral and to protect the District's water resources from significant harm.

### **CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

4. The Governing Board has the authority to adopt a water shortage plan to regulate the withdrawal and use of water and protect the water resources of the District. § 373.246, Fla. Stat.

5. The District's water shortage plan is set forth in Chapter 40E-21, Fla. Admin. Code.

6. The purpose of the water shortage plan is, among other items, to assure the equitable distribution of the water resources to all users consistent with the goal of minimizing adverse economic, social, and health related impacts. Rule 40E-21.011, Fla. Admin. Code.

7. Considering the above Findings of Fact, the Executive Director found that an emergency existed requiring immediate action necessary to protect the groundwater in the Mid-Hawthorn Aquifer in northeastern Cape Coral from serious harm.

8. Pursuant to subsection 373.083(5), Fla. Stat., and *District Policies and Procedures*, Section 101-22(b), the District's Governing Board delegated to the Executive

Director and General Counsel the authority to execute final orders following Governing Board action.

9. A notice of rights is attached hereto as **Exhibit B**.

**ORDER**

10. Based on the foregoing, Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, the Governing Board of the South Florida Water Management District hereby concurs with the actions taken by the Executive Director of the District in issuing Emergency Water Shortage Order No. 2023-063-DAO-WS. The Executive Director, or the Executive Director's designee, is authorized to grant variances submitted to the District pursuant to Order No. 2023-063-DAO-WS.

DONE AND SO ORDERED in West Palm Beach, Florida, on this \_\_\_\_ day of December 2023.

SOUTH FLORIDA WATER  
MANAGEMENT DISTRICT  
By its Governing Board

\_\_\_\_\_  
Maricruz Fincher  
General Counsel

Legal Form Approved:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Savannah W. Middlebush, Esq.

Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_  
District Clerk  
December \_\_\_\_, 2023

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Governing Board Members

**FROM:** Maricruz R. Fincher, Office of Counsel

**DATE:** December 14, 2023

**SUBJECT:** Legal Services Contract Amendment with Kirwin Norris, P.A.

### **Agenda Item Background:**

Kirwin Norris, P.A. provides ongoing legal counsel to the District on construction law matters. The Office of Counsel requests an amendment to the District's contract with Kirwin Norris, P.A., to increase funds by \$840,000.

### **Additional Item Background:**

Kirwin Norris, P.A. serves as lead trial counsel for the District in a pending case between the District and C-43 Water Management Builders, JV, The Lane Construction Corporation, and Webuild S.p.A. Inc. f/k/a Salini Impregilo ("Contractor") regarding their failure to timely finish the C-43 West Caloosahatchee Basin Storage Reservoir - Part 2, Hendry County, FL Project ("Project"). The Office of Counsel is requesting to amend the District's contract with Kirwin Norris, P.A. to increase funds by \$840,000.

In March 2019, the District contracted with Contractor to build the Project. Contractor did not adhere to the contract's required schedule, which set forth a mandatory substantial completion date and final completion date. Contractor also refused to make the necessary changes to get back on schedule or prevent further delay. As a result, the District terminated Contractor for defaulting on the contract. Damages to the District resulting from this breach of contract include, without limitation, compensatory damages, consequential damages, damages for delay, and liquidated damages. Therefore, on May 19, 2023, the District filed a breach of contract suit against Contractor.

The case is a multi-million-dollar complex construction dispute that the parties are vigorously litigating. As such, the District hired Kirwin Norris P.A., a law firm with seven Florida Bar Board Certified Construction Lawyers specializing in construction law to serve as lead counsel in this case.

### **Staff Contact and/or Presenter:**

Maricruz R. Fincher, mfincher@sfwmd.gov, 561-682-6457

### **ATTACHMENTS:**

[Resolution No. 2023-1204](#)

# **SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT**

## **Resolution No. 2023 - XXXX**

**A Resolution of the Governing Board of the South Florida Water Management District authorizing an amendment to Contract No. 4600004519 with Kirwin Norris, P.A. to increase the contract by \$840,000 for which dedicated funds (Land Acquisition Trust Fund and State General Revenue) are budgeted in the Fiscal Year 2023-2024 budget, to defend the District's interests and fully prosecute its claims related to the C-43 West Caloosahatchee Basin Storage Reservoir; providing an effective date. (Contract No. 4600004519-A05)**

**WHEREAS**, the Governing Board of the South Florida Water Management District deems it necessary, appropriate, and in the public interest, to authorize an amendment of Contract No. 4600004519 with Kirwin Norris, P.A. to increase the contract spending amount by \$840,000.00 in the defense of the District's interests and to fully prosecute the District's claims in this matter.

### **NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BOARD OF THE SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT:**

**Section 1.** The Governing Board of the South Florida Water Management District hereby authorizes an amendment to Contract No. 4600004519 with Kirwin Norris, P.A. to increase Contract No. 4600004519 with Kirwin Norris, P.A., for legal services by \$840,000. (Contract No. 4600004519-A04)

**Section 2.** This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

**PASSED and ADOPTED** this 14<sup>th</sup> day of December 2023.

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Governing Board Members

**FROM:** Maricruz R. Fincher, Office of Counsel

**DATE:** December 14, 2023

**SUBJECT:** Authorize the District's General Counsel, on behalf of the Governing Board, to Issue an Order Denying Petition for Declaratory Statement Filed by William G. Merryman on October 2, 2023

### **Agenda Item Background:**

William G. Merryman ("Petitioner") filed a Petition for Declaratory Statement under section 120.565, Florida Statutes, with the South Florida Water Management District ("District") on October 2, 2023. As required by Florida law, the District published notice of the Petition for Declaratory Statement in the Florida Administrative Register.

The Petition requests the District to opine on decisions rendered by the St. Johns River Water Management District ("SJRWMD") when it permitted a 20-acre stormwater pond project in Clay County, which Petitioner believes has adversely affected his private property. The Petition also seeks the District's opinion as to the applicability of several statutes and rules and whether the Petitioner is entitled to reparations for damage caused to his property.

### **Additional Item Background:**

After thorough review of the Petition as well as section 120.565, Florida Statutes, and Chapter 28-105, Florida Administrative Code, which govern declaratory statements, the District's Office of Counsel recommends denial of the Petition because the District lacks the jurisdiction to issue a Declaratory Statement for past actions taken by a third party and agency action taken by another water management district. The District's Office of Counsel further requests that the Governing Board authorize the General Counsel to issue an Order Denying Petition for Declaratory Statement on its behalf.

Mr. Merryman filed similar petitions with SJRWMD, Northwest Florida Water Management District, Suwannee River Water Management District, and the Division of Administrative Hearings.

### **Funding Source:**

Office of Counsel is funding the publication costs for this item.

### **Staff Contact and/or Presenter:**

Maricruz R. Fincher, mfincher@sfwmd.gov, 561-682-6457

### **ATTACHMENTS:**

[Resolution No. 2023-1205](#)

**SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT**

**Resolution No. 2023 - 12XX**

**A Resolution of the Governing Board of the South Florida Water Management District authorizing the General Counsel, on behalf of the Governing Board, to issue a Final Order denying the petition for declaratory statement filed by William G. Merryman on October 2, 2023; providing an effective date.**

**WHEREAS**, William G. Merryman (“Petitioner”) filed a Petition for Declaratory Statement (“Petition”) pursuant to section 120.565, Florida Statutes, on October 2, 2023. In accordance with section 120.565(3), Florida Statutes, the South Florida Water Management District (“District”) published notice of the Petition in the Florida Administrative Register on October 5, 2023 and an amended notice on October 6, 2023; and

**WHEREAS**, in accordance with Rule 28-105.003, Florida Administrative Code, the District shall take action on a petition for declaratory statement at a duly noticed public meeting; and

**WHEREAS**, after thorough review of the Petition as well as section 120.565, Florida Statutes, and Chapter 28-105, Florida Administrative Code, which govern declaratory statements, the District’s Office of Counsel recommends denial of the Petition because the District lacks the jurisdiction to issue a declaratory statement for past actions taken by a third party and agency action taken by another water management district; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to District Policy 101-22(b), the Governing Board may authorize its General Counsel to issue final orders on its behalf.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BOARD OF THE SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT:**

**Section 1.** The Governing Board of the South Florida Water Management District hereby authorizes its General Counsel to issue a Final Order denying the petition for declaratory statement filed by William G. Merryman on October 2, 2023.

**Section 2.** This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

**PASSED and ADOPTED** this 14th day of December, 2023.



## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Governing Board Members  
**FROM:** Duane Piper, Information Technology  
**DATE:** December 14, 2023  
**SUBJECT:** SAP Technical Resource

### **Agenda Item Background:**

This item is for an SAP Basis Administrator to provide SAP S/4 expertise to design, code, configure, and implement SAP business support solutions and code management. In addition to providing daily operational support, this resource will assist with future software implementations.

This request is to amend Purchase Order Number 4500113208 with Kyra Solutions, Inc. extending the services through September 30, 2025, and increasing the amount by \$208,520 for a revised purchase order total of \$688,350 for an SAP Basis Administrator, using the State of Florida Information Technology Staff Augmentation Services Contract Number 80101507-22-STC-ITSA. This contract was competed by another government agency.

### **Staff Contact and/or Presenter:**

Duane Piper, dpiper@sfwmd.gov, 561-682-2150

### **ATTACHMENTS:**

[Resolution No. 2023-1206](#)

# **SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT**

## **Resolution No. 2023 - 12XX**

**A Resolution of the Governing Board of the South Florida Water Management District to authorize an amendment to Purchase Order Number 4500113208 with Kyra Solutions, Inc. extending the services through September 30, 2025, and increasing the amount of the purchase order by \$208,520 for a revised total of \$688,350 for an SAP Basis Administrator, using the State of Florida Information Technology Staff Augmentation Services Contract Number 80101507-22-STC-ITSA, for which \$77,480 is budgeted in Fiscal Year 2023-2024 and the remainder is subject to Governing Board approval of future years budgets; providing an effective date. (Purchase Order Number 4500113208)**

**WHEREAS**, Information Technology requires technical expertise for SAP Support; and

**WHEREAS**, the District obtained this purchase order through a special procurement using the State of Florida Information Technology Staff Augmentation Services Contract Number 80101507-22-STC-ITSA; and

**WHEREAS**, the Governing Board of the South Florida Water Management District deems it necessary, appropriate, and in the public interest to authorize an amendment to Purchase Order 4500113208 with Kyra Solutions, Inc. by increasing the purchase order by \$208,520.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BOARD OF THE SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT:**

**Section 1.** The Governing Board of the South Florida Water Management District hereby authorizes an amendment to Purchase Order Number 4500113208 with Kyra Solutions, Inc. extending the service through September 30, 2025 and increasing the amount of the purchase order by \$208,520 for a revised total of \$688,350 for an SAP Basis Administrator, using the State of Florida Information Technology Staff Augmentation Services Contract Number 8010507-22-STC-ITSA. (Purchase Order Number 4500113208)

**Section 2.** This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

**PASSED and ADOPTED** this 14<sup>th</sup> day of December .

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Governing Board Members

**FROM:** Duane Piper, Information Technology

**DATE:** December 14, 2023

**SUBJECT:** IT Security Hardware & Software Maintenance

### **Agenda Item Background:**

The Information Technology (IT) Division depends on multiple products to secure business critical IT assets. IT Security hardware and software products are used for our corporate perimeter firewalls, remote Virtual private network (VPN) access, multifactor identity tokens, mobile device endpoint protection, and the deployment of Secure Software-Defined Wide Area Networking (SDWAN) to provide remote site network resiliency and security. Many of these products are subscription based as the security threats are constantly changing and require real time threat intelligence feeds to provide up to date threat protection.

This request is to issue a purchase order to World Wide Technology for IT Security hardware and software maintenance in the amount of \$697,578 for the time period January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2026 using the OMNIA Partners Technology Solutions Contract Number R210407. Issuing a purchase order for the three-year term results in an approximate \$152K savings. This contract was competed by another government agency.

### **Staff Contact and/or Presenter:**

Duane Piper, dpiper@sfwmd.gov, 561-682-2150

### **ATTACHMENTS:**

[Resolution No. 2023-1207](#)

# **SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT**

## **Resolution No. 2023 - 12XX**

**A Resolution of the Governing Board of the South Florida Water Management District to authorize issuing a purchase order to World Wide Technology for IT Security hardware and software maintenance, using the OMNIA Partners Technology Solutions Contract Number R210407, for the time period January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2026, for which \$697,578 is budgeted in Fiscal Year 2023-2024; providing an effective date. (Purchase Order Number 4500143337)**

**WHEREAS**, the IT Security hardware and software secure the business-critical IT assets; and

**WHEREAS**, the District obtained this purchase order through a special procurement using the OMNIA Partners Technology Solutions Contract Number R210407; and

**WHEREAS**, the Governing Board of the South Florida Water Management District deems it necessary, appropriate, and in the public interest to authorize issuing a purchase order to World Wide Technology for IT Security hardware and software maintenance, for the time period January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2026, in the amount of \$697,578.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BOARD OF THE SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT:**

**Section 1.** The Governing Board of the South Florida Water Management District hereby authorizes issuing a purchase order to World Wide Technology for IT Security hardware and software maintenance, using the OMNIA Partners Technology Solutions Contract Number R210407, for the time period January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2026, in the amount of \$697,578. (Purchase Order 4500143337)

**Section 2.** This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption

**PASSED and ADOPTED** this 14<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2023.

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Governing Board Members

**FROM:** Rich Virgil, Field Operations Division

**DATE:** December 14, 2023

**SUBJECT:** University of Florida Board of Trustees Contract Amendment for Enhanced Invasive Reptiles Removal Efforts

### **Agenda Item Background:**

In 2019, the District entered into a three-year contract with two 1-year renewal options with the University of Florida Board of Trustees in the amount not-to-exceed of \$900,000. The contract was amended on November 1, 2022 (A03) to exercise the first-year renewal option and to increase the not-to-exceed amount by \$123,153 and on November 27, 2023 (A04) the contract was amended to extend the period of performance by exercising the first three months of the final one-year renewal option. A proposed amendment to the existing contract will extend the period of performance by exercising the remaining nine months of the final one-year renewal option, in an amount not-to-exceed \$270,000, for a total revised contract amount of \$1,293,153.

Invasive animals, such as the Burmese python, Argentine black and white tegu, and green iguana, prey on native animal populations, cause significant damage to District infrastructure, and threaten to undermine Greater Everglades restoration efforts. Staff continues to actively manage nonnative animals on District land and applied scientific and expert logistical support is needed to augment these efforts. The University of Florida has developed the Everglades Invasive Reptile and Amphibian Monitoring Program (EIRAMP) with a unique capacity to provide expert science support for invasive reptile management in South Florida.

This contract would fund the removal and assessment of established populations of invasive reptiles within the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP) footprint, including spectacled caimans, Nile monitors, Argentine black and white tegus, and green iguanas. EIRAMP will conduct standardized surveys for early detection and monitoring of invasive reptiles and amphibians, as well as determine impacts of invasive species on native wildlife and responses of native wildlife to invasive wildlife removals. EIRAMP will provide technical input into South Florida Ecosystem Restoration related reports and remove nonnative wildlife through rapid response to sightings by District personnel. Additionally, EIRAMP will provide technical and science support for the District's Python Elimination Program by conducting necropsies and evaluating removal data. If this contract is approved, the District would have increased capacity to manage invasive wildlife, quantify impacts of invasive species to native wildlife populations and infrastructure, evaluate and improve efficacy of existing management programs, and make informed decisions on future policies.

### **Additional Item Background:**

#### **Core Mission and Strategic Priorities:**

This item will provide for enhanced invasive reptile removal efforts to ensure that District lands are being managed appropriately and in compliance with requirements of the Everglades

Forever Act, passed by Florida Legislature in 1994, which mandates Everglades restoration efforts to include halting or reversing the spread of invasive species (whether plant or animal) already widespread in the environment, eradicating invasive species that are still locally contained, and preventing the introduction of new invasive species to the South Florida environment.

**Funding Source:**

This is an amendment to Contract No. 4600004071, to extend the term by nine months, in the amount not-to-exceed \$270,000, for a total revised contract amount of \$1,293,153 for which dedicated funds (Lease Revenue) are budgeted in Fiscal Year 2023-2024.

**Staff Contact and/or Presenter:**

Richard Virgil, [rvirgil@sfwmd.gov](mailto:rvirgil@sfwmd.gov), 561-682-6759

**ATTACHMENTS:**

[Resolution No. 2023-1208](#)

# **SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT**

## **Resolution No. 2023-12XX**

**A Resolution of the Governing Board of the South Florida Water Management District to authorize entering into an amendment to Contract No. 4600004071 with the University of Florida Board of Trustees for invasive reptile monitoring and impact assessments, early detection and rapid response, and removal assistance for priority invasive reptiles, to extend the term by nine months, in an amount not to exceed \$270,000, for a total revised contract amount of \$1,293,153, for which dedicated funds (Lease Revenue) are budgeted in Fiscal Year 2023-2024; providing an effective date. (Contract No. 4600004071-A05)**

**WHEREAS**, the Governing Board of the South Florida Water Management District has determined that it is necessary, appropriate, and in the public interest to enter into an agreement with the University of Florida for invasive reptile monitoring and impact assessments, early detection and rapid response, and removal assistance for priority invasive reptiles, to extend the term by nine months, in an amount not to exceed \$270,000, for a total revised contract amount of \$1,293,153, for which dedicated funds (Lease Revenue) are budgeted in Fiscal Year 2023-2024.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BOARD OF THE SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT:**

**Section 1.** The Governing Board of the South Florida Water Management District hereby authorizes entering into an amendment to Contract No. 4600004071 with the University of Florida Board of Trustees for invasive reptile monitoring and impact assessments, early detection and rapid response, and removal assistance for priority invasive reptiles, to extend the term by nine months, in an amount not to exceed \$270,000, for a total revised contract amount of \$1,293,153, for which dedicated funds (Lease Revenue) are budgeted in Fiscal Year 2023-2024; providing an effective date. (Contract No. 4600004071-A05).

**Section 2.** This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

**PASSED and ADOPTED** this 14<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2023.

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Governing Board Members

**FROM:** Rich Virgil, Field Operations Division

**DATE:** December 14, 2023

**SUBJECT:** Agreement with the U.S. Department of Agriculture - Agricultural Research Service for Research to Develop Biological Control Agents for Control of Old World Climbing Fern

### **Agenda Item Background:**

Old World climbing fern (*Lygodium microphyllum*) is a non-native invasive fern, which aggressively overtakes native vegetation and degrades wildlife habitat throughout central and southern Florida. The District currently utilizes herbicides to control this plant, but herbicidal control is costly and requires long term repeated treatments. To enhance control of Old World climbing fern, the District is developing an integrated pest management (IPM) strategy where multiple control tools are used synergistically to improve management outcomes. Biological control, which employs insects that only attack the targeted pest plant, is an important component of many IPM strategies. The District has successfully integrated biological control for another priority invasive plant - melaleuca - resulting in substantial reductions in herbicide use and long-term savings to the District.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture - Agricultural Research Service's (USDA-ARS) Invasive Plant Research Laboratory in Davie, Florida has unique expertise in locating and vetting potential biological control agents for Old World Climbing Fern in the plant's native range. The CERP Biological Control Implementation Program is entering its 9th year of operations. This program partnership between the District, US Army Corps of Engineers, and USDA-ARS allocates resources for the rearing and release of approved agents that target invasive plants known to impact CERP restoration targets. However, the CERP program does not fund overseas research for development of new agents.

In FY2019, the District entered into a three year contract with two 1-year renewal options with the USDA-ARS in the amount of \$750,000. To date, their agents have been approved for release and established in South Florida. These agents are impacting the plant's growth and survival at local levels, but additional candidate insects are needed to expand the level of control. As more effective agents are established, long-term herbicide management costs are expected to decrease.

This agenda item requests a resolution of the Governing Board of the South Florida Water Management District to authorize a new three year contract with two 1-year options to continue research to develop additional agents for control of Old World climbing fern.

### **Additional Item Background:**

#### **Core Mission and Strategic Priorities:**

The District is responsible for ensuring restoration of the Everglades ecosystem and maintaining the function and resiliency of its conservation lands. Invasive plants directly



interfere with both of these mandates. This item will provide funding to develop biological control agents targeting one of the District's most challenging invasive plant species, thereby enhancing the District's efforts to control invasive plants using an integrated pest management approach.

**Funding Source:**

This is a three-year contract with two 1-year options to renew in the amount not-to-exceed \$750,000 for which \$150,000 in dedicated funds (Lease Revenue) are budgeted in Fiscal Year 2023-2024 and the remainder is subject to Governing Board approval of future years' budgets. (Contract Number 4600004878).

**Staff Contact and/or Presenter:**

Richard Virgil, [rvirgil@sfwmd.gov](mailto:rvirgil@sfwmd.gov), 561-682-6759

**ATTACHMENTS:**

[Resolution No. 2023-1209](#)

[Statement of Work](#)

**SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT**

**Resolution No. 2023 - 12XX**

**A Resolution of the Governing Board of the South Florida Water Management District authorizing a 3-year contract with two 1-year renewal options with the US Department of Agriculture - Agricultural Research Service (USDA-ARS) for research to develop biological control agents for control of the invasive plant Old World Climbing Fern (*Lygodium microphyllum*), in an amount not to exceed \$750,000, for which \$150,000 in dedicated funds (Lease Revenue) are budgeted in Fiscal Year 2023-2024 and the remainder is subject to Governing Board approval of future years budgets. (Contract No. 4600004878)**

**WHEREAS**, the Governing Board of the South Florida Water Management District has determined that it is necessary, appropriate, and in the public interest to enter into an agreement with the USDA-ARS to develop safe and effective biological control agents to help manage the highly invasive plant Old World climbing fern in an amount not to exceed \$750,000 for which \$150,000 in dedicated funds (Lease Revenue) are budgeted in Fiscal Year 2023-2024 and the remainder is subject to Governing Board approval of future years budgets.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BOARD OF THE SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT:**

**Section 1.** The Governing Board of the South Florida Water Management District hereby authorizes the execution of Contract number 4600004878 with the USDA-ARS.

**Section 2.** This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

**PASSED and ADOPTED** this 14<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2023.

## Statement of Work

### Project Title: Biological Control of Old World Climbing Fern

#### Introduction

Old World climbing fern (*Lygodium microphyllum*) is arguably Florida's worst natural area invasive plant. The perennial fern climbs vegetation and shades out native plant communities, including tree islands and cypress domes that comprise the Greater Everglades ecosystem and other conservation lands managed by the South Florida Water Management District (District). Due to the remote nature of many Old World climbing fern (OWCF) patches, mechanical control is not feasible, and application of herbicides is often expensive in difficult to access areas. A biological control program, which employs insects that only attack the invasive plant, was initiated with the expectation that introduced natural enemies would complement existing control efforts.

To date, three biological control agents have been introduced and two are established in Florida. While feeding damage from these agents is impacting the plant's growth and survival, other candidate insects are being evaluated to determine if they are host-specific and can be considered for release. Foreign exploration continues to yield additional species for evaluation and other insects that have yet to be discovered in this weed's native range may be suitable candidates.

The District proposes to fund the USDA Agricultural Research Service to 1) conduct host-range testing of candidate biological control agents, 2) prepare federal and state documentation requesting permits to release suitable agents, 3) conduct surveys for and collections of natural enemies in the native range, and 4) evaluate genetic profiles of approved and candidate agents to better align agent lineages with Florida's OWCF populations.

#### *Summary of Research to Date*

OWCF is native to tropical regions of Africa, Australia, Asia and the Pacific (Pemberton 1998). OWCF was first reported as naturalized in southern Florida in 1965 (Beckner 1968). Over recent decades, it has spread rapidly to infest many habitat types on private lands, parks and conservation lands, particularly in remote locations in the A.R.M. Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge and Everglades National Park (Rodgers et al 2014). OWCF continues to expand its range throughout south and central Florida and has recently established as far north as Jacksonville, FL (EDDMaps 2018).

OWCF has proven to be extremely difficult to manage in Florida (Hutchinson et al. 2006). Herbicide treatments do not consistently kill below ground rhizomes, and the plant's prolific spore production facilitates rapid recolonization after control. Mechanical removal is too expensive to be viable and prescribed burns do not uniformly suppress vegetative regrowth. Integrating multiple control methods to manage OWCF (i.e., integrated pest management) is likely to provide the most effective means of managing this aggressive natural area weed. Integrating biological control with other management techniques has proven to be a very effective way to manage other invasive plants (Lake and Minter 2018).

OWCF biological control involves the discovery of natural enemies and pathogens in the plant's native range, their import and study in quarantine conditions, and ultimately the release of safe (host-specific) herbivores into invaded regions of Florida. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Agricultural Research Service (ARS), Invasive Plant Research Laboratory (IPRL) in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, in cooperation with overseas collaborators have conducted surveys in Asia, Australia and the Pacific to identify host-specific arthropod herbivores of OWCF that could potentially be introduced to southern Florida to help control OWCF (Goolsby et al. 2003).

To date, scientists have collected more than 20 species of insects and mites that feed on OWCF. Three species underwent host-range testing and were approved for release by USDA's Animal Plant Health and Inspection Service (APHIS). Numerous releases of the (white) defoliating moth, *Austromusotima camptozonale* (Lepidoptera: Crambidae) were made in Florida, but it failed to establish for unknown reasons. However, scientists have successfully introduced another defoliator, the brown lygodium moth, *Neomusotima conspurcatalis*, (Lepidoptera: Crambidae), and the leaf-galling mite *Floracarus perrepae* (Acariformes: Eriophyidae) from Australia (Boughton and Pemberton 2009; Boughton and Pemberton 2011; Smith et al. 2014; Lake et al. 2014). Testing of another defoliating species, *Callopietria exotica* (Lepidoptera: Noctuidae) from Hong Kong was completed and a petition for field releases was recently granted (Sep 7, 2023). Finally, testing of a defoliating sawfly, *Neostrombocerus albicomus* (Konow) (Hymenoptera: Tenthredinidae) from Thailand, was previously completed, however additional data were requested as it fed on several Caribbean species of Lygodium. Additional testing is underway at the IPRL and preliminary results suggest this insect is promising and safe for release.

The leaf-galling mite, *F. perrepae*, is likely our most damaging agent as it substantially curbs OWCF growth (David and Lake 2020). Initially, *F. perrepae* appeared to be poorly established, but subsequent surveys found the mite more than 20 km from initial release sites (Boughton and Pemberton 2011; Lake et al. 2014). Field establishment of the mite is inconsistent, and efforts are underway to optimize rearing and release methods; nevertheless, the mite continues to undergo range expansion. It currently has a very patchy distribution from the remote Cape Sable region of Everglades National Park to Fort Pierce. *Neomusotima conspurcatalis* has a wider distribution in south and central Florida. This agent can reach outbreak densities in the field and cause large "brown outs" of *L. microphyllum*; however, this level of impact is inconsistent. Despite the damage caused by *N. conspurcatalis* and *F. perrepae*, the biological control effort would benefit from the release of additional species. IPRL is currently conducting host-range testing on three additional defoliators, two moths and a sawfly, which may help to improve the regulation of OWCF in Florida in the future.

Possibly this patchiness in the leaf-galling mite distribution and impact can be attributed to multiple lineages of OWCF, some susceptible and others resistant. Recent research (SFWMD FY22 annual report) has focused upon conducting a high-resolution evaluation of the provenances of invasive Florida OWCF. Previously, chloroplast analysis in the early 2000s pinpointed Cape York, Australia as the likely origin of Florida's invasive OWCF. However, modern techniques (restriction site associated DNA sequencing) have been adopted to elucidate the phenotypic variety observed in *Floracarus* mite susceptibility in Florida plants. These methods are currently being used to map the population and evolutionary genetics of OWCF in its native and invasives ranges. This method (RADSeq) indicates that there is a genetic basis to the presence or absence of *Floracarus* mite galls on OWCF in Florida. These results indicate that there have been at least two introductions of OWCF into Florida and they differ in their susceptibility to the *Floracarus* mite. Resistance and susceptibility to *Floracarus* galling can likely be tied back to these separate introductions. Contrary to previous results with older techniques (Goolsby et al. 2006), neither of

these introductions is thought to have originated in Australia. Future goals will be to search for these invasive OWCF lines in the native range to discover *Floracarus* mites that are better adapted to control the Florida OWCF. This same approach will be applied to other existing and proposed OWCF biological control agents (e.g., *A. camptozonale*, *N. conspurcatalis*) to improve their control of the invasive OWCF lineages. Thorough understanding of these relationships will inform our research for the benefit of further biological control efforts.

## Objectives

1. Maintain colonies of OWCF biological control agents in quarantine.
2. Complete testing of the defoliating sawfly *Neostrombocerus albicomus* with Caribbean species of *Lygodium* and complete host-range testing and prepare TAG petition (if sawfly is unable to sustain a population on non-target species).
3. Complete host specificity tests, multigenerational testing, and processing of cold tolerance testing data of the defoliating moth, *Lygomusotima stria* and prepare TAG petition if results indicate limited or no risk to non-target *Lygodium* species.
4. Survey for and collect OWCF herbivores, including new species, in Queensland (Cape York), the Northern Territory, Western Australia, Asia, and potentially New Caledonia.
5. Characterize the genetic profiles of OWCF collections in the native range to identify the best matches to the invasive Florida lines.

## Scope of Work

The current scope of work is a continuation of previous work described above in *Summary of Research to Date*. The continuation of this work will focus on four broad areas—maintaining quarantine colonies of candidate biological control agents, completing host-specificity tests, searching for new candidate agents, and characterizing genetic profiles of existing agents to better align agents with Florida’s OWCF populations. The required tasks to achieve this project’s objectives are outlined below. These tasks and timelines are based on current priorities and best estimates of required resources and scheduling. Research timelines are not always predictable and must be interpreted with caution as scientific advances are dependent on results of experimentation.

### **Task 1. Maintain colonies of OWCF quarantine populations including, *N. albicomus*, *L. stria*, and *C. exotica***

Insect colony maintenance will follow established protocols developed for each of the three species. Generally, all rearing will occur on live plants under quarantine conditions at the USDA-ARS-IPRL facility. Ferns of OWCF used for colony maintenance and of *Lygodium* congeners used for testing will be propagated from spores collected directly from fertile fronds of each species. Spores will be propagated in sifted peat and sand (1:2 ratio by volume) in sanitized 72-cell plastic trays under a bright white LED light (14:10 light: dark) and exposed to natural light. Spore trays will be covered, watered from below, and misted with water 3 times per week to maintain humidity for optimal spore germination. Once ferns have two true leaflets, they will be treated weekly with half the recommended fertilizer rate (1.8g/1 water; 24N-8P-16K; Miracle-Gro Garden Feeder All Purpose Food). Ferns will be transferred to 3.8 l pots partially filled with potting media (Sungro Metro Mix 830), top-dressed with 1.5 – 11.8 g (1.5-2 tsp) granular fertilizer (12N-6P-8K) and watered every three days.

Insect adults will be released into cages containing recently harvested bouquets of healthy plants. To synchronize egg and larval development, a OWCF leaflet bouquet will be placed in a cage with 40-50 adults and replaced every 24 hours. After the eggs hatch, naïve neonates (n = 10) will be

gently transferred directly to plant material in a Petri dish (15cm; Falcon Tissue Culture Dishes), lined with slightly moistened filter paper, and sealed with Parafilm. The larvae will be checked daily while replacing plant material and filter paper as needed. Prepupae produce a cocoon of plant material and filter paper. Pupae will be checked daily for adult emergence.

**Task 2. Complete multi-generational testing of *N. albicomus* (sawfly) with *Lygodium volubile* and *L. oligostachyum*. If the sawfly is unable to sustain a population on the non-target species, complete host-range testing and prepare TAG petition for release of *N. albicomus*.**

Host specificity testing for the sawfly *N. albicomus* was conducted in 2008 and a petition for a release permit was submitted. In addition to OWCF, the sawfly readily completed development on species of *Lygodium* native to the Caribbean and South America. It is unknown whether these plants provide sufficient nutrition for multiple generations of the sawfly over time, however preliminary results indicate they are not hosts. These tests will be conducted to determine whether *N. albicomus* can sustain a population when fed each non-target taxon, the target weed, *L. microphyllum* and the Caribbean species *L. oligostachyum* and *L. volubile*. Here, we will determine whether neonates can feed and complete development to the adult stage, produce eggs, and continue for three generations fed only each species. Addressing this question is critical to determining the safety of *N. albicomus* in relation to non-target effects on Caribbean flora. Therefore, a top priority of this proposal is to compare survivorship and development rates of *N. albicomus* when feeding on OWCF and the Caribbean *Lygodium* species over three generations.

**Task 3. Complete host specificity tests, multigenerational testing, and processing of cold tolerance testing data of *Lygomusotima stria*. Work with a collaborator to generate climate suitability maps of the potential range of *L. stria* for comparison with the range of the North American native *L. palmatum*. Prepare TAG petition if results indicate limited or no risk to *L. palmatum*.**

A third defoliating moth from Southeast Asia, *Lygomusotima stria* (Lepidoptera: Crambidae), is a relative of *A. camptozonale* and *N. conspurcatalis*, has a similar host range, and subjectively appears more robust than the previously studied species. Host-range testing determined that *L. stria* is only capable of completing development within the lygodium genus, specifically on *L. microphyllum*, *L. japonicum*, and the native North American species *L. palmatum*. Cold-tolerance testing has been completed and initial analysis of results indicates that *L. stria* is unlikely to establish outside of Florida. The native *L. palmatum* does not occur in Florida. The most southern documented populations of this species occur in northern Georgia, Alabama, and Mississippi, and parts of South Carolina. USDA-ARS is collaborating with a modeler to use the cold tolerance results and native range climate data to generate a predicted distribution of *L. stria* in the southeastern U.S. To examine the threat of *L. stria* herbivory to native populations of *L. palmatum*, USDA-ARS is using ecological niche modeling (a climate matching program) to compare the predicted distribution with the known range of *L. palmatum*. Additionally, multi-generational 4 insect taxa and the size of individual insects. For relatively large insects, a single leg will be preserved in 95% ethanol prior to the destructive extraction of DNA. Where specimens are too small for DNA to be extracted reliably from a single leg, individual insects will be photographed prior to either the destructive extraction of DNA from whole individuals, or non-destructive DNA extraction protocols.

Methods to conduct arthropod DNA barcoding will follow recently published papers where a description is provided to genetically characterize part of the mitochondrial cytochrome c oxidase subunit I (COI) gene region. A portion of this COI gene will be amplified using primers that are appropriate for each arthropod group, according to the recent literature for those taxa. New COI primers will be designed for taxa that are of significant interest if existing primers are unsuitable.

Where COI has poor resolution of the taxa of interest, other genes may be employed in parallel with it. Genetic barcodes will be deposited at the National Center for Biotechnology Information (NCBI) taxonomy database. Similar methods will be used for other arthropod species.

**Task 5. Characterize the genetic profiles of OWCF collections in the native range searching for the best matches to the invasive Florida lines.**

DNA will be extracted from leaf material and preserved insect specimens. Phylogenetic and population genetics analysis will be performed using the OWCF collections from the native and invasive ranges. Through this analysis we will understand the specific association of the herbivores with native range plant genotypes as well as an understanding of the phylogenetic relationship between the host plants. Together with data from US collections of OWCF we will determine whether our collections relate to *Floracarus* mite susceptible and resistant lineages. The phylogenetic relationship between these lineages of invasive vs native lineages and the target vs non-target *Lygodium* species will be assessed.

**Work Breakdown Structure**

Predicted timeline\*

	Fiscal Year (October 1 – September 30)				
	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028
Objective 1	_____				
Objective 2	_____				
Objective 3	_____				
Objective 4	_____				
Objective 5	_____				

\*Research timelines are not always predictable and must be interpreted with caution as scientific advances are dependent on experimentation.

## Summary Schedule of Tasks and Deliverables

A mid-year onsite tour and in-person review of progress will be conducted by the Project Manager. An annual report will be provided at the end of each fiscal-year, and USDA staff will provide a presentation of accomplishments to the Project Manager. Copies of journal articles, TAG reports, and abstracts of meetings will also be provided.

### Budget

Item	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
Technicians	112,500	112,500	112,500	112,500	112,500
Travel	12,000	12,000	12,000	12,000	12,000
Quarantine supplies	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
Shipments (Air Freight)	500	500	500	500	500
Indirect Costs	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$150,000</b>	<b>\$150,000</b>	<b>\$150,000</b>	<b>\$150,000</b>	<b>\$150,000</b>

## Project Management

### Principal Investigator

Gregory S. Wheeler  
Research Entomologist  
USDA ARS Invasive Plant Research Lab  
3225 College Ave  
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33314

Phone: 954-475-6546  
Cell: 954-632-3330  
Email: [greg.wheeler@usda.gov](mailto:greg.wheeler@usda.gov)

### District Project Manager

LeRoy Rodgers  
South Florida Water Management District  
Vegetation Management Division  
3301 Gun Club Road, MSC 5230  
West Palm Beach, FL 33406

Tele: 561-682-2773  
Cell: 561-628-9373  
Email: [lrodgers@sfwmd.gov](mailto:lrodgers@sfwmd.gov)



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## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Governing Board Members

**FROM:** Rich Virgil, Field Operations Division

**DATE:** December 14, 2023

**SUBJECT:** Pump Station S-9 Gearbox Refurbishment Project, Ft. Lauderdale Field Station Area of Responsibility, Broward County

### **Agenda Item Background:**

As part of the Operations and Maintenance Capital Improvement Plan, the S-9 Pump Station Gearbox Refurbishment Project is located in Broward County. The S-9 pump station was constructed in 1956, and the station was retrofitted with new gearboxes in 1990. Deficiencies were found during a recent inspection conducted by District staff, indicating the need for the refurbishment. The purpose of the project is to refurbish three Philadelphia Right-Angle Drive Speed Reducing Gearboxes. Philadelphia Gear Power Systems by Timken is the original equipment manufacturer; therefore, this contract will be executed through a special procurement under Section 155-6, South Florida Water Management District's Policies and Procedures. This policy provides that licensing, warranty, compatibility requirements that limit the selection to the manufacturer, including purchases of parts, repairs, or maintenance services for field equipment from the original equipment manufacturer, seller, or authorized repair facility (e.g., pumps, generators, and specialized field equipment) are exempt from competition.

Due to the long lead time needed to manufacture parts, this project will refurbish one gearbox in Fiscal Year 2024-2025 and two gearboxes in Fiscal Year 2025-2026. Each refurbishment will take place during the dry season, with an estimated two months out of service. The work will need to be scheduled in conjunction with other activities taking place at the same time, such as the refurbishment of the main engines and pumps. Therefore, the work is anticipated to take place over a three-year period. The project efforts include modernization, replacement and/or refurbishment of all major components to ensure an additional 20 years of uninterrupted service; increased gearbox efficiency; and ensures continued reliability of the pump station to perform its intended functions by reducing the potential for a catastrophic failure of the gearboxes.

### **Additional Item Background:**

#### **Core Mission and Strategic Priorities:**

The S-9 Pump Station Main Engine Refurbishment Project supports the District's missions of flood control, water supply, water quality and ecosystem restoration.

#### **Staff Contact and/or Presenter:**

Rich Virgil, rvirgil@sfwmd.gov, 561-682-6759

### **ATTACHMENTS:**

Resolution No. 2023-1210

Backup Presentation

# **SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT**

## **Resolution No. 2023 - 12XX**

**A Resolution of the Governing Board of the South Florida Water Management District to authorize entering into a 1,095-day contract with Timken Gears & Services, Inc., for the Pump Station S-9 Right-Angle Drive Speed Reducing Gearbox Refurbishment Project in an amount not-to-exceed \$2,999,741 of which \$2,999,741 in dedicated funds (Land Acquisition Trust Fund) is budgeted in Fiscal Year 2023-2024; providing an effective date. (Purchase Order No. 4500145489)**

**WHEREAS**, the Governing Board of the South Florida Water Management District deems it necessary, appropriate and in the public interest to authorize entering into a contract with Timken Gears & Services, Inc., the original equipment manufacturer, for the refurbishment of three Right-Angle Drive Speed Reducing Gearboxes at Pump Station S-9 in an amount not-to-exceed \$2,999,741 of which \$2,999,741 in dedicated funds (Land Acquisition Trust Fund) is budgeted in Fiscal Year 2023-2024.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BOARD OF THE SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT:**

**Section 1.** The Governing Board of the South Florida Water Management District hereby authorizes entering into a contract with Timken Gears & Services, Inc., for the refurbishment of three Right-Angle Drive Speed Reducing Gearboxes at Pump Station S-9 in an amount not-to-exceed \$2,999,741.

**Section 2.** This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

**PASSED and ADOPTED** this 14<sup>th</sup> day of December 2023.

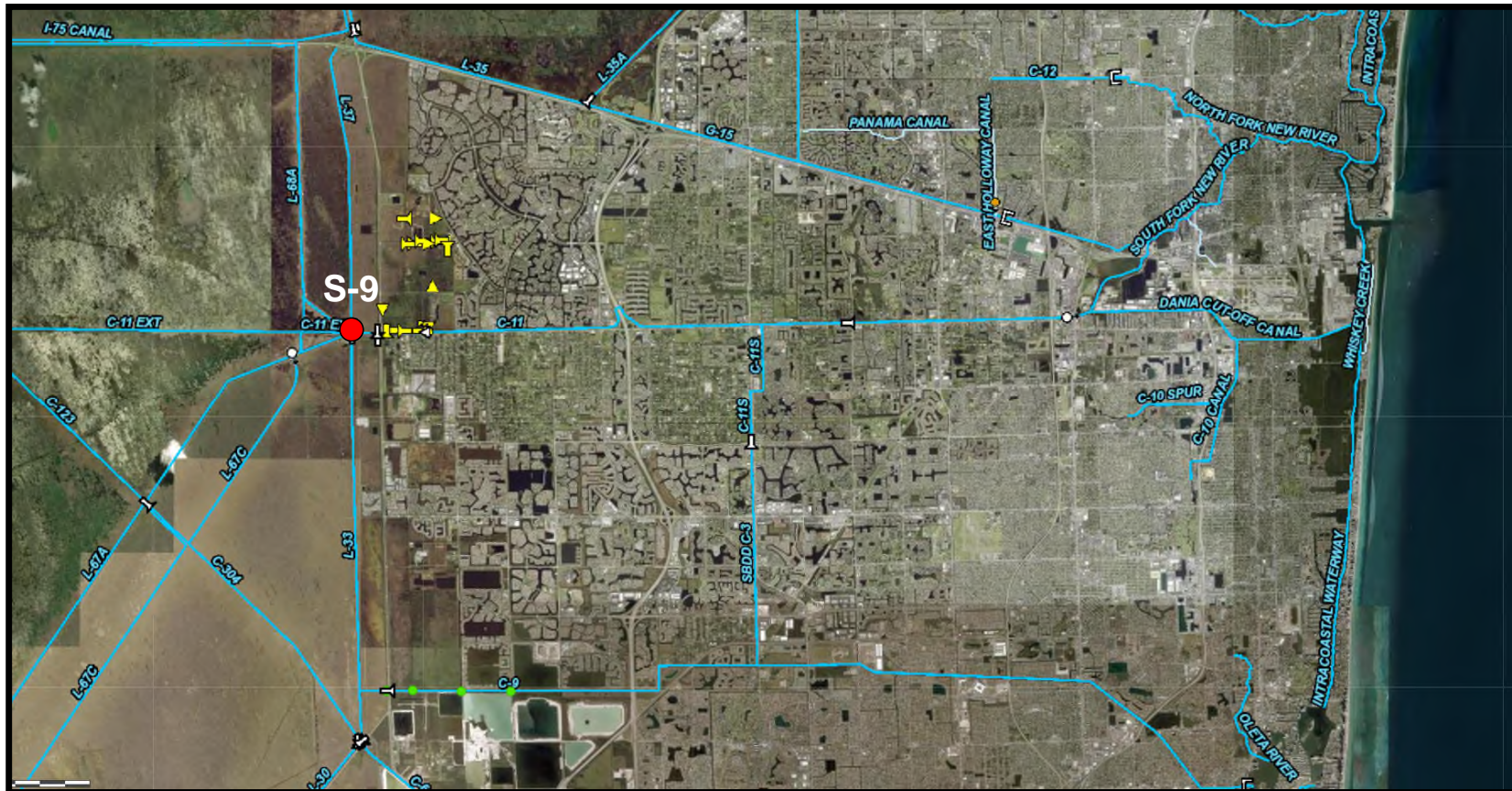
# Pump Station S-9 Gearbox Refurbishment Project



**Rich Virgil, P. E., PMP**  
Division Director, Field Operations  
South Florida Water Management District  
Governing Board Meeting: December 14, 2023

[sfwmd.gov](http://sfwmd.gov)

# Location Map



# Background

- Overhaul and modernize three (3) Philadelphia Gear Right-Angle Drive Speed Reducing Gearboxes PG 19SBHVX-2 at Pump Station S-9.
- Performing the refurbishments of the gearboxes is necessary to maintain the equipment and ensure the pump stations function as intended.
- Timken Gears & Services, Inc., will provide all equipment, materials, and labor necessary to refurbish the 3 gearboxes at the S-9 Pump Station.





# Procurement Summary

- To ensure the highest quality product, the decision was made to contract with Timken Gears & Services, the original equipment manufacturer (OEM), for S-9 Gearbox Refurbishment Project.
- District staff conducted a multitude of inspections and testing of each gearbox to determine the level of refurbishment needed.
- District staff conducted site visits, held several meetings and negotiated with Timken Gears & Services to ensure the scope of work was accurate and cost proposal fair and reasonable.



## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Governing Board Members

**FROM:** Rich Virgil, Field Operations Division

**DATE:** December 14, 2023

**SUBJECT:** Mowing Contract - St. Cloud Field Station Area of Responsibility (Osceola, Orange and Polk Counties)

**Agenda Item Background:**

Maintenance of District lands and rights of way is required to ensure that vegetation is controlled at the appropriate height to provide for optimal performance and operational efficiency of the District's flood control system. This project for the St. Cloud Field Station area of responsibility provides for the annual mowing of approximately 2,908 acres of various District lands and canal and levee rights of way in Osceola, Orange and Polk Counties.

**Additional Item Background:**

**Core Mission and Strategic Priorities:**

Mowing the District's rights of way reduces and controls vegetative growth along canal banks which can impede operations, inspections and access to the District's water control facilities.

**Staff Contact and/or Presenter:**

Richard Virgil, rvirgil@sfwmd.gov, 561-682-6759

**ATTACHMENTS:**

[Resolution No. 2023-1211](#)

[Backup Presentation](#)

# **SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT**

## **Resolution No. 2023 - 12XX**

**A Resolution of the Governing Board of the South Florida Water Management District authorizing a 3-year contract with two 1-year renewal options with Chavez's Lawn Services, Inc., the lowest responsive and responsible bidder, for flat mowing services of various District lands and rights of way in the St. Cloud Field Station area of responsibility in Osceola, Orange and Polk Counties in an amount not-to-exceed \$511,808 of which \$76,771.50 is budgeted in Fiscal Year 2023-2024 and the remainder is subject to Governing Board approval of future year budgets; providing an effective date. (Contract No. 4600004883).**


**WHEREAS**, the Governing Board of the South Florida Water Management District deems it necessary, appropriate and in the public interest to authorize a 3-year contract with two 1-year renewal options with Chavez's Lawn Services, Inc., for mowing services of various District lands and canal and levee rights of way in the St. Cloud Field Station area of responsibility in Osceola, Orange and Polk Counties in an amount not-to-exceed \$511,808 of which \$76,771.50 is budgeted in the Fiscal Year 2023-2024 budget and the remainder is subject to Governing Board approval of future years budgets.

### **NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BOARD OF THE SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT:**

**Section 1.** The Governing Board of the South Florida Water Management District hereby approves the contract with Chavez's Lawn Services, Inc., for mowing services of various District lands and canal and levee rights of way in the St. Cloud Field Station's area of responsibility. (Contract No. 4600004883)

**Section 2.** This resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

**PASSED and ADOPTED** this 14th day of December 2023.



**Right of Way Mowing Services,  
Saint Cloud Field Station**

**Richard Virgil  
Division Director  
Field Operations & Land Management Division  
Governing Board Meeting  
December 14, 2023**

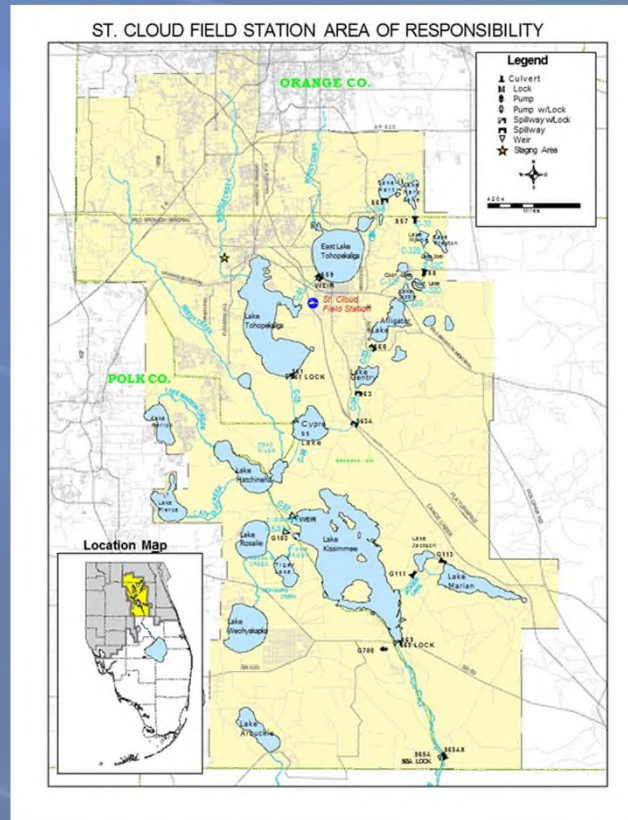
# Introduction



**The Saint Cloud Field Station area of responsibility includes Orange, Osceola, and Polk Counties. Within these Counties, the Field Station maintains approximately:**

- **150 miles of canal and levee rights of way with approximately 372 access gates.**
- **2,908 acres annually of various District lands including canals.**
- **Canal embankments, grassed levees, berms and access roads of various widths.**

# Location Map



# Mowing of the System



**Mow to the edge**



**Mow to the Rights of Way**



**Services include the use of conventional high production machine mowing and trimming equipment.**

# RFB Number: 6000001420



**Title: Right of Way Mowing Services, St. Cloud Field Station, Orange, Osceola, and Polk Counties, FL**

## **Bid Summary:**

- **Release Date: November 16, 2023**
- **Mandatory Pre-Bid Meeting: November 1, 2023**
- **Deadline for Bid Submission: November 16, 2023**
- **Bid Range: \$32 per acre to \$52 per acre**



# Discussion



## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Governing Board Members

**FROM:** Lucine Dadrian, P.E., Engineering, Construction & Modeling

**DATE:** December 14, 2023

**SUBJECT:** Indian River Lagoon-South C-23 Estuary Discharge Diversion Project  
Relocation Agreement with Florida Power & Light Company, Martin County

### **Agenda Item Background:**

As part of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP) Indian River Lagoon-South (IRL-S) program, the C-23 Estuary Discharge Diversion Project is located in Martin County and will include the construction of approximately 6.85-miles of canal, a 250 cubic feet per second (cfs) pump station located on the C-23 Canal, two culvert crossings beneath CR-714 Martin Highway and Coca Cola Road, an STA access service bridge, and a discharge spillway into the C-44 Reservoir Western Perimeter Canal. This project will assist with the reduction of harmful discharges to the St. Lucie River and Estuary by routing excess water from the C-23 Canal, that cannot be captured by the future C-23/C-24 Reservoirs, to the South Fork of the St. Lucie River via the C-44 Reservoir and STA.

This Facilities Relocation Agreement (Agreement) addresses the need for relocation and removal of Florida Power & Light Company (FPL) distribution facilities within the project footprint to provide for distribution of power to maintain the existing level of service. The Agreement includes relocation of two distribution power lines, provides a perpetual easement to FPL for each of the relocated power lines, provides for the removal of the poles, and for FPL to remove infrastructure and release and terminate its existing easement rights within the Project footprint. This Resolution replaces Resolution No. 2022-1202 approved by the Governing Board in December of 2022 for \$151,114.06, and includes a redesign to an underground boring and cost increase of \$39,702.96 for a new total of \$190,817.02.

### **Additional Item Background:**

#### **Core Mission and Strategic Priorities:**

The C-23 Estuary Discharge Diversion Project supports the District's mission of ecosystem restoration, flood control and water supply.

#### **Funding Source:**

The C-23 Estuary Discharge Diversion Project is funded with dedicated funds (Land Acquisition Trust Fund).

#### **Staff Contact and/or Presenter:**

Lucine Dadrian, P.E., [ldadrian@sfwmd.gov](mailto:ldadrian@sfwmd.gov), 561-682-2685

### **ATTACHMENTS:**

[Resolution No. 2023-1212](#)

## Location Map

# SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

## Resolution No. 2023 - 12XX

**A Resolution of the Governing Board of the South Florida Water Management District to authorize entering into a facilities relocation agreement with Florida Power and Light Company (FPL) for the design, relocation and removal of power distribution facilities within the C-23 Estuary Discharge Diversion Project footprint, in an amount not to exceed \$190,817.02 for which dedicated funds (Land Acquisition Trust Fund) are budgeted in Fiscal Year 2023-2024; providing an effective date. (Contract No. 4600004688).**

**WHEREAS**, the Governing Board of the South Florida Water Management District deems it necessary, appropriate, and in the public interest for the C-23 Estuary Discharge Diversion Project in Martin County to authorize entering into a facilities agreement with FPL in an amount not-to-exceed \$190,817.02 for the relocation and removal of FPL utilities. It is the District's responsibility to compensate FPL for its actual relocation cost; and

**WHEREAS**, to accomplish the relocation of FPL's power distribution facilities from inside the C-23 Estuary Discharge Diversion project footprint to outside the project footprint, to maintain the existing level of service, the District will convey a new utility easement to FPL in exchange for FPL releasing and terminating its easement rights within the project footprint.

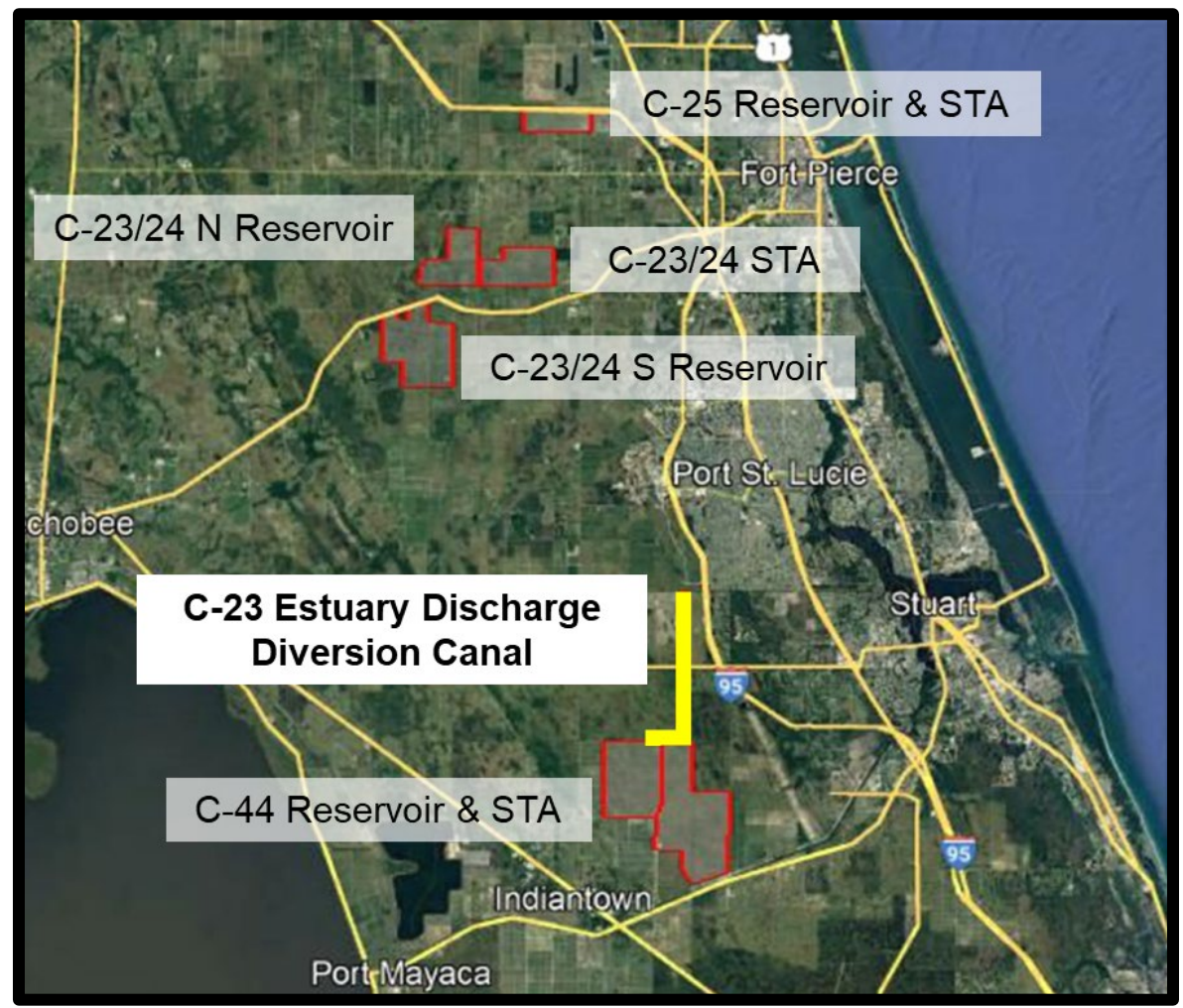
**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BOARD OF THE SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT:**

**Section 1.** The Governing Board of the South Florida Water Management District hereby authorizes entering into a facilities relocation agreement with Florida Power and Light Company, under which the District will pay an amount not-to-exceed \$190,817.02 for which dedicated funds (Land Acquisition Trust Fund) are budgeted in Fiscal Year 2023-2024 for FPL's costs for relocation of its power distribution facilities, and the District will convey to FPL a new utility easement in exchange for FPL releasing and terminating its existing easement rights within the Project footprint.

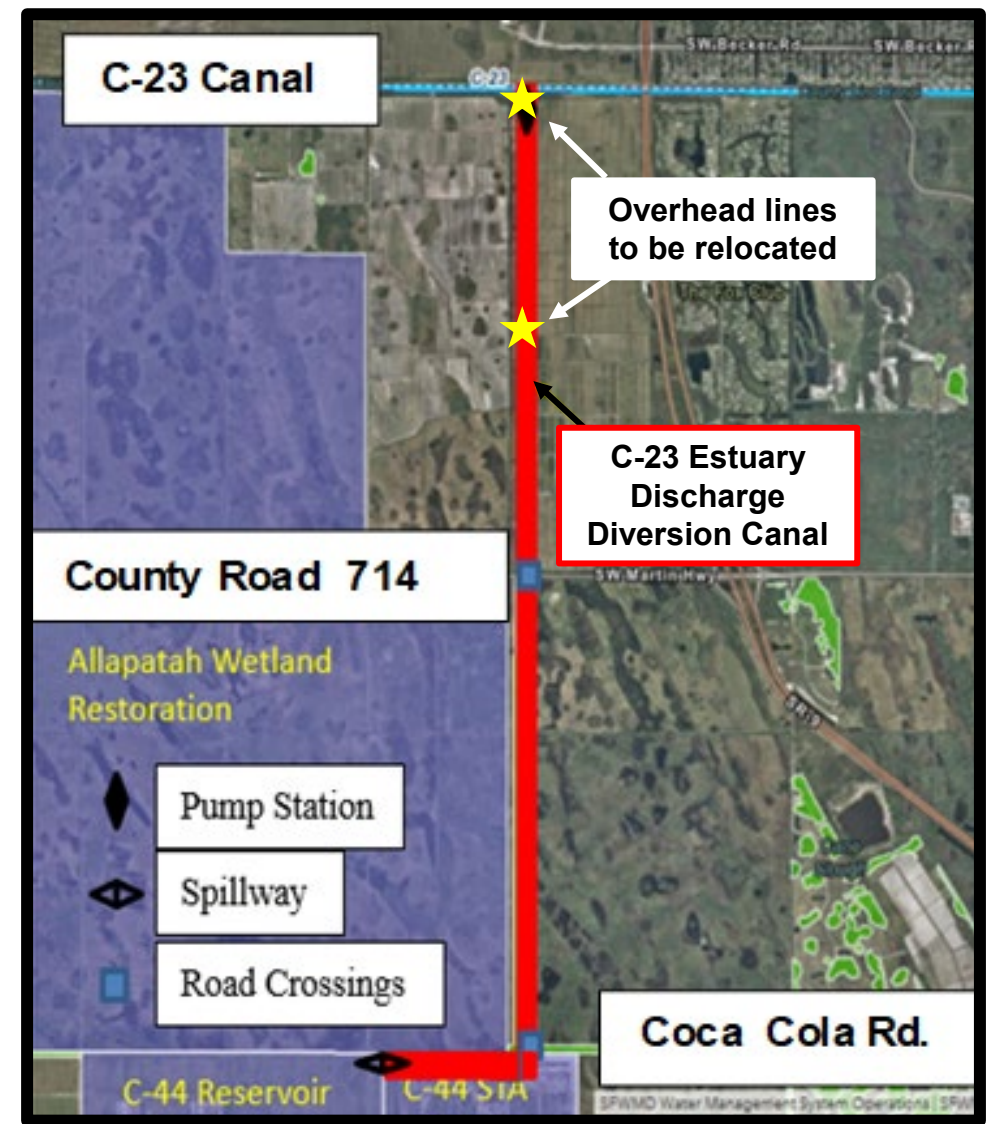
**Section 2.** This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

**PASSED and ADOPTED** this 14<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2023.

# Location Map



Palm City, Martin County



## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Governing Board Members

**FROM:** Lucine Dadrian, P.E., Engineering, Construction & Modeling

**DATE:** December 14, 2023

**SUBJECT:** Hydraulic to Cable Drum Conversions, Miami-Dade County

### **Agenda Item Background:**

As part of the Operations and Maintenance Capital Program, the S-179, S-333, and S-335 conversions from hydraulic to cable drum hoists are part of the in-house phase of the Spillway Structure Conversion Plan. The plan is to replace the hydraulic hoists on all spillway structures that have had operational, maintenance, and installation problems, including gate drift, oil leaks, debris damage to seals, and difficulties installing replacement cylinders. The in-house phase of the plan consists of internal design, procurement of the cable drum hoist and control panels from a fabrication facility, and demolition of the hydraulic hoist components and the installation of the cable drum components by the District field station personnel.

The S-179, S-333, and S-335 spillways were constructed in the 1960s and 1970s and have operating platform designs that allow for the hoist conversions to be performed in-house. The spillways have at least eight feet of clearance between the top of the fully raised gate and the top of the operating platform which allow for the conversions to be completed without demolishing the equipment platform. The purpose of the project is to convert four hydraulic hoists to cable drum hoists. Van Linda Iron Works has completed several of these conversions for the District and is being recommended as a sole source supplier of these goods. This contract will be executed through a special procurement under Section 155-6 of the District's Policies and Procedures. This policy provides that licensing, warranty, compatibility requirements that limit the selection to the manufacturer, including purchases of parts, repairs, or maintenance services for field equipment from the original equipment manufacturer, seller, or authorized repair facility (e.g. pumps generators, and specialized field equipment) are exempt from competition.

This project will convert one hydraulic hoisting unit at a time during the dry season. Each conversion should be performed in conjunction with the major gate overhaul, if possible, with an estimated four weeks out of service. The project efforts include replacing the hoisting mechanism and control systems to ensure a longer service life, increased gate position precision, and less maintenance by removing the failure prone components.

### **Additional Item Background:**

#### **Core Mission and Strategic Priorities:**

The S-179, S-333, and S-335 Hydraulic to Cable Drum Conversion Project supports the District's missions of flood control and water supply.

#### **Funding Source:**

The S-179, S-333, and S-335 Hydraulic to Cable Drum Conversion Project will be funded through Ad Valorem funds.

**Staff Contact and/or Presenter:**

Lucine Dadrian, [ldadrian@sfwmd.gov](mailto:ldadrian@sfwmd.gov), 561-682-2685

**ATTACHMENTS:**

[Resolution No. 2023-1213](#)

[Location Map](#)

# **SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT**

## **Resolution No. 2023 - 12XX**

**A Resolution of the Governing Board of the South Florida Water Management District to authorize entering into a sole source agreement with Van Linda Iron Works for the Spillway S-179, S-333, and S-335 Hydraulic to Cable Drum Conversion Project, for an amount not to exceed \$1,150,000, for which \$575,000 in Ad Valorem funds are budgeted in Fiscal Year 2023-2024 and the remainder is subject to Governing Board approval of future years budgets; providing an effective date. (Purchase Order No. 4500145798).**

**WHEREAS**, the Governing Board of the South Florida Water Management District deems it necessary, appropriate and in the public interest to authorize entering into a sole source agreement with Van Linda Iron Works for the procurement of four Cable Drum Hoist skids for Spillways S-179, S-333 and S-335, for an amount not to exceed \$1,150,000.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BOARD OF THE SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT:**

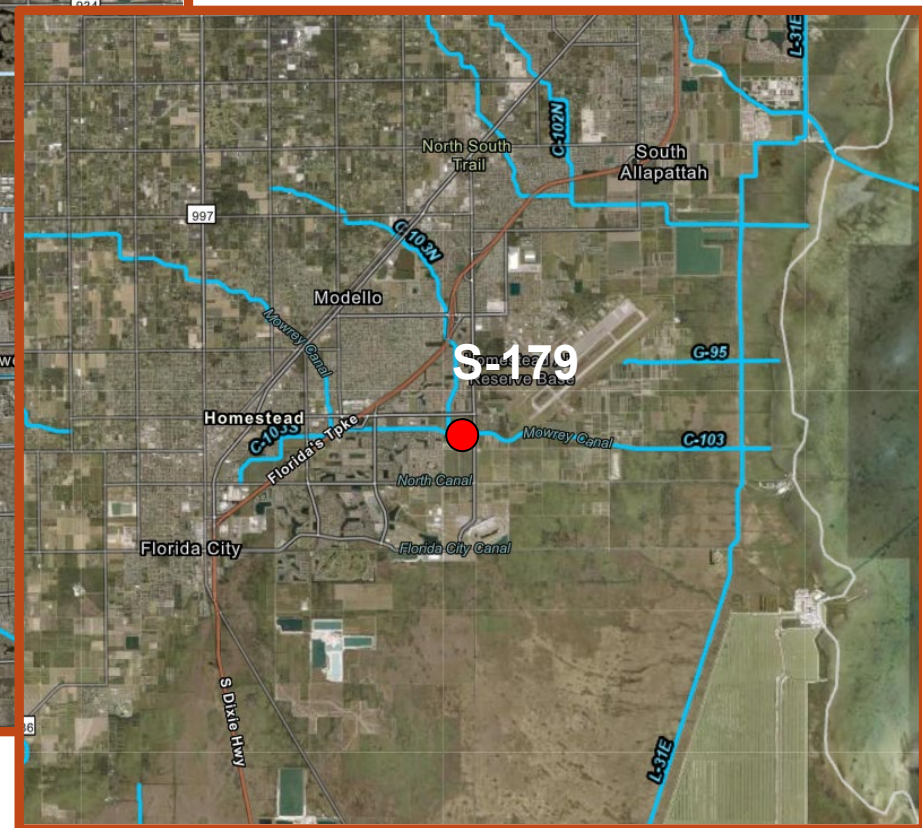
**Section 1.** The Governing Board of the South Florida Water Management District hereby authorizes entering into an agreement for the procurement of four Cable Drum Hoist skids for Spillways S-179, S-333 and S-335, for an amount not to exceed \$1,150,000, for which \$575,000 in Ad Valorem funds are budgeted in Fiscal Year 2023-2024 and the remainder is subject to Governing Board approval of future years budgets; providing an effective date. (Purchase Order No. 4500145798)

**Section 2.** This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

**PASSED and ADOPTED** this 14<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2023.



# Location Map



## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Governing Board Members

**FROM:** Lucine Dadrian, P.E., Engineering, Construction & Modeling

**DATE:** December 14, 2023

**SUBJECT:** STA-1W Expansion #2 G-780 & G-781 Pump Stations Project, Change Order #9, Palm Beach County

### **Agenda Item Background:**

As part of Restoration Strategies, the STA-1W Expansion #2 G-780 and G-781 Pump Stations Project, located in Palm Beach County, is part of the project features for the STA-1W Expansion #2, which is located approximately six-miles south of the southern edge of the existing STA-1W and STA-1W Expansion #1 facilities. The STA-1W Expansion #2 area consists of approximately 2,071 acres of new STA connected to the existing STA-1W complex with a new connection canal to provide the hydraulic connection. The Project works in conjunction with the existing Everglades STAs to meet the Water Quality Based Effluent Limit to achieve compliance with the State of Florida's numeric phosphorus criterion for the Everglades Protection Area outlined in Rule 62-302.540, F.A.C. enforced by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

On November 12, 2020, the Governing Board awarded the STA-1W Expansion #2 G-780 and G-781 Pump Stations Project to Harry Pepper & Associates in the amount of \$76,122,514 (Contract No. 4600004334). The project includes construction of the two 500 cfs inflow pump stations and also includes portions of the canals and levees associated with these pump stations. The work is adjacent to another component of the overall project that is nearing completion. Dewatering activities are required for both projects to maintain low water levels in order to construct the project features and avoid flooding of adjacent owners. The adjacent contract is responsible for the construction of a concrete-lined channel that will deliver water from the pump stations to the completed STA expansion. That contract is nearing completion, but these dewatering activities are needed to complete the overall project. Work includes installing two 30-inch axial-flow temporary pumps including diesel drive units with appurtenances such as discharge piping and fuel supply systems for fully operational pumping systems.

Previously executed Change Orders No. 1 through 8 total \$1,278,025.23 and include access road repairs, weather delays, misc. items (air intake hoods, pump sole plates, etc.), credits for lube water system & fiber optic innerduct, and additional culverts and FPL work. Change Order No. 9 is \$298,307.49 and includes work associated with taking over the fueling and maintenance of dewatering operations from the STA Construction Contractor once that Contractor is Substantially Complete.

### **Additional Item Background:**

#### **Core Mission and Strategic Priorities:**

This project supports the District's core mission of flood control, water supply, water quality, and ecosystem restoration.

**Funding Source:**

Dedicated funds (Land Acquisition Trust Fund and Everglades Trust Fund) and Ad Valorem funds are budgeted in Fiscal Year 2023-2024.

**Staff Contact and/or Presenter:**

Lucine Dadrian, P.E., [ldadrian@sfwmd.gov](mailto:ldadrian@sfwmd.gov), 561-682-2685

**ATTACHMENTS:**

[Resolution No. 2023-1214](#)

[Location Map](#)

**SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT**

**Resolution No. 2023 - 1214**

**A Resolution of the Governing Board of the South Florida Water Management District to authorize Change Order No. 9 to Contract No. 4600004334 with Harry Pepper & Associates, Inc. for construction of the STA-1W Expansion #2 G-780 & G-781 Pump Stations Project, for an additional amount not to exceed \$298,307.49 for which dedicated funds (Land Acquisition Trust Fund and Everglades Trust Fund) and ad valorem funds are budgeted in Fiscal Year 2023-2024; providing an effective date. (Contract No.4600004334-CO09)**

**WHEREAS**, the Governing Board of the South Florida Water Management District deems it necessary, appropriate, and in the public interest to authorize Change Order No. 9 with Harry Pepper & Associates, Inc., for construction of the STA-1W Expansion #2 G-780 & G-781 Pump Stations Project.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BOARD OF THE SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT:**

**Section 1.** The Governing Board of the South Florida Water Management District hereby authorizes Change Order No. 9 to Contract No. 4600004334 with Harry Pepper & Associates, Inc.

**Section 2.** This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

**PASSED** and **ADOPTED** this 14<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2023.

SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT, BY ITS GOVERNING BOARD  
By:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chauncey P. Goss, II  
Chairman

Attest:

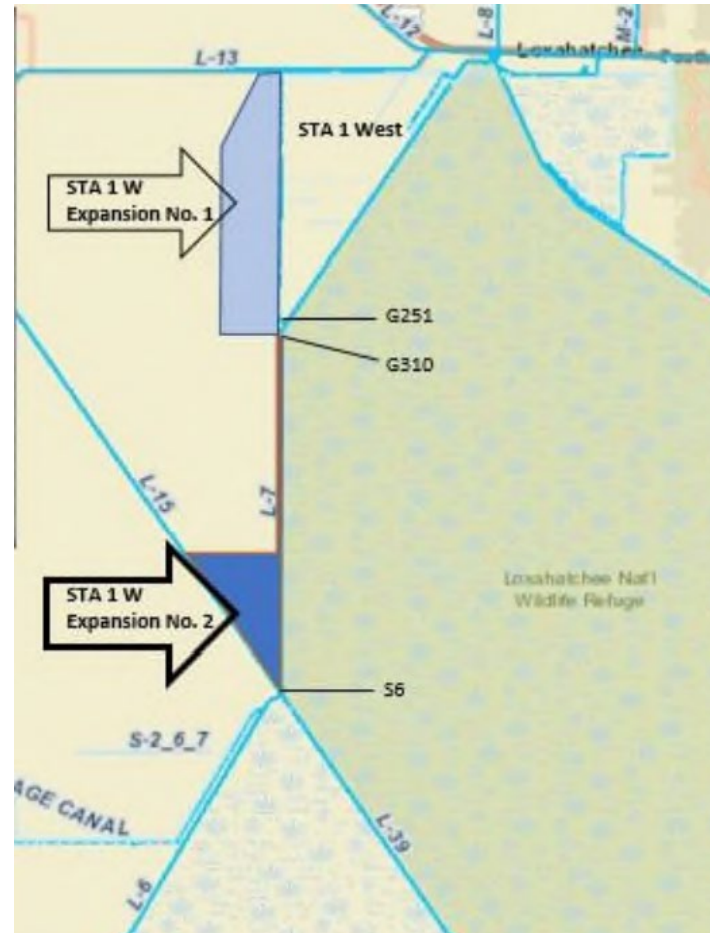
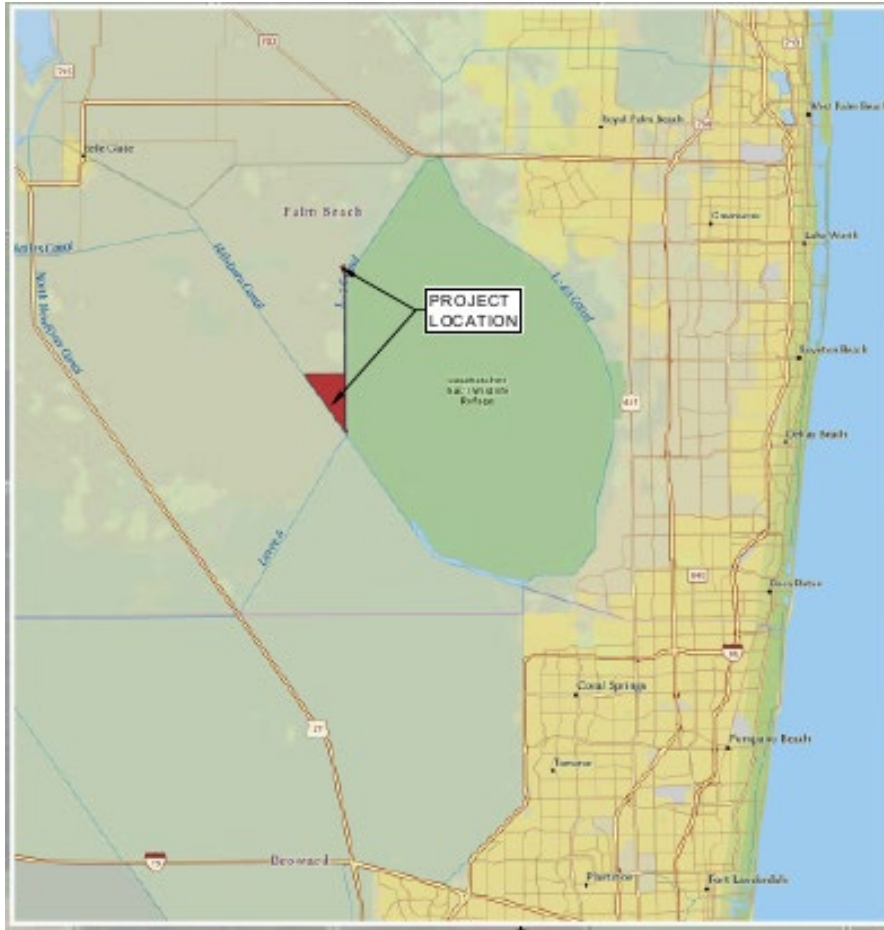
Legal form approved:  
By:

\_\_\_\_\_  
District Clerk/Secretary

\_\_\_\_\_  
Office of Counsel

Print name:  
\_\_\_\_\_

# Location Map



## Palm Beach County

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Governing Board Members

**FROM:** Lucine Dadrian, P.E., Engineering, Construction & Modeling

**DATE:** December 14, 2023

**SUBJECT:** STA-1W Expansion #2 G-782 Pump Station Project, Change Order #5, Palm Beach County

### **Agenda Item Background:**

As part of Restoration Strategies, the STA-1W Expansion #2 G-782 Pump Station Project, located in Palm Beach County, is part of the project features for the STA-1W Expansion #2 which is located approximately six miles south of the southern edge of the existing STA-1W and STA-1W Expansion #1 facilities. The STA-1W Expansion #2 area consists of approximately 2,071 acres of new STA connected to the existing STA-1W complex with a new connection canal to provide the hydraulic connection. The Project works in conjunction with the existing Everglades STAs to meet the Water Quality Based Effluent Limit to achieve compliance with the State of Florida's numeric phosphorus criterion for the Everglades Protection Area outlined in Rule 62-302.540, F.A.C. enforced by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

On November 12, 2020, the Governing Board awarded the STA-1W Expansion #2 G-782 Pump Station Project to Harry Pepper & Associates in the amount of \$37,418,195 (Contract No. 4600004335). The project includes construction of the 625 cfs STA outflow pump station which includes portions of the canals and levees associated with pump station. The Project includes construction of the G-782 (outflow) pump station which includes the construction of the 625 cfs outflow pump stations and portions of the canals and levees associated with these pump stations. This work is adjacent to another component of the overall project that is nearing completion. Dewatering activities are required for both projects to maintain low water levels in order to construct the project features and avoid flooding of adjacent owners. The adjacent contract is responsible for the construction of a concrete-lined channel and STA expansion that will deliver water from the completed STA expansion to the Hillsboro Canal (L-15 Canal). That contract is nearing completion, but these dewatering activities are needed to complete the overall project. Work includes installing two 30-inch axial-flow temporary pumps including diesel drive units with appurtenances such as discharge piping and fuel supply systems for fully operational pumping systems.

Previously executed Change Orders No. 1 through 4 total \$893,787.44 and include dewatering changes, weather delays, misc. items (air intake hoods, pump sole plates, etc.), credits for lube water system & fiber optic innerduct, and temporary pumping costs to maintain water levels in the adjacent STA infrastructure. Change Order No. 5 is \$898,891.90 and includes work associated with taking over the dewatering operations from the STA Construction Contractor at the STA Outflow Canal once that Contractor is Substantially Complete.

### **Additional Item Background:**

**Core Mission and Strategic Priorities:**

This project supports the District's core mission of flood control, water supply, water quality, and ecosystem restoration.

**Funding Source:**

Dedicated funds (Land Acquisition Trust Fund and Everglades Trust Fund) and Ad Valorem funds are budgeted in Fiscal Year 2023-2024.

**Staff Contact and/or Presenter:**

Lucine Dadrian, P.E., [ldadrian@sfwmd.gov](mailto:ldadrian@sfwmd.gov), 561-682-2685

**ATTACHMENTS:**

[Resolution No. 2023-1215](#)

[Location Map](#)

# **SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT**

## **Resolution No. 2023 - 12XX**

**A Resolution of the Governing Board of the South Florida Water Management District to authorize Change Order No. 5 to Contract No. 4600004335 with Harry Pepper & Associates, Inc. for construction of the STA-1W Expansion #2 G-782 Pump Station Project, for an additional amount not to exceed \$898,891.90 for which dedicated funds (Land Acquisition Trust Fund and Everglades Trust Fund) and Ad Valorem funds are budgeted in Fiscal Year 2023-2024; providing an effective date. (Contract No.4600004335-CO05)**

**WHEREAS**, the Governing Board of the South Florida Water Management District deems it necessary, appropriate, and in the public interest to authorize Change Order No. 5 with Harry Pepper & Associates, Inc., for construction of the STA-1W Expansion #2 G-782 Pump Station Project.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BOARD OF THE SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT:**

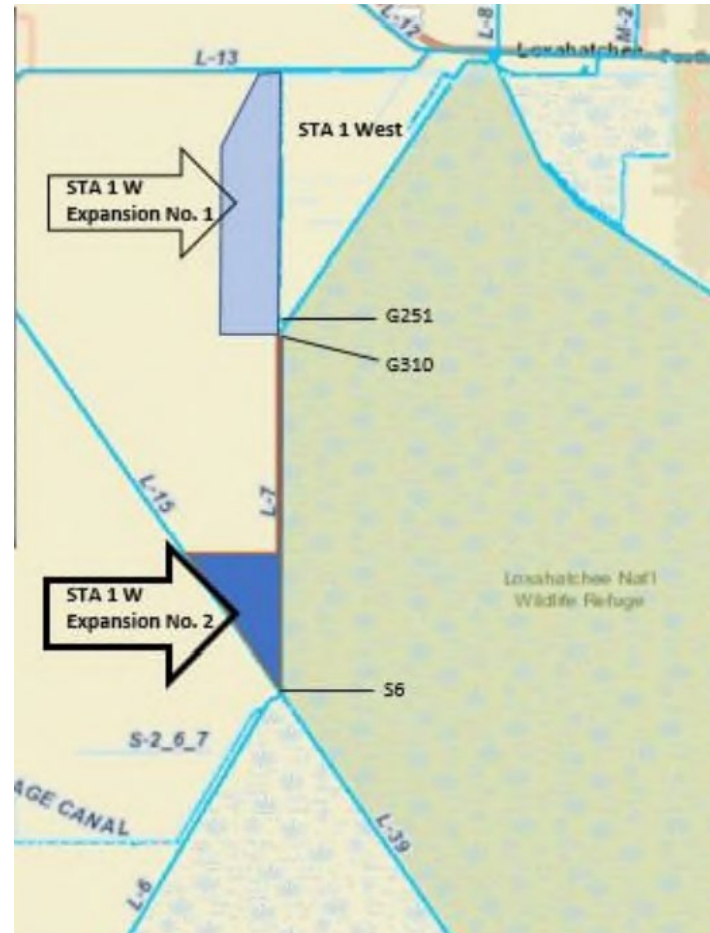
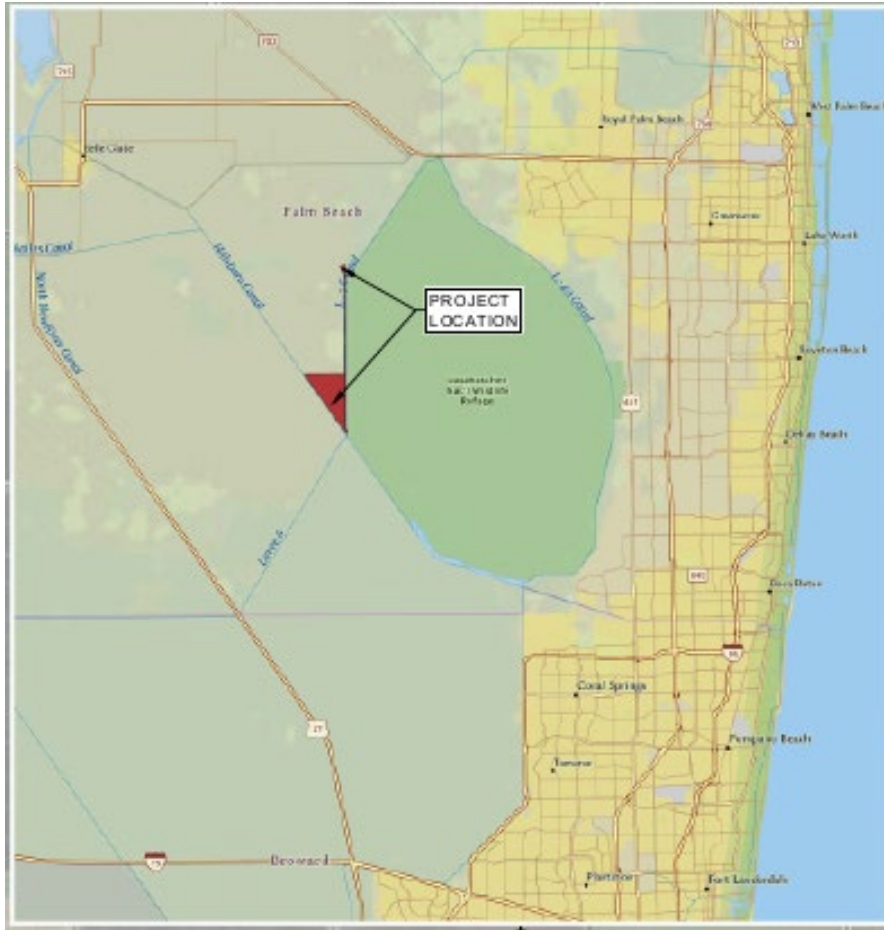
**Section 1.** The Governing Board of the South Florida Water Management District hereby authorizes Change Order No. 5 to Contract No. 4600004335 with Harry Pepper & Associates, Inc.

**Section 2.** This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

**PASSED and ADOPTED this 14<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2023.**



# Location Map



## Palm Beach County

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Governing Board Members

**FROM:** Lucine Dadrian, P.E., Engineering, Construction & Modeling

**DATE:** December 14, 2023

**SUBJECT:** Stilling Well Platform Improvements, Broward and Miami-Dade Counties

### **Agenda Item Background:**

As part of the District's Resiliency of Coastal Structures and Capital Improvement Program, the Stilling Well Platform Improvements Project, located in Broward and Miami-Dade Counties, install new stilling well platforms and stilling well instruments at 10 structures and three optional locations. The new stilling well instruments, mounted on the platforms, provide the District with more reliable real-time and continuous readings of the water levels in these water bodies, supporting remote operations of the coastal flood control structures. The new stilling well installations will also support the storm-resistant backup controller system and manatee protection equipment to be completed through a separate contract.

The design for each structure includes the installation of new headwater and tailwater stilling well and platform assemblies to replace the existing and obsolete monitoring wells and their associated outdated systems. Several of the existing well pipes are known to contain asbestos and will be removed in accordance with state regulations. New staff gauges will be installed, and the existing debris barriers and floating boat barriers will be adjusted to accommodate the new stilling well platforms.

This project is part of the Coastal Structures Enhancement and Self-Preservation Mode project, which is receiving grant funds from the Resilient Florida Program. The lowest responsive and responsible bidder is recommended for award. In accordance with District policy and consistent with state law for Request for Bids (RFB) procurements, this item was competitively bid through a sealed bid process. The bid opening for this project was on September 11, 2023.

### **Additional Item Background:**

#### **Core Mission and Strategic Priorities:**

The Stilling Well Platform Improvements Project supports the District's core mission of flood control.

#### **Funding Source:**

The construction of the Stilling Well Platform Improvements, located in Broward and Miami-Dade Counties, will be funded through dedicated funds (State Revenue Sources) and Ad Valorem funds.

#### **Staff Contact and/or Presenter:**

Lucine Dadrian, P.E., [ldadrian@sfwmd.gov](mailto:ldadrian@sfwmd.gov), 561-682-2685

**ATTACHMENTS:**

Resolution No. 2023-1216

Location Map

# **SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT**

## **Resolution No. 2023 - 12XX**

**A Resolution of the Governing Board of the South Florida Water Management District to authorize entering into a 495-day contract with Interlaken, Inc., the lowest responsive and responsible bidder, for the Stilling Well Platform Improvements in Broward and Miami-Dade Counties Project, in the amount of \$8,794,931, for which \$5,452,857 in dedicated funds (State Revenue Sources) and Ad Valorem funds are budgeted in Fiscal Year 2023-2024 and the remainder is subject to approval of future years budgets; providing an effective date. (Contract No. 4600004866)**

**WHEREAS**, the Governing Board of the South Florida Water Management District deems it necessary, appropriate, and in the public interest to authorize entering into a 495-day contract with Interlaken, Inc., the lowest responsive and responsible bidder for Stilling Well Platform Improvements in Broward and Miami-Dade Counties, in the amount of \$8,794,931 for which \$5,452,857 in dedicated funds (State Revenue Sources) and Ad Valorem funds are budgeted in Fiscal Year 2023-2024 and the remainder is subject to Governing Board approval of future years budgets.

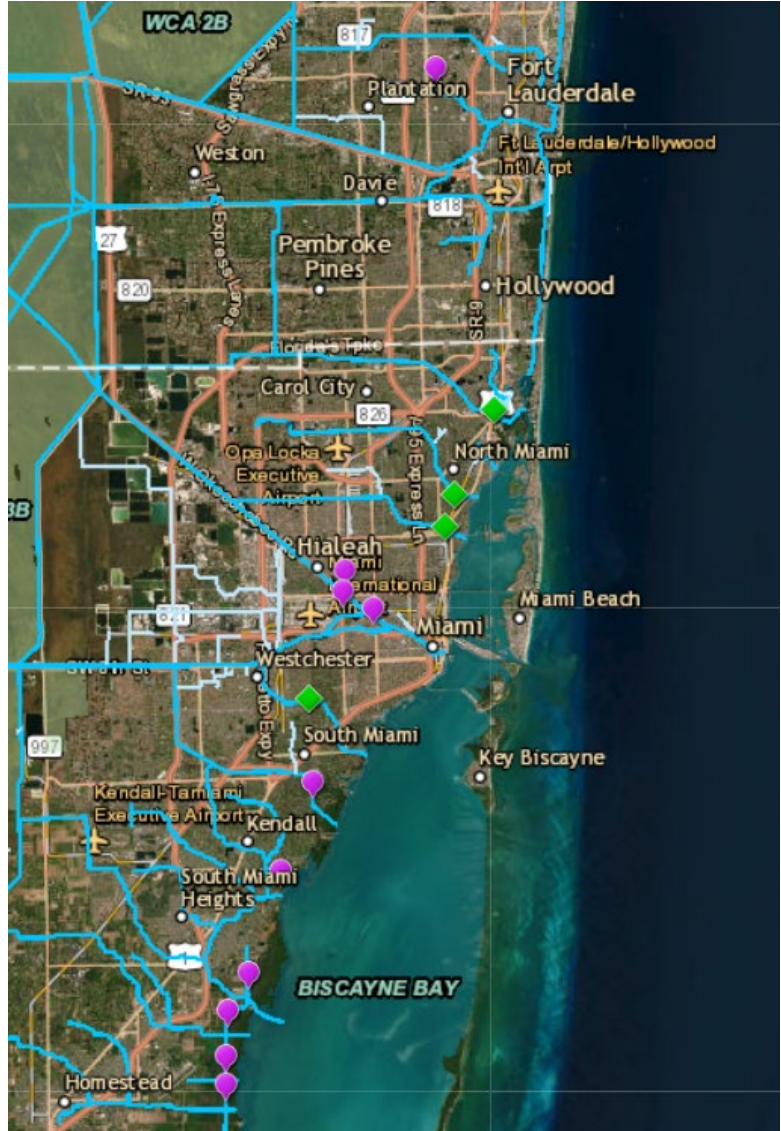
**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BOARD OF THE SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT:**

**Section 1.** The Governing Board of the South Florida Water Management District to authorize entering into a 495-day contract with Interlaken, Inc., the lowest responsive and responsible bidder, for the Stilling Well Platform Improvements in Broward and Miami-Dade Counties Project, in the amount of \$8,794,931, for which \$5,452,857 in dedicated funds (State Revenue Sources) and Ad Valorem funds are budgeted in Fiscal Year 2023-2024 and the remainder is subject to Governing Board approval of future years budgets; providing an effective date. (Contract No. 4600004866)

**Section 2.** This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

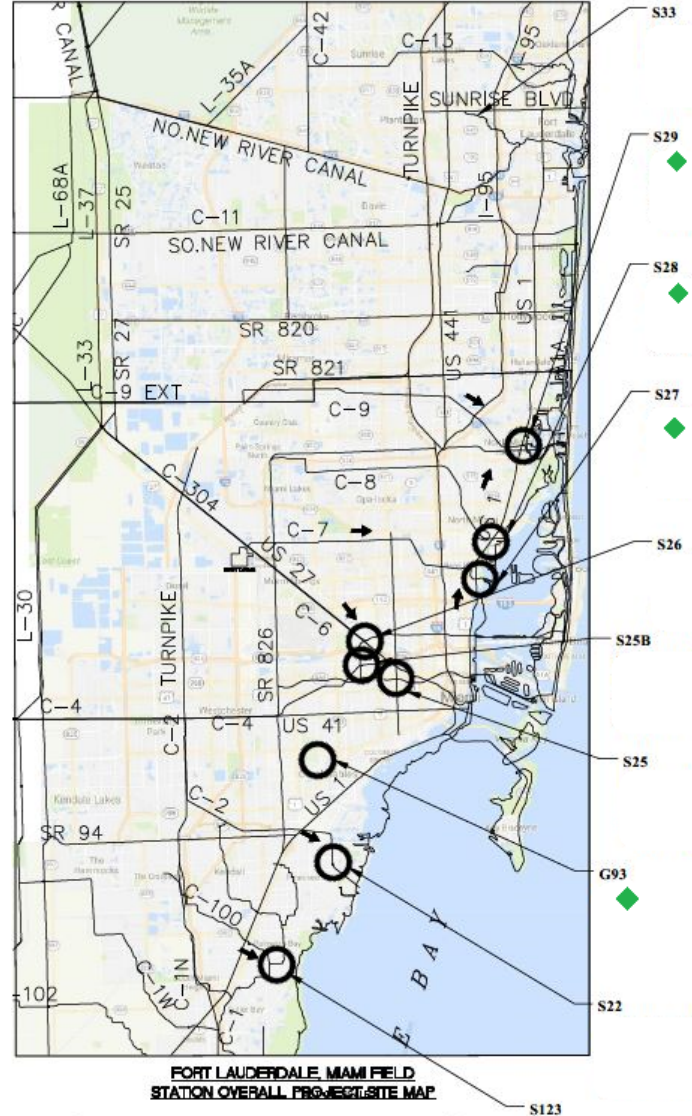
**PASSED and ADOPTED** this 14<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2023.

# Location Map



10 Sites:  
 S33, S26,  
 S25, S25B,  
 S22, S123,  
 S21, S21A,  
 S20G, and  
 S20F

Optional:  
 S27, S29  
 and G93



HOMESTEAD FIELD STATION OVERALL PROJECT SITE MAP  
 NOT TO SCALE

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Governing Board Members

**FROM:** Lucine Dadrian, P.E., Engineering, Construction & Modeling

**DATE:** December 14, 2023

**SUBJECT:** Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands Cutler Flow Way Phase 2 Conveyance System Project, Miami-Dade County

### **Agenda Item Background:**

As part of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan, the Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands (BBCW) - Cutler Flow Way - Phase 2 Conveyance System, located in Miami-Dade County, includes the construction of an above ground concrete lined channel approximately 7,000 feet in length, cast-in-place concrete box culvert, micro tunnel culvert, rehydration spreader canal approximately 2.5 miles in length and recreational features. The Conveyance System, together with the S-701 Pump Station being constructed under a separate contract, will complete the BBCW Cutler Flow Way Project.

The BBCW Cutler Flow Way Project was approved by Congress in Water Resource Development Act of 2014 and included 3 components: Deering Estate, L-31E Flow Way, and Cutler Wetlands. Deering Estate component was completed in 2012, L-31E Flow way culverts and S-709 Pump Station is complete and other remaining features are under construction, and Cutler Wetlands Phase 1 Pump Station is in construction and the Phase 2 Conveyance System will complete this component. The BBCW Cutler Flow Way Project will rehydrate coastal wetlands and reduce point-source freshwater discharge to Biscayne Bay and Biscayne National Park.

The lowest responsive and responsible bidder is recommended for award. In accordance with District policy and consistent with state law for Request for Bids (RFB) procurements, this item was competitively bid through a sealed bid process. The bid opening for this project was on November 14, 2023.

### **Additional Item Background:**

#### **Core Mission and Strategic Priorities:**

The BBCW - Cutler Flow Way Phase 2 Conveyance System Project supports the District's core mission of ecosystem restoration.

#### **Funding Source:**

The BBCW - Cutler Flow Way Phase 2 Conveyance System Project will be funded through dedicated funds (Land Acquisition Trust Fund) and Ad Valorem Funds.

#### **Staff Contact and/or Presenter:**

Lucine Dadrian, P.E., [ldadrian@sfwmd.gov](mailto:ldadrian@sfwmd.gov), 561-682-2685

### **ATTACHMENTS:**

Resolution No. 2023-1217

Location Map

# **SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT**

## **Resolution No. 2023 - 12XX**

**A Resolution of the Governing Board of the South Florida Water Management District to authorize entering into a 572-day contract with Central Florida Equipment Rentals, Inc, the lowest responsive and responsible bidder for the Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands Cutler Flow Way Phase 2 Conveyance System Project, in the amount of \$46,294,000 for which dedicated funds (Land Acquisition Trust Fund) and Ad Valorem funds in the amount of \$26,000,000 are budgeted in Fiscal Year 2023-2024 and the remainder is subject to Governing Board approval of future years budgets, providing an effective date. (Contract No. 4600004890)**

**WHEREAS**, the Governing Board of the South Florida Water Management District deems it necessary, appropriate, and in the public interest to enter into a 572-day contract with Central Florida Equipment Rentals, Inc, the lowest responsive and responsible bidder for the construction of the Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands Cutler Flow Way Phase 2 Conveyance System, in the amount of \$46,294,000.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BOARD OF THE SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT:**

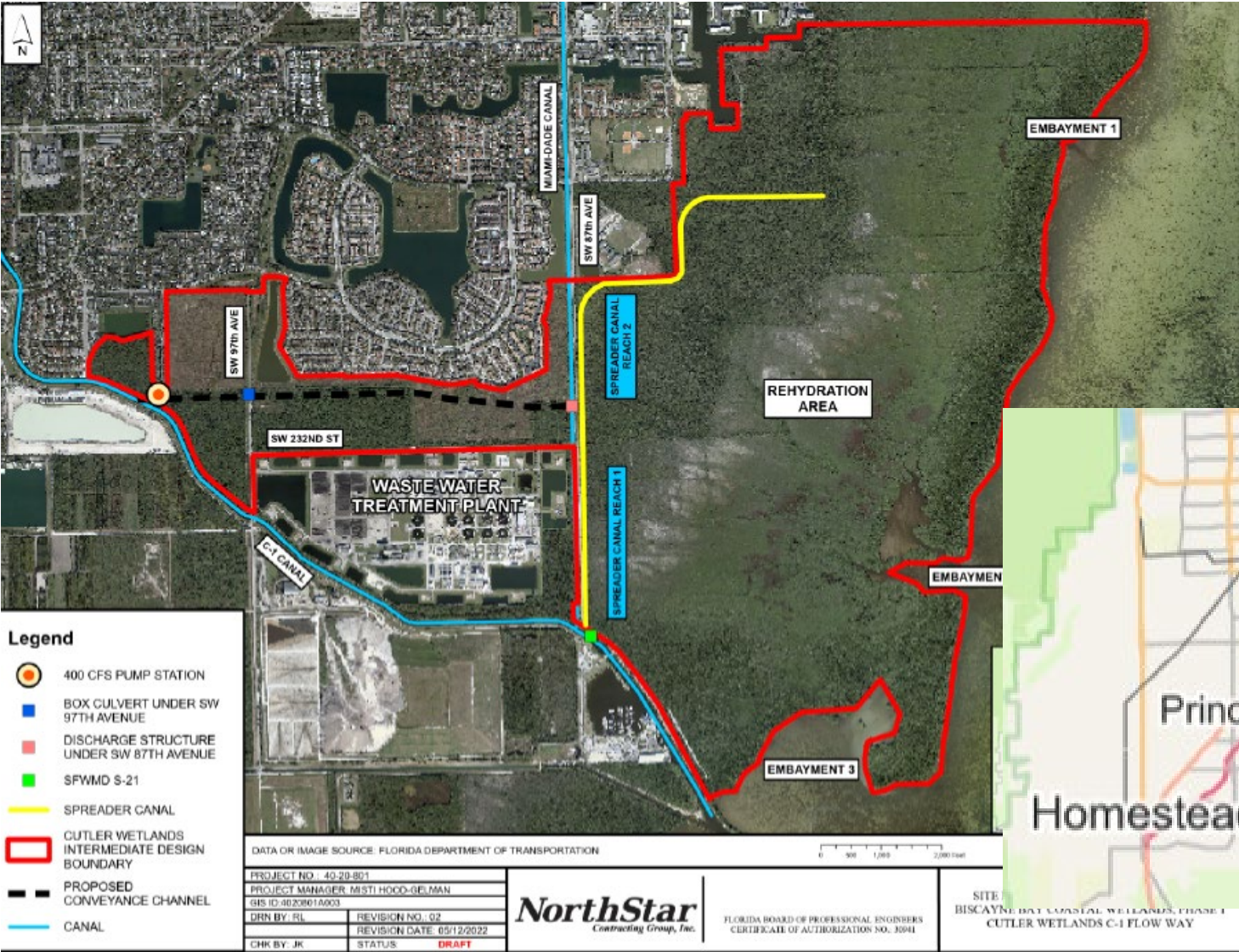
**Section 1.** The Governing Board of the South Florida Water Management District hereby authorizes entering into a 572-day contract with Central Florida Equipment Rentals, Inc, the lowest and responsive bidder for the construction of the Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands Cutler Flow Way Phase 2 Conveyance System, in the amount of \$46,294,000, for which dedicated funds (Land Acquisition Trust Fund) and Ad Valorem funds in the amount of \$26,000,000 are budgeted in Fiscal Year 2023-2024 and the remainder is subject to Governing Board approval of future years budgets. (Contract No. 4600004890).

**Section 2.** This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

**PASSED and ADOPTED** this 14<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2023.



# Location



**Unincorporated Miami-Dade County and Town of Cutler Bay, Miami-Dade County**



## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Governing Board Members

**FROM:** Lucine Dadrian, P.E., Engineering, Construction & Modeling

**DATE:** December 14, 2023

**SUBJECT:** L-28 Culvert Structures S-229A, S-229B and S-229C, Miami-Dade County

### **Agenda Item Background:**

As part of early work for the Western Everglades Restoration Project, the L-28 Culvert Structures S-229A, S-229B and S-229C Project, located in Miami-Dade County, consists of constructing three remotely operable, gated culvert structures. S-229A, S-229B, and S-229C are designed to pass flows of 250 cfs, 350 cfs and 400 cfs, respectively. The work involves construction of the culverts with canal excavation, stilling wells, staff gauges, stainless steel walkways, levee construction and riprap stabilization. The project also includes a control building with instrumentation, telemetry, site lighting, and electric service conduit for each site.

These structures will work in conjunction with existing structures S-343A, S-343B and S-344 located on the L-28 Levee to equalize water between WCA-3A and Big Cypress National Preserve. The project will allow more water to flow west into the Big Cypress National Preserve and south into Everglades National Park, restoring freshwater flows through Lostman's Slough to Florida Bay and reestablish ecological connectivity and resilience of the historic wetland/upland mosaic of habitats. The structures will also work in conjunction with additional culverts under US 41 and Loop Road to ensure flows can move naturally across the landscape.

The lowest responsive and responsible bidder is recommended for award. In accordance with District policy and consistent with state law for Request for Bids (RFB) procurements, this item was competitively bid through a sealed bid process. The bid opening for this project was on December 5, 2023.

### **Additional Item Background:**

#### **Core Mission and Strategic Priorities:**

The L-28 Culvert Structures S-229A, S-229B and S-229C Project supports the District's core mission of ecosystem restoration.

#### **Funding Source:**

The funding for the construction of the L-28 Culvert Structures S-229A, S-229B and S-229C Project will be funded through dedicated funds (Land Acquisition Trust Fund) and Ad Valorem funds.

#### **Staff Contact and/or Presenter:**

Lucine Dadrian, P.E., [ldadrian@sfwmd.gov](mailto:ldadrian@sfwmd.gov), 561-682-2685

### **ATTACHMENTS:**

Resolution No. 2023-1218

Location Map

# **SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT**

## **Resolution No. 2023 - 12XX**

**A Resolution of the Governing Board of the South Florida Water Management District to authorize entering into a 1107-day contract with Phillips and Jordan, Incorporated, for the construction of the L-28 Culvert Structures S-229A, S-229B and S-229C Project, in the amount of \$46,717,331 for which \$15,000,000 in dedicated funds (Land Acquisition Trust Fund) and Ad Valorem funds are budgeted in Fiscal Year 2023-2024 and the remainder is subject to Governing Board approval of future years budgets, providing an effective date. (Contract No. 4600004894).**

**WHEREAS**, the Governing Board of the South Florida Water Management District deems it necessary, appropriate, and in the public interest to enter into a 1107-day contract with Phillips and Jordan, Incorporated, for the construction of the L-28 Culvert Structures S-229A, S-229B and S-229C Project in the amount of \$46,717,331.

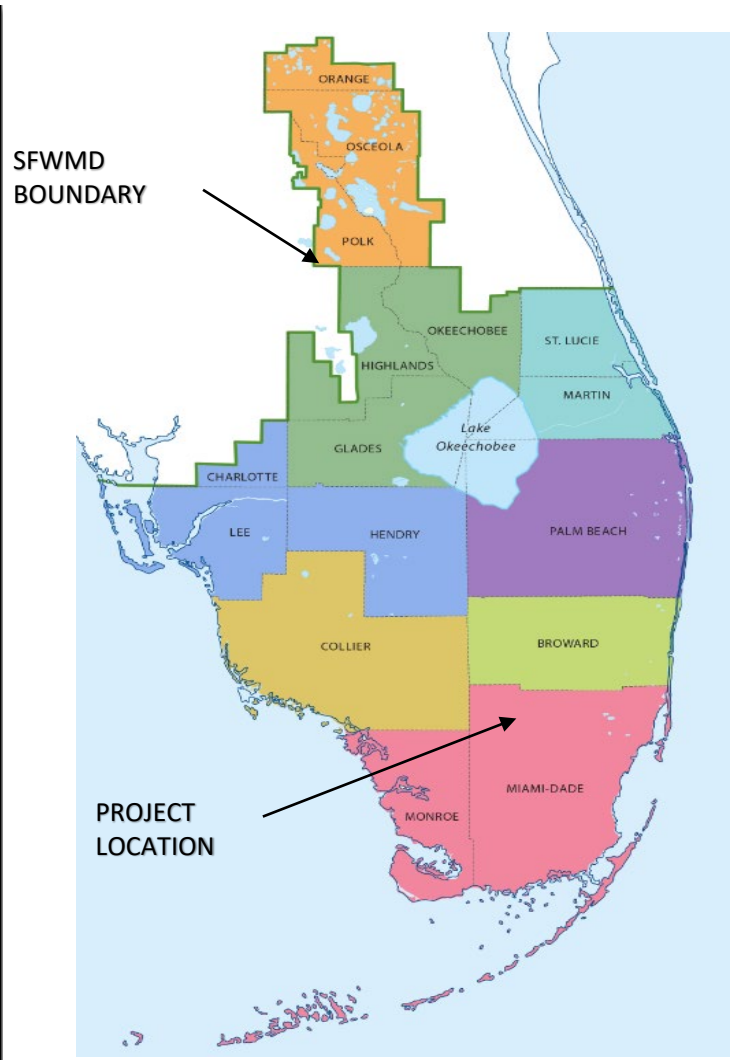
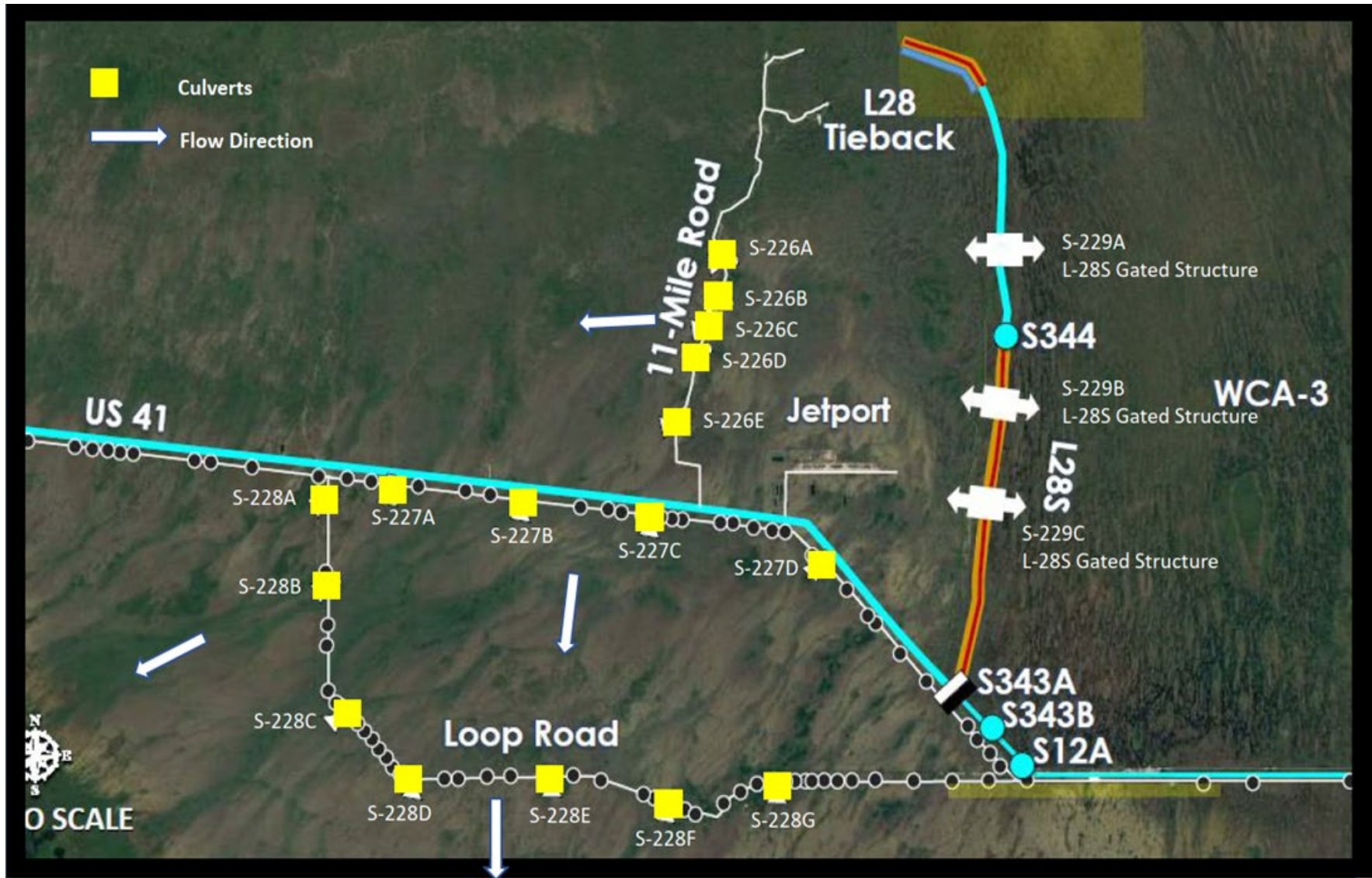
**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BOARD OF THE SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT:**

**Section 1.** The Governing Board of the South Florida Water Management District hereby authorizes entering into a 1107-day contract with Phillips and Jordan, Incorporated, for the construction of the L-28 Culvert Structures S-229A, S-229B and S-229C Project in the amount of \$46,717,331, for which \$15,000,000 in dedicated funds (Land Acquisition Trust Fund) and Ad Valorem funds are budgeted in Fiscal Year 2023-2024 and the remainder is subject to Governing Board approval of future years budgets. (Contract No. 4600004894)

**Section 2.** This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

**PASSED and ADOPTED** this 14<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2023.

# L-28 Culverts Structures S-229A, S-229B and S-229C Location Map



## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Governing Board Members

**FROM:** , Engineering, Construction & Modeling

**DATE:** December 14, 2023

**SUBJECT:** A. North New River Canal Conveyance Improvements, Palm Beach County

### **Agenda Item Background:**

As part of the Central Everglades Planning Project, the North New River Canal Conveyance Project, located in Palm Beach County, will provide 200 cfs of additional capacity to the North New River Canal through widening and deepening approximately 11 miles of the canal in 3 segments. This Project will improve flow south from Lake Okeechobee to the A-2 Reservoir and Stormwater Treatment Area. These canal conveyance improvements include widening and deepening the North New River Canal using both mechanical and hydraulic dredging methods.

This project will play a crucial role by improving the quantity, timing, and distribution of water flows from Lake Okeechobee south to the central Everglades, Florida Bay, and Everglades National Park. Two future companion projects, currently under design, will provide an additional 1,000 cfs in the Miami Canal, further improving the District's ability to send water south from Lake Okeechobee.

The lowest responsive and responsible bidder is recommended for award. In accordance with District policy and consistent with state law for Request for Bids (RFB) procurements, this item was competitively bid through a sealed bid process. The bid opening for this project was on November 8, 2023.

### **Additional Item Background:**

#### **Core Mission and Strategic Priorities:**

The North New River Canal Conveyance Improvements Project supports the District's missions of ecosystem restoration, water supply and flood control.

#### **Funding Source:**

The North New River Canal Conveyance Improvements Project will be funded through dedicated funds (Everglades Trust Fund, State General Revenue and Land Acquisition Trust Fund) and Ad Valorem Funds.

#### **Staff Contact and/or Presenter:**

#### **ATTACHMENTS:**

[Resolution No. 2023-1219](#)

[Location Map](#)

# **SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT**

## **Resolution No. 2023 - 12XX**

**A Resolution of the Governing Board of the South Florida Water Management District to authorize entering into a 645-day contract with Ryan Incorporated Southern, the lowest responsive and responsible bidder, for the North New River Canal Conveyance Improvement Project, in the amount of \$86,213,656, for which \$33,000,000 in dedicated funds (Everglades Trust Fund, State General Revenue and Land Acquisition Trust Fund) and Ad Valorem funds are budgeted in Fiscal Year 2023-2024 and the remainder is subject to Governing Board approval of future years budgets; providing an effective date. (Contract No.4600004891)**

**WHEREAS**, the Governing Board of the South Florida Water Management District deems it necessary, appropriate, and in the public interest to enter into a 645-day contract with Ryan Incorporated Southern, for the North New River Canal Conveyance Improvement Project, in the amount of \$86,213,656.

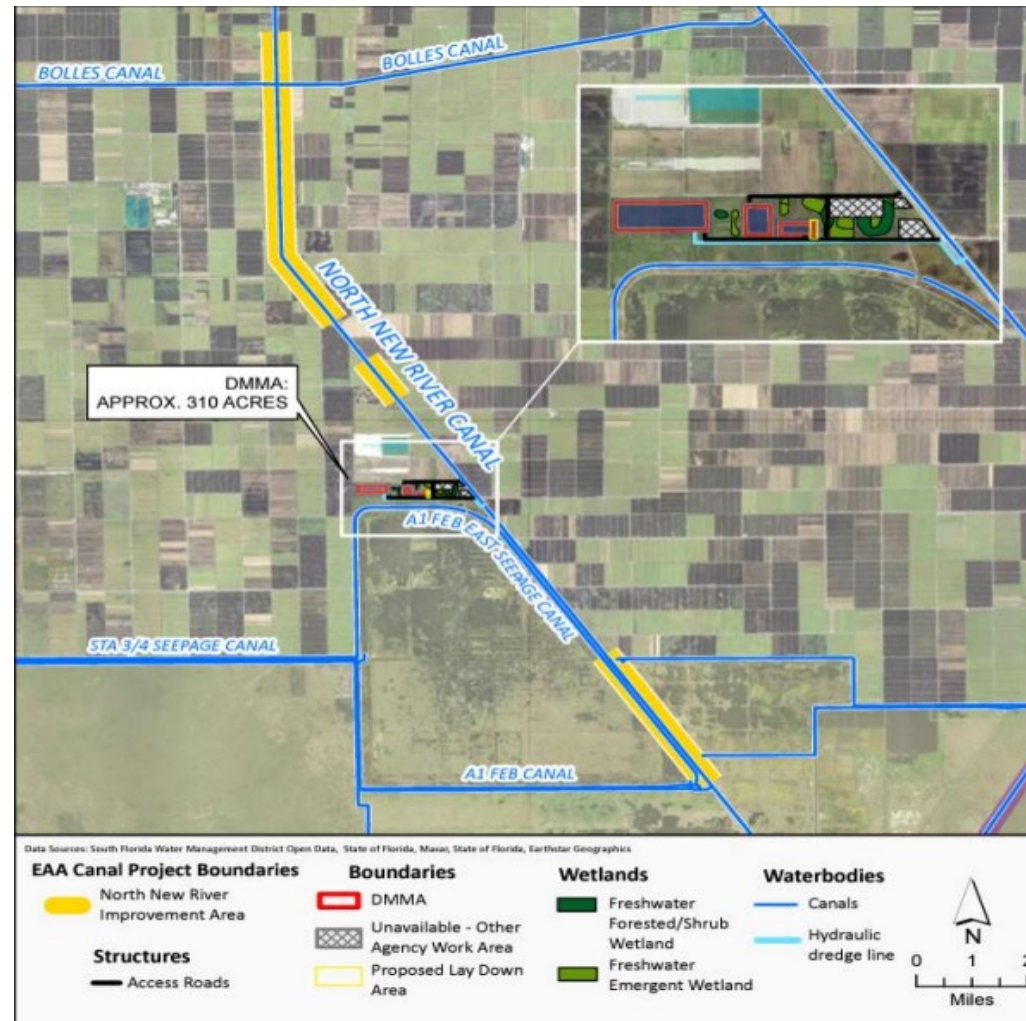
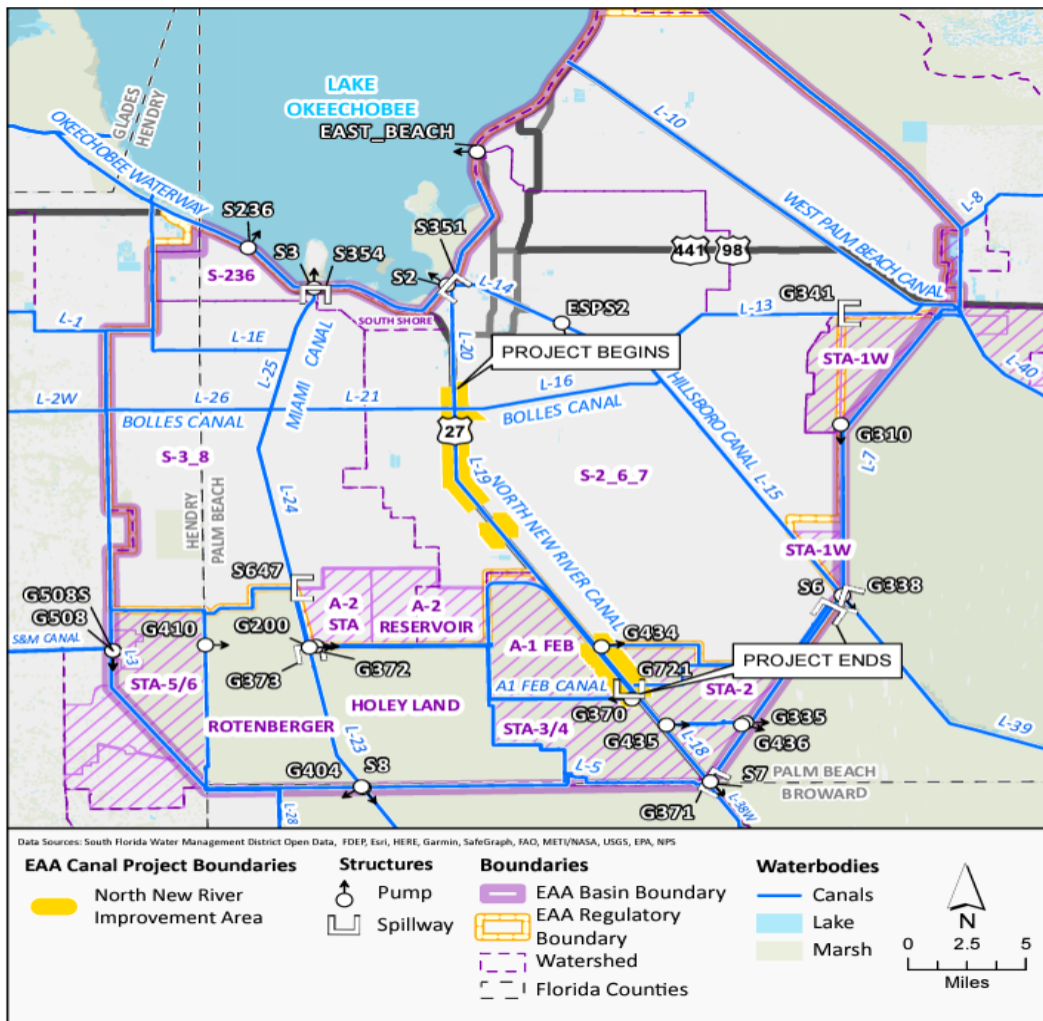
**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BOARD OF THE SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT:**

**Section 1.** The Governing Board of the South Florida Water Management District hereby authorizes entering into a 645-day contract with Ryan Incorporated Southern, the lowest responsive and responsible bidder, for the North New River Canal Conveyance Improvement Project, in the amount of \$86,213,656, for which \$33,000,000 in dedicated funds (Everglades Trust Fund, State General Revenue and Land Acquisition Trust Fund) and Ad Valorem funds are budgeted in Fiscal Year 2023-2024 and the remainder is subject to Governing Board approval of future years budgets. (Contract No. 4600004891)

**Section 3.** This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

**PASSED** and **ADOPTED** this 14<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2023.

# Location





## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Governing Board Members

**FROM:** , Engineering, Construction & Modeling

**DATE:** December 14, 2023

**SUBJECT:** B. Everglades Agricultural Area (EAA) A-2 STA Change Order, Palm Beach County

### **Agenda Item Background:**

As part of the Central Everglades Planning Project (CEPP), the CEPP New Waters EAA Stormwater Treatment Area Project, located in Palm Beach County, will build approximately 6,500 acres of Stormwater Treatment Area (STA) including embankments, canals, pump stations, and control structures. The Project will help to dramatically reduce the volume of damaging discharges from Lake Okeechobee to the coastal estuaries for flood protection purposes. It will also provide storage, treatment and conveyance for an average of 370,000 acre-feet of additional water to the Southern Everglades each year. Governor DeSantis' Executive Order 19-12 (Achieving More Now for Florida's Environment) called for the District to immediately expedite the next phase of this project. On February 11, 2021, the Governing Board awarded the A-2 Stormwater Treatment Area Project to Phillips & Jordan, Inc. (Contract No. 4600004380).

The change order scope includes surveying, clearing, disking and grading of Cells 1, 2 & 3. Grading the cell bottoms will maximize the efficiency of nutrient removal in the STA and minimize the risk of short-circuiting of the flow through the STA, which would require additional regrading in the future. The original contract did not include this scope, and performing work now is more cost effective and does not delay the start-up/grow-in period.

### **Additional Item Background:**

#### **Core Mission and Strategic Priorities:**

This project supports the District's core missions of flood control, water quality, and ecosystem restoration.

#### **Funding Source:**

This change order will be funded through dedicated funds (Everglades Trust Fund and Land Acquisition Trust Fund) and Ad Valorem Funds are budgeted in Fiscal Year 2023-2024.

#### **Staff Contact and/or Presenter:**

### **ATTACHMENTS:**

[Resolution No. 2023-1220](#)

[Location Map](#)

# **SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT**

## **Resolution No. 2023 - 12XX**

**A Resolution of the Governing Board of the South Florida Water Management District to authorize Change Order No. 9 to Contract No. 4600004380 with Phillips & Jordan, Inc., in the amount of \$22,924,603.66 for which dedicated funds (Everglades Trust Fund and Land Acquisition Trust Fund) and Ad Valorem funds are budgeted in Fiscal Year 2023-2024; providing an effective date. (Contract No. 4600004380-CO09)**

**WHEREAS**, the Governing Board of the South Florida Water Management District entered into a 1,010-day contract with Phillips & Jordan, Inc., the lowest responsive and responsible bidder in the amount of \$175,884,000 on February 11, 2021; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Governing Board of the South Florida Water Management District deems it necessary, appropriate, and in the public interest to authorize Change Order No. 9 to Contract No. 4600004380 with Phillips & Jordan, Inc., in the amount of \$22,924,603.66 to maximize the efficiency of the Stormwater Treatment Area to remove excess nutrients.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BOARD OF THE SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT:**

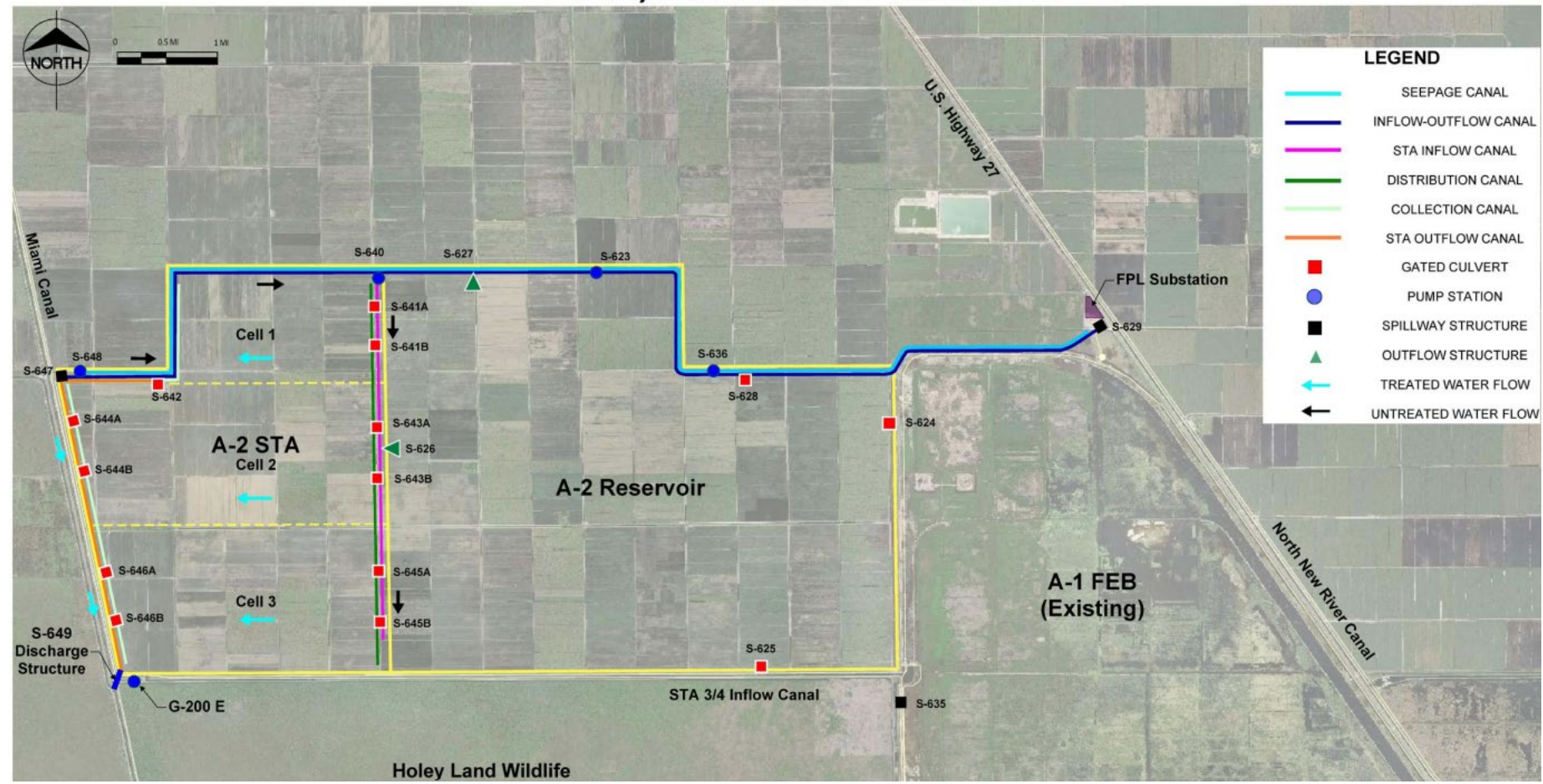
**Section 1.** The Governing Board of the South Florida Water Management District hereby authorizes a Change Order No. 9 to Contract No. 4600004380 with Phillips & Jordan, Inc., in the amount of \$22,924,603.66 for which dedicated funds (Everglades Trust Fund and Land Acquisition Trust Fund) and Ad Valorem funds are budgeted in Fiscal Year 2023-2024. (Contract No. 4600004380-CO09)

**Section 2.** This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

**PASSED and ADOPTED** this 14<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2023.

# Location

## EAA/A-2 STA PROJECT





**OKEECHOBEE COUNTY**

**OPPOSITION TO PROPOSED SFWMD  
LOWER KISSIMMEE BASIN STORMWATER TREATMENT AREA  
(LKBSTA)**

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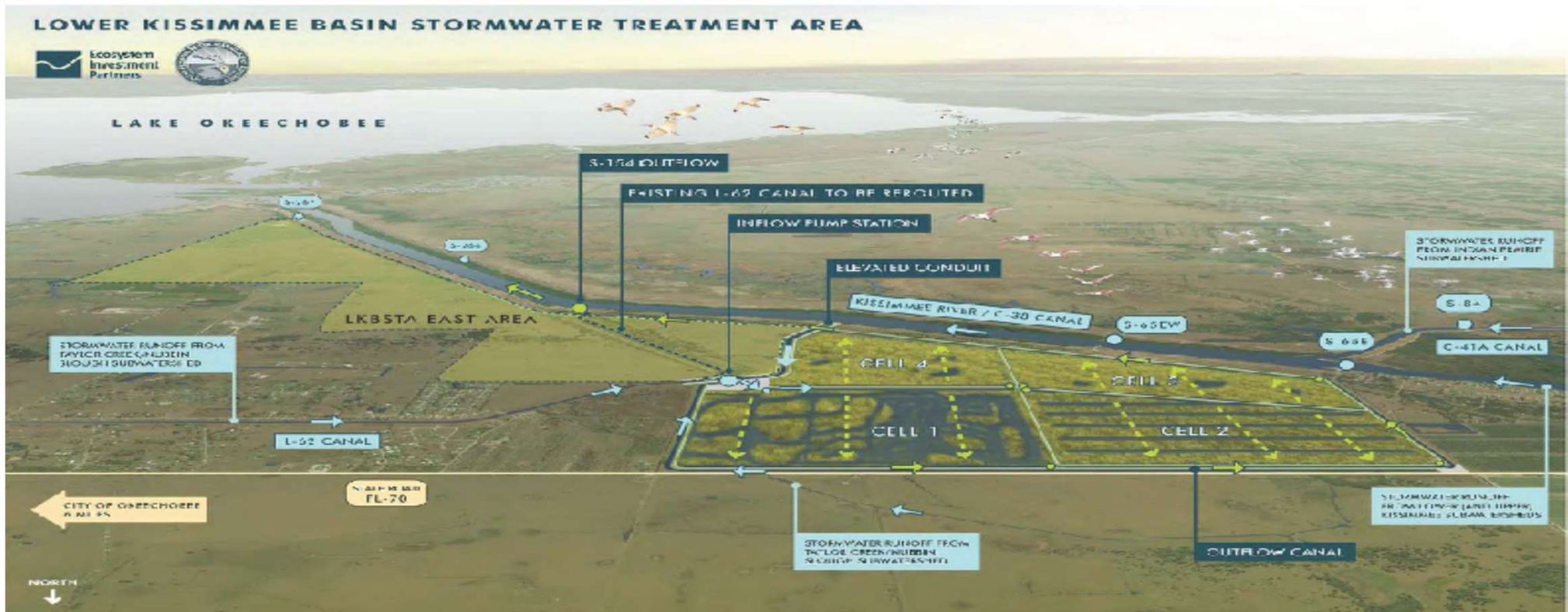
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2023

## Okeechobee County Supports The Need & Purpose of Stormwater Treatment Areas – **Just Not In This Location...**

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- Okeechobee County Board of County Commission is an advocate and strong supporter of the need for STA's within our region to reduce nutrient discharges prior to entering Lake Okeechobee
- Together with the District,
  - We must be concerned and respectful of the negative impacts that the proposed LKBSTA facility will bring to our community
  - Need to develop/identify opportunities to improve the environmental issues that we are challenged with today without placing a significant impact on our homeowners and property owners

# Proposed LKBSTA Project Location – Southwest Okeechobee County



## Okeechobee County Board of County Commissioners Opposes the planned SFWMD LKBSTA Project - Proposed to be Developed by Ecosystem Investment Partners (EIP)

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- Okeechobee County **opposes the proposed Lower Kissimmee Basin Stormwater Treatment Area (LKBSTA) Project in its current location**
- County is requesting the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) Governing Board **to oppose and discontinue its consideration of the design and construction of the LKBSTA project** by Ecosystem Investment Partners Florida Water Quality, LLC – Ecosystem Investment Partners, LLC (EIP)
- Request **to oppose includes the proposed expansion of this project to include the adjacent property** that is either owned and/or controlled/managed by HGS, LLC d.b.a. RES Environmental Operating Company (RES)

## Four (4) reasons the Okeechobee Board of County Commissioners are not in support of the proposed project:

---

1. Insufficient transparency related to the proposed LKBSTA project development, impacts and cost
2. There are better options that are available today that do not threaten the safety of our community's homes and are not nearly as financially taxing to our residents and businesses
3. This project, if developed, is too close to three (3) airstrips, with one being the Okeechobee County Airport, which is one of the most significant economic development tools that the County maintains in an effort to attract jobs and resources to our community
4. The proposed LKBSTA project is being planned to be developed on the RIO Ranch property in western Okeechobee County (adjacent to State Road 70) to address one of the highest nutrient contributors in our region – the Kissimmee River (according to the SFWMD)
  - The River and natural or historical flow/drainage is bringing in significant amounts of phosphorus into the Okeechobee community from other areas around the central Florida areas and the properties within Okeechobee County are being utilized to attempt to clean the water from other areas of the state



# Insufficient transparency related to the proposed LKBSTA project development, impacts and cost

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- Limited information on the District's website related to selection of EIP, owners of the proposed property to be developed as the LKBSTA, to complete the design/build in the amount of \$300 million
- Only one document was found when utilizing the search function within the District's website – "[Lower Kissimmee Basin Stormwater Treatment Project](#)" presentation by Ms. Jennifer Reynolds – Division Director – Ecosystem Restoration & Capital Projects Division – December 9, 2021
- To date, this project has progressed through the District's design stage without notice to the public nor the acceptance of comments/suggestions from the community
- Our residents, businesses and stakeholders should have the opportunity to voice their thoughts and/or concerns on this significant infrastructure project during the conceptual (or feasibility) stage
- Public awareness on the progress of this project was limited until recently
- No public or community meetings were held and/or notifications were sent out to potentially impacted property owners until August 29, 2023, which was requested by the Okeechobee County Commission on June 26, 2023 [two (2) public meetings were held on the same day at the Okeechobee County Civic Center]

## There are better options available today that do not threaten the safety of our community's homes and are not as financially taxing to our residents and businesses

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Our homes are one of our greatest investments and the safety and cost impacts that this project would create are valid to real concerns/fears for our homeowners in this area.

- New flooding concerns have emerged due to a lack of understanding by the District's selected firm – EIP Florida Water Quality, LLC – on the current structures within the area (i.e., finished floor elevations, surrounding neighborhood drainage infrastructure needs and/or concerns, etc.) and the expected design of the proposed project
- The potential for flooding as a result of this project is expected to negatively affect some homes and property values in close proximity to the proposed LKBSTA project and may now be required to carry additional flood insurance for these homeowners and would place an unnecessary financial burden on many residents
- This project may increase the risk to our property owners who may experience significant rate increases (above the significant increases that we are already seeing within our County and throughout the state of Florida before this project is constructed) due to the inherent flooding that may occur from this project or losing their home due to flooding

## There are better options available today that do not threaten the safety of our community's homes and are not as financially taxing to our residents and businesses

---

- Residential property owners within the area of the proposed project have also outlined/voiced additional concerns and impacts that may affect their homes/property and quality of life, including:
  - Noise
  - Dust
  - Loss of peaceful living (i.e., construction, recreational activities, etc.)
  - Increase in alligators, mosquitos and other pests
  - Flooding of State Road 70, which is an emergency evacuation route
  - Loss of farm land to support our state's and country's food needs and/or economic development opportunities for water storage purposes
- Proposed leaching of phosphorus to continue from the Kissimmee River without corrective solution (should be addressed prior to this project being considered)

# Proposed SFWMD LKBSTA Does Not Comply With The County's Land Development Regulations (LDR's)

## 3.01.00. - AIRPORT OVERLAY ZONE

### Footnotes:

— (1) —

Cross reference—Article, sh. 14.

### 3.01.01. - Generally.

This section is adopted pursuant to the authority conferred by F.S. § 333.03. It is hereby found that an airport obstruction has the potential for being hazardous to aircraft operations as well as to the persons and property on the ground in the vicinity of the obstruction. An obstruction may affect land use in the vicinity of the obstruction, and in effect reduces the size of areas available for the landing, taking off and maneuvering of aircraft, thus tending to destroy or impair the utility of the Okeechobee County Municipal Airport and the public investment therein. Accordingly, it is declared:

- A. That the creation or establishment of an airport obstruction is a public nuisance and an injury to the region served by the Okeechobee County Municipal Airport;
- B. That it is necessary in the interest of the public health, public safety, and general welfare that the creation of airport obstructions and structures be prevented; and
- C. That it is necessary in the interest of the public health, and general welfare that the establishment of incompatible land uses be prevented in the areas defined as the CNR 100 contour (ASOS 85 dBA) noise area and/or the accident potential hazard area; and
- D. That the prevention of these obstructions, structures and incompatible land uses should be accomplished to the extent legally possible, by the exercise of the police power without compensation; and
- E. That both the prevention and the creation or establishment of airport obstructions, structures and incompatible land uses and the elimination, removal, alteration, mitigation, or making and lighting of existing airport hazards are public purposes for which the political subdivision may raise and expend public funds and acquire land or interests in land.

### 3.01.02. - Establishment of airport zoning map.

There is hereby established an official Okeechobee County Municipal Airport zoning map. This map shall be maintained and modified by the county clerk in the manner prescribed for the official zoning atlas in section 2.03.01 of this code.

### 3.01.03. - Airport zones and airspace height limitations.

The proposed project does not comply with the County's Airport Zoning regulations with the County's Land Development Code - specifically, Section 3.01.03.F – Airport zones and airspace height limitations. – Other areas., which states:

“In addition to the height limitations imposed in paragraphs A through E above, no structure or obstruction will be permitted within Okeechobee County that would cause a hazard to air navigation.”



## Bird & Wildlife Issues Are Expected As Evidenced Through Experience With Existing STA's In the Area:

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The SFWMD's website ([www.sfwmd.gov](http://www.sfwmd.gov)) provides the following related to promoting wildlife within their STA's, which is expected to lead to real safety issues for airplanes utilizing the County's Airport:

"STAs provide another bonus – prime home and visiting territory to wildlife including wading birds, ducks and American alligators. A variety of nature-based recreational activities are allowed at several of these wetland locations."

"South Florida is often the last stop for birds on their flight to the Caribbean and Central and South America. The SFWMD manages 60,000 acres of stormwater treatment areas and constructed wetlands that provide habitat for migratory birds as they travel through the region."

"Located on approximately 17,000 acres in eastern Hendry County, Stormwater Treatment Area 5/6 (STA-5/6) has become one of the premier bird-watching areas in Florida through a long-standing partnership with the Hendry-Glades Audubon Society. More than 200 bird species have been spotted at STA-5/6 on the seasonal, guided bird-watching tours offered by the local Audubon chapter. The site is also popular as a waterfowl hunting area managed by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC)."

# US Department of Transportation - Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) - Recommends Relocating/Mitigating Proposed SFWMD LKBSTA Project



U.S. Department  
of Transportation  
Federal Aviation  
Administration

September 27, 2023

Orlando Airports District Office  
8427 SouthPark Circle, Suite 524  
Orlando, FL 32819  
Phone: (407) 467-7720  
Fax: (407) 467-7135

[via email to: jhurst@co.okeechobee.fl.us]

Mr. John L. Hurst  
Airport & Commerce Park Director  
Okeechobee County Airport & Commerce Park  
2800 NW 20th Trail  
Okeechobee, FL 34972

RE: Proposed Lower Kissimmee Basin Stormwater Treatment Area (LKBSTA)  
Okeechobee County, Florida

Dear Mr. Hurst,

We have reviewed the proposed development of a surface water treatment facility that would be developed in the vicinity of the Okeechobee County Airport (OBE). Based on the information provided, the project would take water from the Kissimmee River and circulate the water through a series of man-made wetlands/marshes to remove phosphorus and other nutrients. Once treated, the water would be discharged back into the river.

Okeechobee County Airport is a public-use airport that is used by a wide variety of aircraft, including business jets. A portion of the proposed water quality treatment project site is located within five miles of the airport and on the extended centerline of Runway 5-23, the airport's primary runway. The site is located under a segment of the non-precision instrument approach procedure for Runway 5. The same area is traversed by many aircraft departing the airport on Runway 23.

FAA Advisory Circular (AC) 150/5200-33C, *Hazardous Wildlife Attractants on or near Airports*, provides guidance on certain land uses that have potential to attract hazardous wildlife on or near public-use airports. Hazardous wildlife can threaten aviation safety. The FAA recommends this guidance for airports that receive funding under Federal grant assistance programs. The FAA urges regulatory agencies and planning and zoning agencies to evaluate proposed new land uses within the separation criteria and prevent the creation of land uses that attract or sustain hazardous wildlife within the separation distances. For all airports, the FAA recommends a distance of five miles between the closest point of the airport's aircraft operations area and the hazardous wildlife attractant. Special attention should be given to hazardous wildlife attractants that could cause hazardous wildlife movement into or across the approach or departure airspace.

Based on FAA's initial review, the proposed water quality treatment project does not fully comply with the hazardous wildlife attractant separation distances, as outlined in AC 150/5200-33C. It is FAA's understanding the proposed water quality treatment project will pump water from the Kissimmee River and release the water into cells containing man-made wetlands and marsh habitat. The river water would flow through the cells and nutrients (phosphorus) would be filtered and absorbed by the wetland vegetation. This man-made wetland and marsh habitat is likely to attract a wide variety of wildlife, including avian species hazardous to aviation activity.

The US Department of Transportation - Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), in its letter dated September 27, 2023, recommended the following:

**“Based on the existing data for OBE (Okeechobee Airport) and south Florida STAs, the FAA recommends that the proposed (SFWMD LKBSTA) water treatment facility is located outside the 5-mile separation distance from OBE.”**

# Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) Recommends Relocating/Modifying SFWMD LKBSTA Project Design

The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), in its E-mail dated October 16, 2023, provides the following guidance:

“...we believe there may be an option to remove the same or greater amounts of phosphorus with designs that are less attractive to wildlife if the project footprint cannot be shifted outside the zones that concern the FAA.”

**From:** [Hatim, Abdul](#)  
**To:** [John Harzo](#); [Gallon, Dawn](#)  
**Cc:** [Robertis, David](#); [Kath, Andy](#); [Smith, Kristi](#); [Scott, Brady](#); [Deborah Manzo](#); [Richard Reade](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Looking for help preventing a potentially hazardous wildlife attractant near Okeechobee County Airport  
**Date:** Monday, October 16, 2023 1:59:56 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[image002.png](#)  
[image003.png](#)  
[image004.png](#)  
[image005.png](#)  
[image006.png](#)  
[image007.png](#)

John,

We have reviewed the Lower Kissimmee Basin Stormwater Treatment Area project information and some supplemental information available to us. The letter from the ADO outlines the FAA information and comments and should, of course, be submitted to SFWMD and possibly Ecosystem Investment Partners (EIP). Some of the additional documentation we have reviewed indicates that the phosphorus removal will be an absolute priority. At least one conservation group has reported that current phosphorus levels entering Lake Okeechobee are five times higher than its assimilative capacity. That said, we believe there may be an option to remove the same or greater amounts of phosphorus with designs that are less attractive to wildlife if the project footprint cannot be shifted outside the zones that concern the FAA.

The documents provided from the EIP presentations indicate the construction will be shallow marsh with treatment water pumped in from either of two canals. Some of the marsh is located under the final approach fix (CORD) for Runway 5 where jet or piston traffic will be as low as 1500 feet and descending on the instrument approaches and possibly lower on visuals. In lieu of the shallow marsh, it may be possible to construct a series of parallel, deep, steep-sided canals less attractive to birds and very efficient at phosphorus removal by sedimentation and sequestration. The demonstration project for an FAA pond at Naples Airport provided monitoring data and verified methodologies that can be directly used to design and construct such a system.

Our suggestion is a joint meeting with SFWMD, EIP, Okeechobee Airport, FAA (if available), FDOT, and our water management consultants to discuss options that can both reduce the phosphorus loads significantly and minimize wildlife hazards to landing and departing aircraft.

Sincerely,

**Abdul Hatim, Ph.D.**  
Airport Engineering Manager  
FDOT Aviation Office  
605 Suwannee Street, MS 46  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0450  
Phone: (850) 414-4504  
Fax: (850) 414-4508  
Email: [abdul\\_hatim@dot.state.fl.us](mailto:abdul_hatim@dot.state.fl.us)



# US Air Force Avon Park Force Range - Concerned With Bird Aircraft Strike Hazard (BASH) Risk To Military Pilots

**Richard Reade**

**Subject:** FW: BOCC 2nd Letter Opposing the Lower Kissimmee Basin STA Project - SFWMD - Sept 28, 2023.docx  
**Attachments:** BASH\_website\_data\_2020\_class\_A\_B\_C\_D\_Mishaps\_by\_FY.pdf; BASH\_website\_data\_2020\_Wildlife Strikes Phase of Operation.pdf

**From:** MACLAUGHLIN, CHARLES E CIV USAF ACC 598 RANS/RMD [mailto:charles.maclaughlin.1@us.af.mil]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 27, 2023 10:01 AM  
**To:** Deborah Manzo <dmanzo@co.okeechobee.fl.us>  
**Cc:** Richard Reade <rreade@co.okeechobee.fl.us>; Jennifer Codo-Salisbury - CFRPC <jcodosalisbury@cfrpc.org>  
**Subject:** RE: BOCC 2nd Letter Opposing the Lower Kissimmee Basin STA Project - SFWMD - Sept 28, 2023.docx

Good morning Deborah,

My apologies for not replying sooner. The Florida Wildlife Corridor "Corridor Connect" conference has been very dynamic and has been an opportunity to connect with a few colleagues from the conservation and planning worlds.

Thank you for the information regarding the proposed SFWMD Lower Air Force Range perspective, the proposed location is underneath (MTRs) and could cause an increased Bird Aircraft Strike Hazard (BASH). Specifically, the proposed STA project would be underneath Instru and 1088.

As requested by Commissioner Hazelief, please see the attached reference. Class A - D is a system of classifying the severity of the information can be found at <https://www.safetv.af.mil/Divisions/Division/BASH/#:~:text=The%20Bird%20Wildlife%20Aircraft%20Strike%20for%20worldwide%20on-site%20and%20remote%20technical%20>

Fortunately, the Range has not had any reported bird strikes in specific to Avon Park AFR or the referenced MTRs.

Thank you for the opportunity to share this information. I hope it

Please let me know if you have any questions or would like additional

Very Respectfully (V/R),

Buck

Charles "Buck" MacLaughlin, Civ, USAF  
 Range Operations Officer  
 Avon Park Air Force Range, FL  
 813-857-7109

**From:** Deborah Manzo <dmanzo@co.okeechobee.fl.us>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 25, 2023 4:44 PM  
**To:** MACLAUGHLIN, CHARLES E CIV USAF ACC 598 RANS/RMD <charles.maclaughlin.1@us.af.mil>  
**Cc:** Richard Reade <rreade@co.okeechobee.fl.us>

The US Air Force Avon Force Range, in its E-mail dated September 28, 2023, provided the following:

"From an Avon Park Air Force Range perspective, the proposed location is underneath several of the low-altitude Military Flight Routes (MTR's) and could cause an increased Bird Aircraft Strike Hazard (BASH) risk to military pilots flying the routes."

Wildlife Strikes by Phase of Operation (Object #1)				
FY2000 - FY2019				
Phase of Ops Tier 1	Count	% of Total	Total Mishap cost (Excluding Injuries)	Total Mishap Cost with Injuries
No Data	22,556	36.61%	\$236,119,486	\$236,119,226
Unknown	10,149	16.80%	\$2,693,868	\$2,693,868
Landing Normal	5,592	9.08%	\$16,244,192	\$16,244,191
Approach Final	4,934	8.01%	\$12,690,276	\$12,690,276
Low-Level	3,509	5.64%	\$177,556,249	\$180,954,413
Blank	3,377	5.48%	\$80	\$80
Take Off	3,308	5.37%	\$37,510,203	\$37,511,443
Traffic Pattern	2,731	4.43%	\$9,050,036	\$9,050,411
Initial Climb	1,262	2.05%	\$15,915,210	\$15,915,210
Enroute	1,210	1.98%	\$11,969,258	\$11,969,258
Cir-Around	787	1.27%	\$48,873,813	\$48,873,813
Approach-Initial	348	0.56%	\$1,284,169	\$1,284,169
Ground Operations	152	0.24%	\$1,019,085	\$1,019,085
Air Work	108	0.17%	\$10,828,255	\$10,828,255
Air To Ground	200	0.32%	\$20,487,753	\$20,487,753
Landing/Tactical	109	0.18%	\$119,838	\$119,838
Aerial Delivery	99	0.16%	\$1,299,404	\$1,299,404
	43	0.07%	\$628,381	\$628,381
	34	0.06%	\$0	\$0
	29	0.05%	\$1,016,027	\$1,016,027
	26	0.04%	\$11,410	\$11,410
	13	0.02%	\$141,670	\$141,670
	12	0.02%	\$0	\$0
	12	0.02%	\$0	\$0
	8	0.01%	\$445,670	\$445,670
	6	0.01%	\$0	\$0
	4	0.01%	\$0	\$0
	3	0.00%	\$13,380	\$13,380
	61,817	100.00%	\$628,802,712	\$631,775,849

BASH Class A, B, C, & D Mishaps by Fiscal Year						
Current as of October 2020						
Year	Class A Mishaps	Class B Mishaps	Class C Mishaps	Class D Mishaps	Destroyed Aircraft	Fatalities
2001	1	2	2	2	0	0
2002	1	2	2	2	0	0
2003	1	2	2	2	0	0
2004	1	2	2	2	0	0
2005	1	2	2	2	0	0
2006	1	2	2	2	0	0
2007	1	2	2	2	0	0
2008	1	2	2	2	0	0
2009	1	2	2	2	0	0
2010	1	2	2	2	0	0
2011	1	2	2	2	0	0
2012	1	2	2	2	0	0
2013	1	2	2	2	0	0
2014	1	2	2	2	0	0
2015	1	2	2	2	0	0
2016	1	2	2	2	0	0
2017	1	2	2	2	0	0
2018	1	2	2	2	0	0
2019	1	2	2	2	0	0
Total	34	124	104	104	0	0



# Wildlife Hazard Review – October 30, 2023

## Completed by ESA for Ecosystem Investment Partners

ESA, retained by EIP to review the proposed wildlife (bird) impact(s) to airplane related concerns, provided the following:

“Based on thorough review of the proposed design, similar STAs, understanding of anticipated wildlife use, and the distance from OBE (~4.5 miles), it is the conclusion of the FAA Qualified Biologists that the mature STA, if vegetated as designed, does not represent a significantly greater wildlife hazard to aircraft at OBE than the existing condition.”



5401 S. Kirkman Road  
Suite 475  
Orlando, FL 32819  
407-748-2729 [www.esaac.com](http://www.esaac.com)

### Memorandum

DATE: October 30, 2023  
TO: Jeremy McBryan, PE, CFM, ENV SP – Ecosystem Investment Partners  
FROM: Julie Sullivan, FAA Qualified Wildlife Biologist  
Brendon Quinton, FAA Qualified Wildlife Biologist  
PROJECT: Wildlife Hazard Review – Proposed Lower Kissimmee Basin Stormwater Treatment Area

ESA was retained to provide an independent review of a proposed project identified as the Lower Kissimmee Basin Stormwater Treatment Area (LKBSTA) in Okeechobee County. The project includes the development of a regional STA which entails creation of several interconnected herbaceous freshwater wetlands designed to reduce nutrients, specifically phosphorus, from stormwater runoff and help achieve the State of Florida's Total Phosphorus Total Maximum Daily Load for Lake Okeechobee. It is understood that the proposed project will be constructed in two phases with the western phase (LKBSTA-W) being constructed first.



LKBSTA Proposed Development Area

However, the design of this project has not been completed (and distributed to the Okeechobee community).

If comparable to other or “similar STA’s,” then it would be a fair concern that the migratory birds that visit existing SFWMD STA’s and “provide habitat as they travel through the region,” which is outlined within the SFWMD’s website, would also be present at the proposed LKBSTA location...

# Review of the ESA Wildlife Hazard Review – December 5, 2023

## Completed by HSE for Okeechobee County

**HOBE SOUND**  
**ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS, INC.**  
9512 S. E. DUNCAN STREET  
HOBE SOUND, FLORIDA 33455  
PHONE: (772) 545-3676 CELL (772) 260-0857  
E-MAIL: [bobhsenv@gmail.com](mailto:bobhsenv@gmail.com)

5 December 2024

Stefan K. Matthes, P.E.  
Senior Vice President  
Culpepper and Terpening, Inc.  
2980 South 25th Street  
Fort Pierce, FL 34981

Via Email: [smatthes@ct-eng.com](mailto:smatthes@ct-eng.com)

Ref: Proposed SFWMD Lower Kissimmee Basin Stormwater Treatment Area (LKBSTA) and possible hazardous wildlife attractants (avian) influences on the Okeechobee County Airport (OBE) and Runway 5-23 Okeechobee County, Florida.

Dear Mr. Matthes;

HSE has reviewed the information provided by Culpepper and Terpening, Inc. regarding wildlife attractants in the proximity of the Okeechobee County Airport (see Attachments) and has the following comments:

HSE staff has over 30 years of experience with stormwater treatment area (STA) design, permitting construction management and monitoring, water farming, wetland mitigation, and marsh restoration. It is the professional opinion of HSE, based on our experience, that the proposed Lower Kissimmee Basin Stormwater Treatment Area (LKBSTA) will attract wildlife, especially wading and migratory avian species. In the past, STA's have provided important feeding, breeding and nursery habitat for avian species. Many STA's are used for bird watching and duck hunting by the general public due to the proliferation of avian species within these areas. HSE was involved in the design, permitting and monitoring of the McCarty Ranch STA operated by the City of Port St. Lucie. This STA has attracted numerous avian species, including (but not limited to): wood stork (*Mycteria americana*), American bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*), sandhill crane (*Grus canadensis*), turkey vulture (*Cathartes aura*), black vulture (*Cathartes aura*), osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*), crested caracara (*Caracara cheriway*), red-tail hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*), cattle egret (*Bubulcus ibis*), barn owl (*Tyto alba*), American crow (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*), mallard duck (*Anas platyrhynchos*), Egyptian geese (*Alopochen aegyptiaca*), Everglades snail kite (*Rostrhamus sociabilis*), American robin (*Turdus migratorius*), northern harrier (*Circus cyaneus*), American kestrel (*Falco sparverius*), mottled duck (*Anas fulvigula*), roseate spoonbill (*Platalea ajaja*) blue-winged teal (*Anas discors*) green-winged teal (*Anas crecca*), black-bellied whistling duck (*Dendrocygna autumnalis*), fulvous whistling-duck, (*Dendrocygna bicolor*), American black duck (*Anas rubripes*), purple gallinule (*Porphyrio*

HSE, maintains “over 30 years of experience with stormwater treatment area (STA) design, permitting, construction management and monitoring, water farming, wetland mitigation, and marsh restoration, provided the following regarding the proposed LKBSTA project:

“will attract wildlife, especially wading and migratory avian species.”

STA's provide as “important feeding, breeding and nursery habitat for avian species” and “are used for bird watching and duck hunting by the general public due to the proliferation of avian species within these areas.”

“the proposed LKBSTA is within the five (5) mile radius of Okeechobee County Airport and the extended centerline of runway 5-23, the airports primary runway, & may cause an increase in airplane navigation hazards.”

“This wildlife hazard area within the 5 mile zone of OBE may result in the loss of grants under the Federal Grant assistance programs.”

Thursday, December 14, 2023

17

The proposed LKBSTA project is being planned to be developed on the RIO Ranch property in western Okeechobee County (adjacent to State Road 70) to address one of the highest nutrient contributors in our region – the Kissimmee River (according to the SFWMD)

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The River and natural or historical flow/drainage is bringing in significant amounts of phosphorus into the Okeechobee community from other areas around the central Florida areas and the properties within Okeechobee County are being utilized to attempt to clean the water from other areas of the state.

However, there may be better financial options to remove the projected phosphorus nutrient load than this proposed project (and location), including, but not limited to, septic-to-sewer conversion, which provides a high reduction of phosphorus at a low cost.

# The proposed LKBSTA project is being planned to be developed to address one of the highest nutrient contributors in our region – the Kissimmee River (according to the SFWMD)

Phase One of the District's project is expected to cost up to \$300,000,000, which would require significant tax-payer funding support to not only design and construct this proposed facility, but it would also require an amount of annual funding to support the operations, maintenance and staffing for this project.

The proposed project would not provide for the rehydration of deteriorating on-site wetlands as represented to the Okeechobee community.

There have been conflicting statements regarding the total amount of nutrients that are expected to be removed on an annual basis if the LKBSTA is constructed.

- 13 to 15 metric tons of phosphorus per year is expected to be removed depending on design as outlined within the "Lower Kissimmee Basin Stormwater Treatment Project" presentation by Ms. Jennifer Reynolds – Division Director – Ecosystem Restoration & Capital Projects Division – December 9, 2021.
- 9 to 10 metric tons of phosphorus per year is expected to be removed according to Mr. Kyle Graham with EIP during the first Public Meeting on August 29, 2023.



Unanimously, the Okeechobee County Board of County Commissioners, on behalf of the citizens of Okeechobee County, is urging the SFWMD Governing Board as well as the District's executive leadership to reconsider this project due to the many safety concerns and impacts that it will have within our community.



# THANK YOU

Okeechobee County Board of County Commissioners



## SFWMD/EIP/RES Lower Kissimmee Basin Stormwater Treatment Area (LKBSTA) Project Timeline

DATE	PURPOSE OF MEETING	MEETING LOCATION	ATTENDEES
03/12/2021	South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) issues Design/Build Solicitation (RFQ) for Lower Kissimmee Basin Stormwater Treatment (LKBSTA) Project	SFWMD District Headquarters,	N/A
12/09/2021	SFWMD enters into Project Agreement (Contract No. 4600004527) with Ecosystem Investment Partners Florida Water Quality, LLC (EIP) for the design, construction, operation, innovative technology and land acquisition associated with the LKBSTA in and amount not to exceed \$300 million	SFWMD District Headquarters, West Palm Beach, Florida	
11/3/2021	Meeting with RES Environmental Operating Company (RES) to negotiate agreement with RES & Okeechobee County and potential legislative funding to support project	Teleconference	Deborah Manzo, Richard Reade, Wade Vose, Ansley Tilley, John Fumero
11/15/2021	Meeting with RES to negotiate agreement with RES & Okeechobee County (and possibly the City of Okeechobee as a joint project)	Okeechobee County	Commissioner Terry Burroughs, Deborah Manzo, Rich Reade, Gary Ritter, John Fumero
02/03/2022	Meeting with RES Environmental Operating Company (RES) to negotiate agreement with RES & Okeechobee County and potential legislative funding to support project	Okeechobee County	Deborah Manzo, Richard Reade, Wade Vose, Ansley Tilley, John Fumero
3/30/2022	Meeting with SFWMD & RES to discuss proposed RES project (i.e., project to be designed and constructed in accordance with District standards) and agreement with RES. County outlined long term maintenance cost expectations and proposed that SFWMD take over the project and ensure design and construction on accordance with District standards. RES expressed concerned needing to meet District standards as well as potential rise in cost due to District design standards. SFWMD recommended that County enter into an Interlocal Agreement with the District to take over the project after construction and District would agree to review all aspects of design and construction. Proposed endowment agreement to cover future maintenance costs would possibly need to be changed to support Districts expectations for future maintenance costs	Okeechobee County	Commissioner David Hazellief, Deborah Manzo, Richard Reade, Wade Vose, Ansley Tilley, Drew Bartlett, Jennifer Reynolds, Megan Jacoby, Elizabeth Pigman, Brandon Tucker
6/21/2022	Meeting with SFWMD & RES to discuss proposed RES project (i.e., project to be designed and constructed in accordance with District standards) and agreement with RES	Teleconference	Deborah Manzo, Richard Reade, Jennifer Reynolds, Megan Jacoby, Elizabeth Pigman, Jonathan Madden, Derek Brown
07/01/2022	FDEP legislative appropriation funding to support proposed RES project design (termination on March 31, 2024)	Funding Award	N/A
10/26/2022	Meeting with FDEP & RES to discuss \$1.8 Million legislative appropriation	Teleconference	
11/15/2022	Meeting with RES to discuss proposed project (i.e., project to be designed and constructed in accordance with District standards), negotiate agreement with RES & Okeechobee County and potential legislative funding to support project	Okeechobee County	Deborah Manzo, Richard Reade, Wade Vose, Ansley Tilley, John Fumero
11/22/2022	BOCC Meeting - RES Project Update - RES & SFWMD to ensure that proposed project would meet SFWMD design standards and concern with projected increase in engineering and construction costs (estimated to grow to \$120 million from original projection of \$58 million) and options/needs as well as future costs to County to maintain facility (need to obtain grant funding to support project)	Okeechobee County	BOCC, BOCC staff, Wade Voss, Ansley Tilley, John Fumero
11/28/2022	Meeting with SFWMD & RES to discuss RES proposed project (i.e., project to be designed and constructed in accordance with District standards) and agreement with RES - Follow-up meeting to discuss BOCC concerns and requests from November 22, 2022 BOCC meeting		Deborah Manzo, Richard Reade, Wade Vose, Stef Matthes, Megan Jacoby, Sandy Smith
12/16/2022	Meeting with SFWMD to discuss proposed RES project (i.e., project to be designed and constructed in accordance with District standards) and agreement with RES - Follow-up meeting to discuss BOCC concerns and requests from November 22, 2022 BOCC meeting	Teleconference	Commissioner David Hazellief, Deborah Manzo, Richard Reade, Wade Vose, Randy Premer, Stef Matthes, Jennifer Reynolds, Megan Jacoby, Jonathan Madden
3/30/2023	Meeting with SFWMD and notified by District that EIP & RES may partner together to work through the District to design and construct a single project. SFWMD working with EIP to negotiate a contract change to include RES property	SFWMD District Headquarters, West Palm Beach, Florida	Commissioner David Hazellief, Deborah Manzo, Richard Reade, Stef Matthes, Justin Hoover, Ben Butler, Drew Bartlett, Jennifer Reynolds, Megan Jacoby, Elizabeth Pigman, Gary Priest (Teleconference)
Spring 2023	EIP evaluated the possible benefits of adding the RES property into the current SFWMD/EIP LKBSTA project	N/A	N/A
5/11/2023	SFWMD Governing Board meeting announcement that District was in discussions with EIP to incorporate RES property into LKBSTA and possible expansion of the existing contract between SFWMD & EIP	SFWMD District Headquarters, West Palm Beach, Florida	
06/26/2023	Letter to Drew Bartlett, SFWMD Executive Director, inviting District to provide public presentation and update on the LKBSTA to the BOCC and community during an upcoming BOCC meeting	Letter	N/A
7/17/2023	Meeting with SFWMD and District confirmed that EIP & RES have partnered together to work through the District to design and construct a single project (SFWMD Governing Board will consider expanded LKBSTA project in September 2023). Commissioner Hazellief expressed concerns with flooding, property insurance rates, cost of project, lack of public notice and transparency and expected project effectiveness. District staff acknowledged that this is not a "perfect project" and they are "not sold" on the EIP & RES project, but the District may not find a better opportunity to remove harmful nutrients due to not having property available. County notified District that notice/request would be provided to FDEP to withdraw need for \$1.8 million in funding to design RES project	Okeechobee County	Commissioner David Hazellief, Debbie Manzo, Richard Reade, Jennifer Reynolds, Megan Jacoby, Elizabeth Pigman

07/18/2023	Notified SFWMD of residents concerns with (non-approved) sod business operations and trucking on proposed EIP and/or RES properties	Telephone Call	Richard Reade, Elizabeth Pigman
07/23/2023	BOCC Meeting - Discussion by the BOCC regarding various concerns/issues (i.e., location, residential homeowners insurance, cost and effectiveness, water storage levels, etc.) with the proposed LKBSTA project. Recommended sending a letter to the FDEP & the SFWMD expressing these concerns	Okeechobee County	Public
8/01/2023	SFWMD - Community Meeting for North of Lake Okeechobee Storage Reservoir (LOCAR) Section 203 Study Project (Project location - Glades County, Florida)	SFWMD District Office, Okeechobee County Florida	Public
08/07/2023	Site visit to SFWMD Lakeside Ranch Stormwater Treatment Area (STA) to review similar type of project to the proposed LKBSTA project (SFWMD invited County at earlier meeting)	Okeechobee County	Commissioner David Hazellief, Deborah Manzo, Richard Reade, Stef Matthes, Elizabeth Pigman, Bruce Chesser
08/07/2023	Letter to Drew Bartlett, SFWMD Executive Director, noticing the District of County's opposition and concerns related to the proposed LKBSTA project	Letter	N/A
08/09/2023	Meeting with SFWMD discuss proposed LKBSTA project (i.e., project design, cost, construction timetable and project phasing, expected takeover property/project ownership and maintenance by SFWMD, etc.)	Teleconference	Richard Reade, Megan Jacoby
8/10/2023	BOCC Meeting - (1st Public) Presentation by SFWMD and EIP to discuss proposed SFWMD/EIP LKBSTA and listen to community concerns and answer questions regarding the proposed project design and construction and impacts to surrounding residential community, economic development, environmental issues, homeowners insurance and property costs, etc.)	Okeechobee County	Public
8/10/2023	BOCC Meeting - Request to terminate the FDEP legislative appropriation RES (design) project funding (\$1.8 million). FDEP accepted County's request on August 22, 2023 and funding was terminated	Okeechobee County	Public
08/15/2023	E-mail request to SFWMD to include BOCC on SFWMD Governing Board's upcoming meeting agenda and provide opportunity to make presentation (discuss with PowerPoint). District provided information that BOCC would be eligible "to provide comments to the Board during General Public Comment."	E-mail	N/A
08/21/2023	Letter to FDEP Secretary Shawn Hamilton Okeechobee outlining County's opposition to the SFWMD's proposed LKBSTA project (i.e., location in close proximity to established residential communities, airplane safety, environmental concerns, loss of property for water storage purposes, etc.)	Letter	N/A
8/29/2023	Two (2) Community/Public Meetings to discuss proposed SFWMD/EIP LKBSTA and listen to community concerns and answer questions regarding the proposed project design and construction and impacts to surrounding residential community, economic development, environmental issues, homeowners insurance and property costs, etc.). SFWMD notified the BOCC Chairman that the County would be placed on a future SFWMD meeting agenda	Okeechobee County Civic Center	SFWMD & EIP staff and Public/Community
9/6/2023	SFWMD confirmed that the BOCC would be placed on an upcoming SFWMD Governing Board meeting to discuss concerns/issues with the proposed LKBSTA project; however, a PowerPoint would not be available to be utilized (posters and handouts would be acceptable)	Telephone Call	Deborah Manzo, Richard Reade, Drew Bartlett
09/28/2023	BOCC Meeting - Discussion on proposed letter to SFWMD outlining County's concerns with the proposed LKBSTA project by the BOCC and community (i.e., location in close proximity to established residential communities, airplane safety, environmental concerns, loss of property for water storage purposes, etc.)	Okeechobee County	Public
09/28/2023	Letter to Drew Bartlett, SFWMD Executive Director, and copied to the SFWMD Governing Board, noticing the District of County's opposition and concerns related to the proposed LKBSTA project	Letter	N/A
10/10/2023	BOCC Meeting - Discussion on letter sent to SFWMD outlining County's concerns with the proposed LKBSTA project by the BOCC and community (i.e., location in close proximity to established residential communities, airplane safety, environmental concerns, loss of property for water storage purposes, etc.). Additional discussion regarding leaking concerns with the District's C-44 STA in Martin County, Florida and loss of property (owned by the SFWMD) that have been taken off the County's tax rolls	Okeechobee County	Public
10/26/2023	BOCC Meeting - Expected discussion on letter sent to SFWMD outlining County's concerns with the proposed LKBSTA project by the BOCC and community (i.e., location in close proximity to established residential communities, airplane safety, environmental concerns, loss of property for water storage purposes, etc.) as well as upcoming SFWMD Meeting (December 14, 2023), including County's presentation to the Board	Okeechobee County	Public
12/14/2023	SFWMD expected to consider approval of LKBSTA - Phase 1A & 1B completion and authorize commencement of LKBSTA - Phase 2. Additionally, the Governing Board is expected to consider expansion of the project to include the RES property that is adjacent to the ongoing EIP project (originally expected to be considered by the District Governing Board August/September/October 2023 meetings and moving project from design to implementation stage during November/December 2023 meetings)	SFWMD District Headquarters, West Palm Beach, Florida	TBD

# Board of County Commissioners

## Okeechobee County



304 NW Second Street – Room 123, Okeechobee, FL 34972  
 Phone: 863-763-6441 Ext.1 or Fax: 863-763-0118

September 28, 2023

Mr. Drew Bartlett  
 Executive Director  
 South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD)  
 3301 Gun Club Road  
 West Palm Beach, FL 33406

Re: Okeechobee County's Opposition to the South Florida Water Management District's Proposed Lower Kissimmee Basin Stormwater Treatment Area (LKBSTA) Project

Dear Mr. Bartlett:

As a follow-up to our earlier letter (dated August 3, 2023), the Okeechobee County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) continues to oppose the proposed Lower Kissimmee Basin Stormwater Treatment Area (LKBSTA) Project in its current location and is requesting the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) Governing Board to oppose and discontinue its consideration of the design and construction of the LKBSTA project by Ecosystem Investment Partners Florida Water Quality, LLC – Ecosystem Investment Partners, LLC (EIP), which would include the proposed expansion of this project to include the adjacent property that is either owned and/or controlled/managed by HGS, LLC d.b.a. RES Environmental Operating Company (RES).

Please note that as previously stated, each member on our Commission is an advocate and strong supporter of the need for STA's within our region to reduce nutrient discharges prior to entering Lake Okeechobee. However, together with the District, we must be concerned and respectful of the negative impacts that this facility will bring to our community and develop/identify opportunities to improve the environmental issues that we are challenged with today without placing a significant impact on our homeowners and property owners.

Further, with respect to your commitment to ensuring that the County Commission maintains a voice within the decision making process for this project, we appreciate your assurance to provide the County Commission an opportunity to speak and represent our concerns with the LKBSTA project to the SFWMD Governing Board at an upcoming meeting and wanted to say Thank You...

This opportunity will provide the members of the Okeechobee Board of County Commissioners with a chance to provide the Governing Board and District staff with an understanding of the concerns that our Commission, residents, businesses and stakeholders have with this proposed project and the real impacts that we will experience if this project is permitted to proceed by the SFWMD.

Also, we would request that the District permit the County to provide a Power Point presentation to ensure that Board and public can view the documents/maps as they're being discussed.

In advance of speaking to the Governing Board at a future meeting, the BOCC would like to restate and ensure that the District's Governing Board is aware of the issues, impacts and concerns that our citizens and community have with the LKBSTA project and why the Okeechobee Board of County Commissioners are not in support of the proposed project, including:

- 
1. A lack of transparency related to the proposed LKBSTA project development, impacts and cost.
    - . Limited information on the District's website related to competitive selection of EIP, owners of the proposed property to be developed as the LKBSTA, to complete the design/build of the property in the amount of \$300 million.
      - . In fact, only one document was found when utilizing the search function within the District's website – "Lower Kissimmee Basin Stormwater Treatment Project" presentation by Ms. Jennifer Reynolds – Division Director – Ecosystem Restoration & Capital Projects Division – December 9, 2021.
    - . To date, this project has progressed through the District's design stage without notice to the public nor the acceptance of comments/suggestions from the community.
      - . Our residents, businesses and stakeholders should have the opportunity to voice their thoughts and/or concerns on this significant infrastructure project during the conceptual (or feasibility) stage.
      - . Public awareness on the progress of this project was limited until recently.
      - . No public or community meetings were held and/or notifications were sent out to potentially impacted property owners until (or around) August 29, 2023, which was requested by the Okeechobee County Commission on June 26, 2023 [two (2) public meetings were held on the same day at the Okeechobee County Civic Center].
  
  2. There are better options that are available today that do not threaten the safety of our community's homes and are not nearly as financially taxing to our residents and businesses.
    - . Our homes are one of our greatest investments and the safety and cost impacts that this project would create are valid to real concerns/fears for our homeowners in this area.
      - . New flooding concerns have emerged due to a lack of understanding by the District's selected firm – EIP Florida Water Quality, LLC – on the current structures within the area (i.e., finished floor elevations, surrounding neighborhood drainage infrastructure needs and/or concerns, etc.) and the expected design of the proposed project.
      - . The potential for flooding as a result of this project is expected to negatively affect home and property values in close proximity to the proposed LKBSTA project and may now be required to carry additional flood insurance (which is not required today) for these homeowners and would place an unnecessary financial burden on many residents.
      - . This project may increase the risk to our property owners who may experience rate increases (above the significant increases that we are already seeing within our County and throughout the state of Florida before this project is constructed) and/or losing their homeowners insurance entirely due to the inherent flooding that will occur from this project or losing their home due to flooding.
      - . Residential property owners within the area of the proposed project have also outlined/voiced additional concerns and impacts that may affect their homes/property and quality of life, including:

- 
- . Noise
  - . Dust
  - . Loss of peaceful living (i.e., construction, recreational activities, etc.)
  - . Impact to existing habitat and degradation to endangered, threatened and/or protected species (i.e., bald eagles, etc.)
  - . Increase in alligators, mosquitos and other pests
  - . Flooding of State Road 70, which is an emergency evacuation route
  - . Loss of farm land to support our state's and country's food needs and/or economic development opportunities for water storage purposes
  - . Proposed leaching of phosphorus to continue from the Kissimmee River without corrective solution (should be addressed prior to this project being considered).
3. This project, if developed is too close to three (3) airstrips, with one being the Okeechobee County airport, which is one of the most significant economic development tools that the County maintains in an effort to attract jobs and resources to our community.
- . The proposed project does not comply with the County's Airport Zoning regulations with the County's Land Development Code - specifically, Section 3.01.03.F – Airport zones and airspace height limitations. – Other areas., which states “In addition to the height limitations imposed in paragraphs A through E above, no structure or obstruction will be permittee within Okeechobee County that would cause a hazard to air navigation.”.
  - . The District's proposed LKBSTA project is expected to create significant safety issues with aircraft on approach to runway 05 as the wetlands will attract hazardous birds and lead to non-compliance with applicable grant assurances.
  - . Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Advisory Circular 150/5200-33C Subject: Hazardous Wildlife Attractants on or near Airports, states for all airports, the FAA recommends a distance of 5 miles between the closest point of the airport's aircraft operations area and the hazardous wildlife attractant and special attention should be given to hazardous wildlife attractants that could cause hazardous wildlife movement into or across the approach or departure airspace.
  - . The SFWMD's website [[Stormwater Treatment Area 5/6 \(STA-5/6\) | South Florida Water Management District \(sfwmd.gov\)](#)] provides the following related to promoting wildlife within their STA's, which is expected to lead to real safety issues for airplanes utilizing the County's Airport:
    - . “STAs provide another bonus – prime home and visiting territory to wildlife including wading birds, ducks and American alligators. A variety of nature-based recreational activities are allowed at several of these wetland locations.”
    - . “Located on approximately 17,000 acres in eastern Hendry County, Stormwater Treatment Area 5/6 (STA-5/6) has become one of the premier bird-watching areas in Florida through a long-standing partnership with the Hendry-Glades Audubon Society. More than 200 bird species have been spotted at STA-5/6 on the seasonal, guided bird-watching tours offered by the local Audubon chapter.

The site is also popular as a waterfowl hunting area managed by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC)."

"Access to STA-5/6 was expanded in 2013 with a public use area with shell-rocked parking, an informational kiosk, restrooms and a trail that includes a covered shade shelter and a boardwalk. Hiking, bicycling and bird-watching are among the activities visitors can enjoy from the public use area. In addition, a portion of the Florida National Scenic Trail runs along the L-3 levee on the west side of the STA."

4. The proposed LKBSTA project is being planned to be developed on the RIO Ranch property in western Okeechobee County (adjacent to State Road 70) to address one of the highest nutrient contributors in our region – the Kissimmee River (according to the SFWMD). The River and natural or historical flow/drainage is bringing in significant amounts of phosphorus into the Okeechobee community from other areas around the central Florida areas and the properties within Okeechobee County are being utilized to attempt to clean the water from other areas of the state.

There may be better financial options to remove the projected phosphorus nutrient load than this proposed project (and location), including, but not limited to, septic-to-sewer conversion, which provides a high reduction of phosphorus at a low cost.

Phase One of the District's project is expected to cost up to \$300,000,000, which would require significant tax-payer funding support to not only design and construct this proposed facility, but it would also require an amount of annual funding to support the operations, maintenance and staffing for this project.

There have been conflicting statements regarding the total amount of nutrients that are expected to be removed on an annual basis if the LKBSTA is constructed.

13 to 15 metric tons of phosphorus per year is expected to be removed depending on design as outlined within the "Lower Kissimmee Basin Stormwater Treatment Project" presentation by Ms. Jennifer Reynolds – Division Director – Ecosystem Restoration & Capital Projects Division – December 9, 2021.

9 to 10 metric tons of phosphorus per year is expected to be removed according to Mr. Kyle Graham with EIP during the first Public Meeting on August 29, 2023.

The proposed project would not provide for the rehydration of deteriorating on-site wetlands as represented to the Okeechobee community.

Unanimously, the Okeechobee County Board of County Commissioners, on behalf of the citizens of Okeechobee County, is urging the SFWMD Governing Board as well as the District's executive leadership to reconsider this project due to the many safety concerns and impacts that it will have within our community.

Thus, the County Commission is requesting the SFWMD's Governing Board to vote against any request to proceed with this project in its current location during your upcoming discussion and consideration of the inclusion and/or expansion of the project to include the RES property into the District's larger LKBSTA project (expected in early 2024). Additionally, we are requesting the


Governing Board to oppose and vote against moving the entire project from the design stage to the implementation stage (within its current location), which is being completed by the District's selected firm – Ecosystem Investment Partners Florida Water Quality, LLC (EIP).

Additionally, based on our community's concerns and issues outlined above, the Okeechobee County Commission is requesting the District's Governing Board to strongly consider other options/locations to build this type of stormwater treatment area (STA) project, including north of the State Road (SR) 60 or in the northern portion of the County on the +/- 40,000 acres of land where several government agencies maintain ownership and/or flowage easements (Kissimmee Prairie Preserve State Park).

Thank you in advance for your consideration of our concerns as well as your support to find better solutions (and locations) to this important environmental issue while also protecting the safety of our community's homes and citizens' quality of life.

Should you have any questions and/or require additional information regarding our County's position on this project, please do not hesitate to contact either myself or Mr. Richard Reade, Deputy County Administrator at 863.763.6441 (Option #2).

Respectfully submitted,



David Hazellief, Chairman  
Board of County Commissioners

#### Attachments

- c: Okeechobee County Board of County Commissioners  
The Honorable Benjamin Butler – Okeechobee County Area Representative - South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) Governing Board  
The Honorable Charlette Roman – Okeechobee County Area Representative - South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) Governing Board  
The Honorable Chauncey Goss – Chairman – South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) Governing Board  
The Honorable Scott Wagner – Vice-Chairman – South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) Governing Board  
The Honorable Members of the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) Governing Board



## SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

October 25, 2023

Commissioner David Hazellief, Chairman  
Okeechobee County Board of County Commissioners  
304 NW Second Street, Room 123  
Okeechobee, FL 34972

**Subject: Proposed Lower Kissimmee Basin Stormwater Treatment Area Project**

Dear Commissioner Hazellief:

Thank you for your letter dated September 28, 2023 regarding Okeechobee County's opposition to the proposed Lower Kissimmee Basin Stormwater Treatment Area (LKBSTA) project. The South Florida Water Management District (District) serves 9 million people within its 16-county region and is responsible for executing many projects providing ecosystem restoration, water supply, and flood protection. As public and stakeholder input is integral to the project implementation process, the District appreciates the Okeechobee County Board of County Commissioners taking the time to outline its concerns about the LKBSTA project and hopes the following information will address and clarify some of the points from your letter.

Over the last two decades, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) has documented high levels of phosphorus in Lake Okeechobee – an important source of water for drinking, agricultural irrigation, recreational activities, and wildlife. The Draft 2024 South Florida Environmental Report ([www.sfwmd.gov/sfer](http://www.sfwmd.gov/sfer)) states that the total annual average total phosphorus (TP) load discharged into Lake Okeechobee from the period of 2019 to 2023 was 402 metric tons per year (t/yr), exceeding the state's established total maximum daily load (TMDL) by 262 t/yr (DEP 2001; [FloridaDEP.gov/TMDL](http://FloridaDEP.gov/TMDL)). Regional projects to improve water quality, particularly in long-standing high-nutrient areas, are necessary to achieve the TMDL for the Lake Okeechobee Watershed (LOW).

Because of this pollution challenge, the District and FDEP began a public exploration of a project in 2019. In coordination with Lake Okeechobee stakeholders, comprised of 28 governmental agencies and local entities including Okeechobee County, a conceptual project was placed in the Lake Okeechobee Basin Management Action Plan (BMAP) Update in 2020 to address the S-154 and S-154C basins which contain some of the highest nutrient concentrations in the LOW.



In 2021, funding was made available, and the District solicited landowners to propose a conceptual project for the *Design/Build of a Lower Kissimmee Basin Stormwater Treatment Project* to address these canals. The solicitation was publicly noticed on the District's Procurement website which adhered to the District's formal procurement process. The project was subsequently awarded at a public meeting consistent with Sunshine Law, as outlined in the State Constitution and Section 286.011, Florida Statutes. In addition to the public procurement process, all Governing Board presentations and actions were posted to the District [website](#) in a timely manner where they currently remain. Following Governing Board meetings, the District shared [press](#) releases which were subsequently picked up and reported by local news outlets ([South Central Florida Life, May 31, 2021](#)).

We are still, however, in the early stages of the project, and nothing is set in stone. There is still time to address your concerns. I assure you and your Commissioners that the District will not support a project that exacerbates flood conditions or poses a threat to public safety. Furthermore, the District expects any sponsored project of this nature to comply with all federal, state, and local requirements both in the design of a project and during construction.

The District is focused on addressing safety questions regarding the project's location. As the agency responsible for flood protection, the District takes the community's flood and safety concerns very seriously. Because the project is located near homes, robust hydrologic and hydraulic modeling is currently underway to understand flood risk and seepage to the surrounding region; however, it is important to note that the project is currently in the Preliminary Design phase. This means there is much more analysis to be done prior to the District accepting a plan to move forward with construction. This type of analysis takes time. Any completed analysis and results will be made available to the public. Also, any project sponsored by the District will monitor water levels, both in and outside of the project, during construction and operations, and all data are made available to the public.

STAs are known habitats for bird species, particularly wading birds and waterfowl. These birds are present in the area and are known to typically move between the Kissimmee River floodplain and Lake Okeechobee. To address public concerns, the project developer, Ecosystem Investment Partners, LLC (EIP) has hired a Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Qualified Airport Wildlife Biologist to conduct wildlife surveys at the project site and vicinity to understand the wildlife that currently utilizes the project area and potential associated hazards. The District will also hire a similarly qualified independent specialist to peer review the subject report and advise the District as to its quality and integrity.

Again, the District welcomes and appreciates feedback from the public and stakeholders regarding the design of the LKBSTA. The District also expects EIP, to continue engaging with the public and stakeholders throughout design of the project

Commissioner Hazellief

October 25, 2023

Page 3

such that feedback can be incorporated into the plan as appropriate. With this in mind, we invite the Okeechobee County Board of County Commissioners to present your information regarding the LKBSTA project at the SFWMD Governing Board business meeting on December 14, 2023, to be held at District Headquarters, B-1 Auditorium in West Palm Beach. Also, please don't hesitate to call me at any time.

Sincerely,



Drew Bartlett  
Executive Director

DB/mj

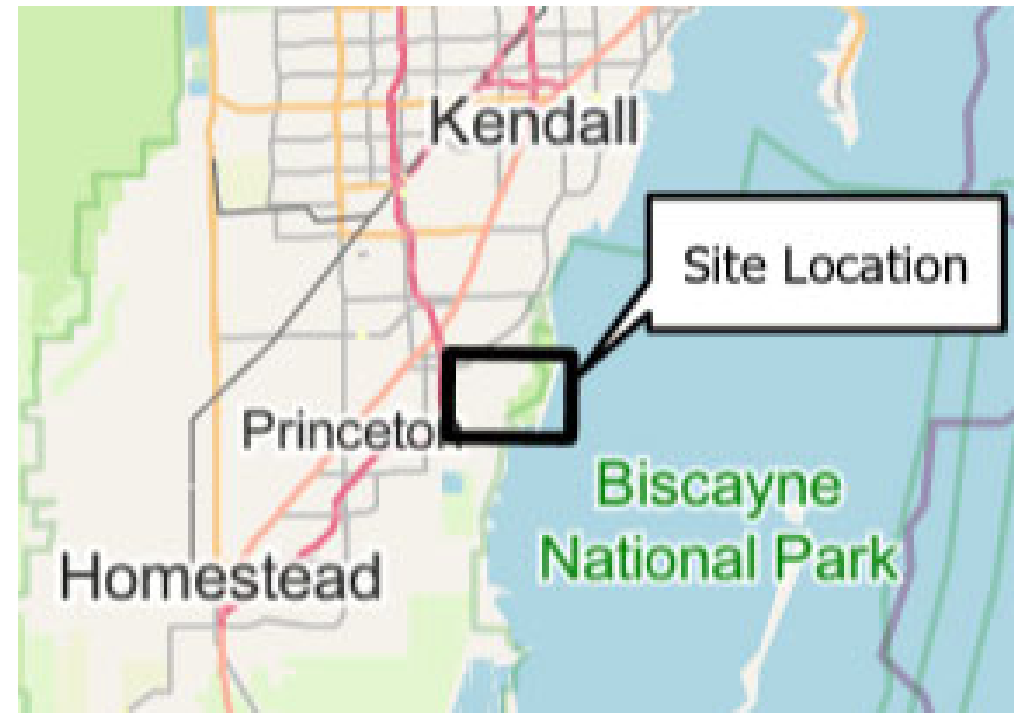
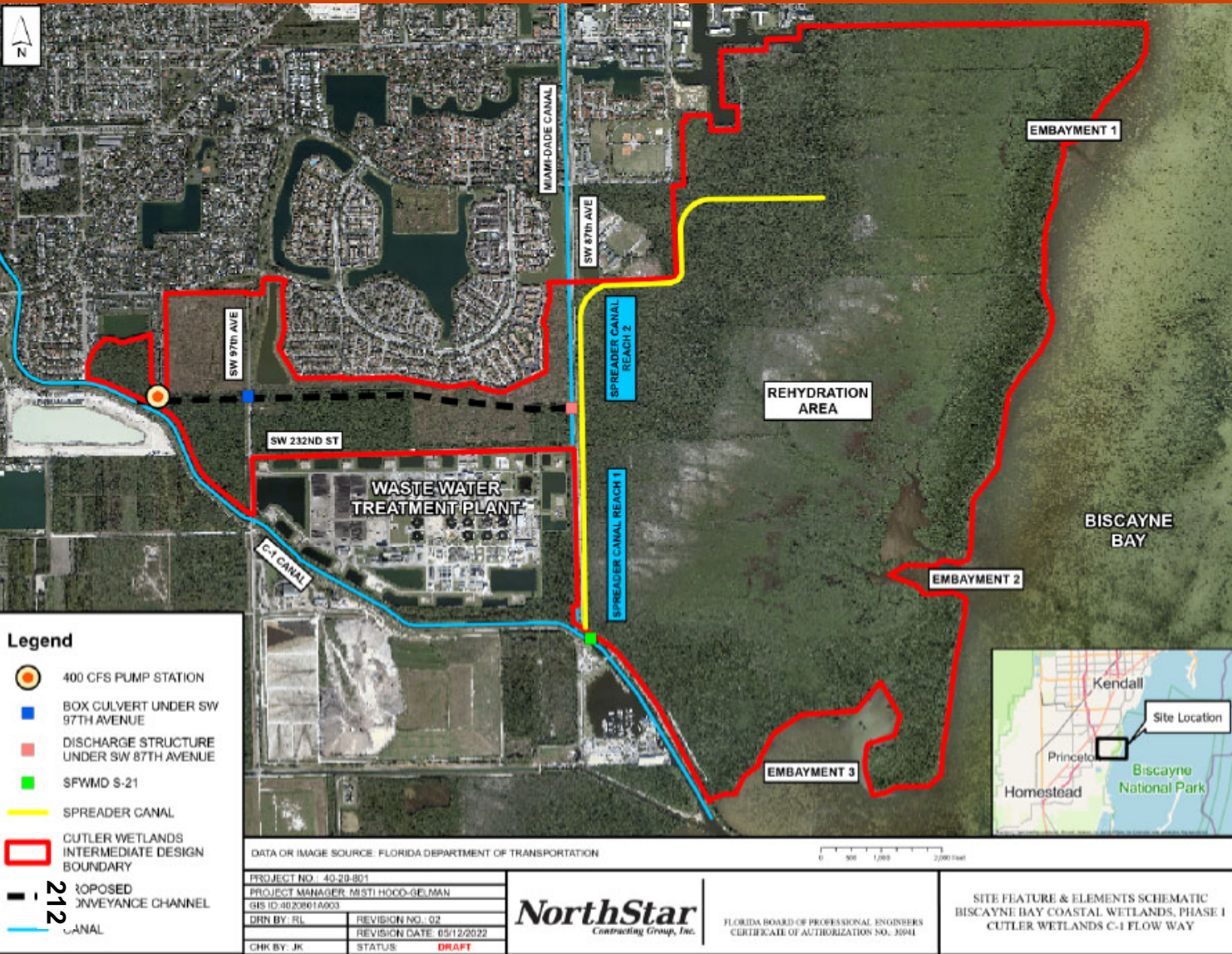
c: Okeechobee Board of County Commissioners

# Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands Cutler Flow Way Phase 2 Conveyance System

Lucine Dadrian, P.E.  
Division Director, Engineering, Construction & Modeling  
South Florida Water Management District  
Governing Board  
December 14, 2023



# Location



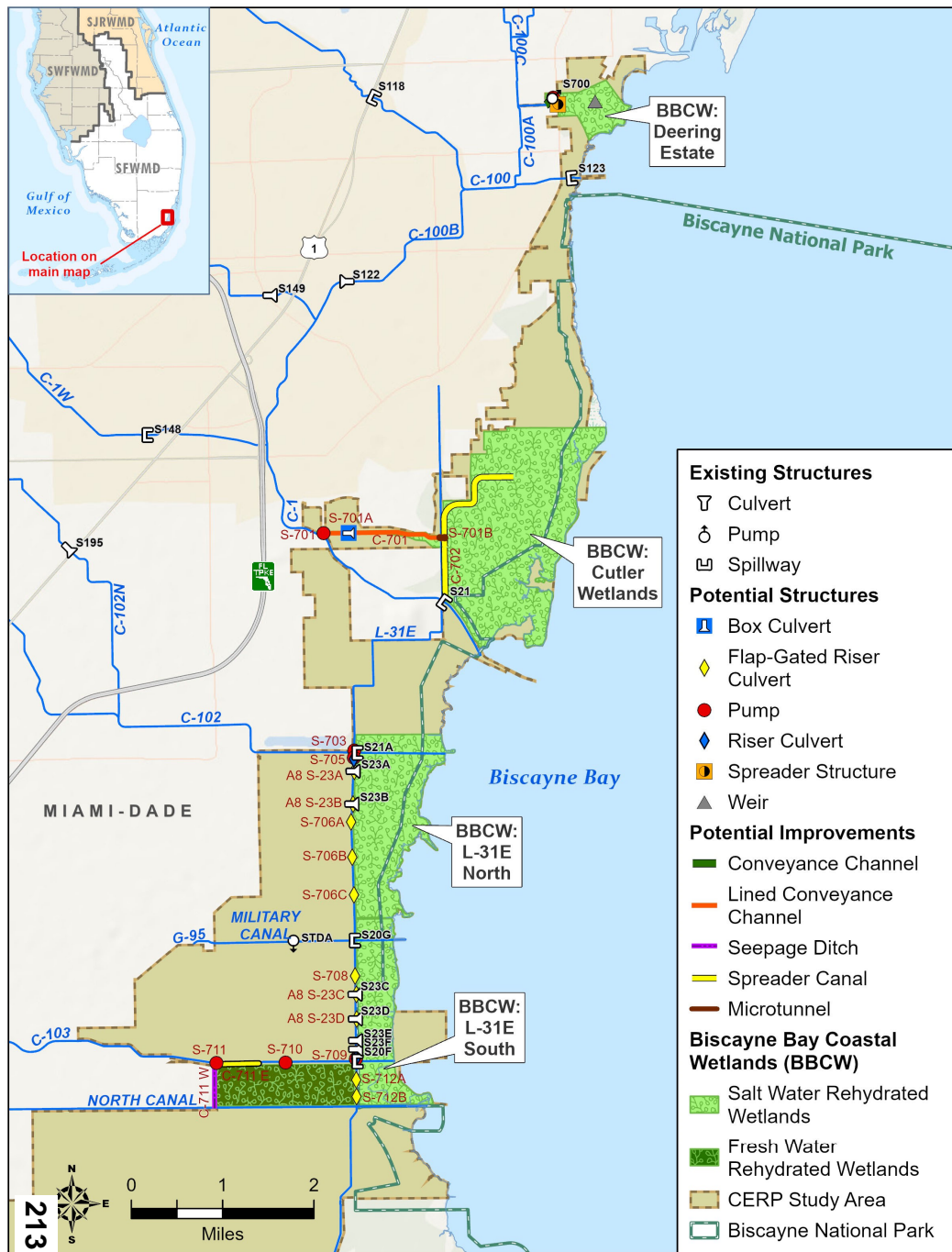


# Background

## Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands Phase 1

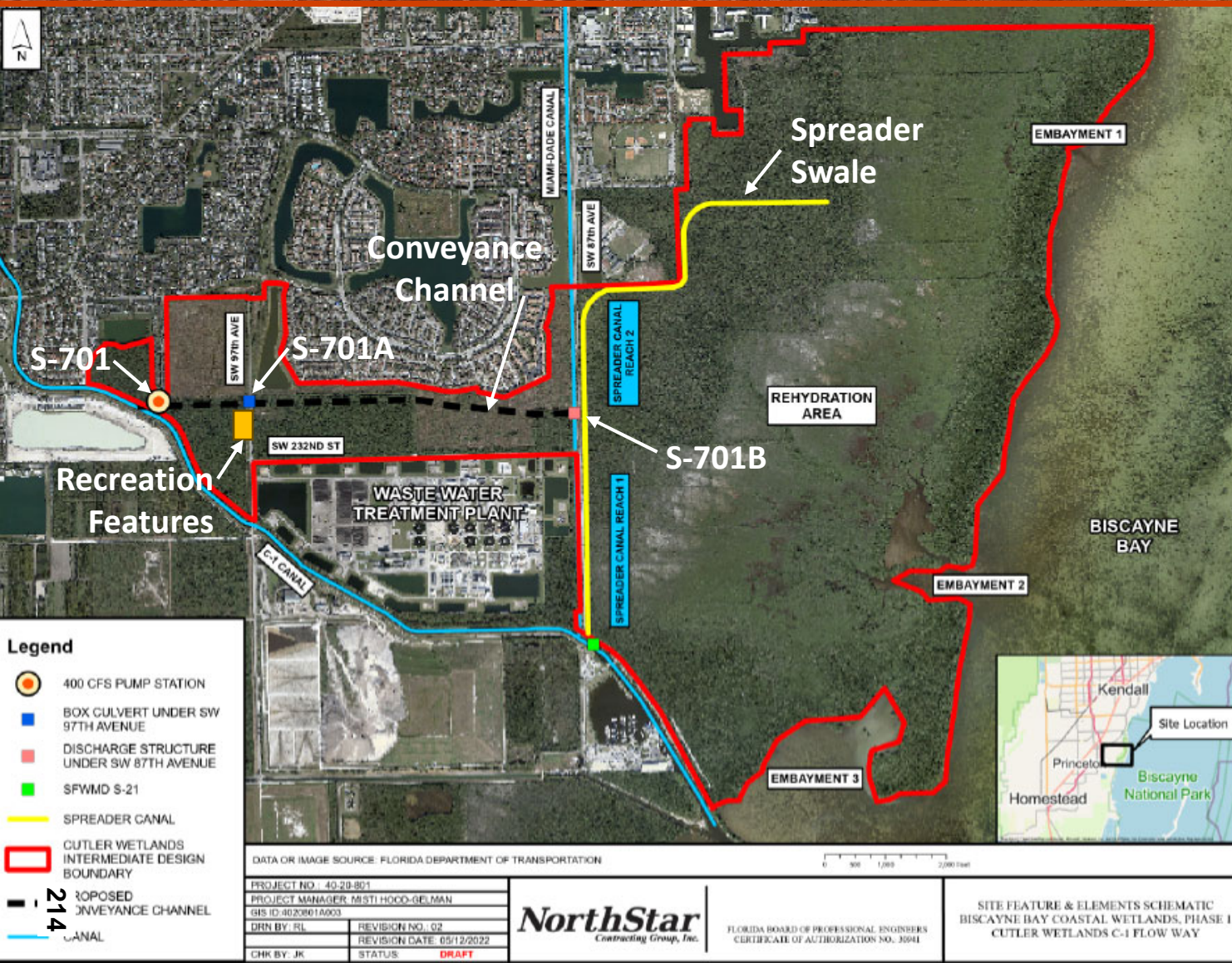
### 3 Project Components:

- **Deering Estate** - SFWMD completed construction in 2012. The project is operational with beneficial hydration results being reported.
- **L-31E Flow way** - Culverts are in place; construction of S-709 pump station by USACE was completed in May 2023. Remaining features under construction by USACE.
- **Cutler Wetlands** - SFWMD started construction of Phase 1 – S-701 Pump Station in Oct 2022. Phase 2 – Conveyance System is the final construction contract for BBCW and subject of this Agenda Item.



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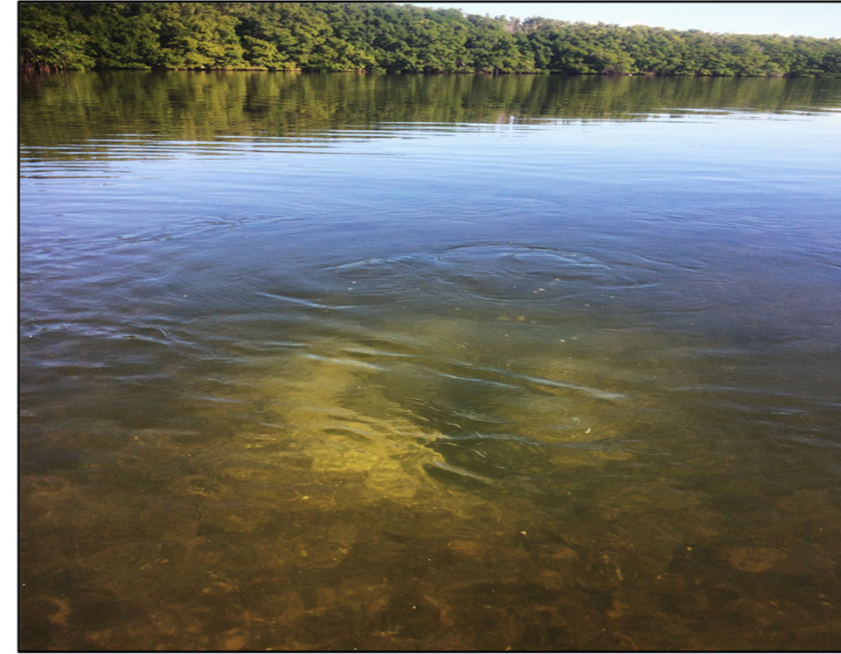
# Scope



- **Phase 1 - Pump Station S-701**
  - 400 cubic feet per second pump station under construction
- **Phase 2 - Conveyance Channel**
  - Box Culvert at SW 97th Ave. (Structure S-701A )
  - Discharge Structure under SW 87th Ave. (Structure S-701B )
  - Above ground concrete-lined Conveyance Channel (7,000 LF)
  - Spreader Swale in Rehydration Area (2.5 Miles)
  - Recreation Features

# Bid Summary

- RFB Advertised: September 20, 2023
- Bid Opening: November 14, 2023
- Number of Bids Received: 5
- Bid Range: \$46,294,000 - \$ 94,753,100
- Engineer's Estimate: \$48,593,450 - \$53,708,550



Freshwater Upwelling in  
Biscayne Bay



# Resolution

**Authorize entering into a 572-day contract with Central Florida Equipment Rentals, Inc., the lowest responsive and responsible bidder for the Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands Cutler Flow Way Phase 2 Conveyance System Project, in the amount of \$46,294,000 for which dedicated funds (Land Acquisition Trust Fund) and Ad Valorem funds in the amount of \$26,000,000 are budgeted in Fiscal Year 2023-2024 and the remainder is subject to Governing Board approval of future years budgets.  
(Contract No. 4600004890)**

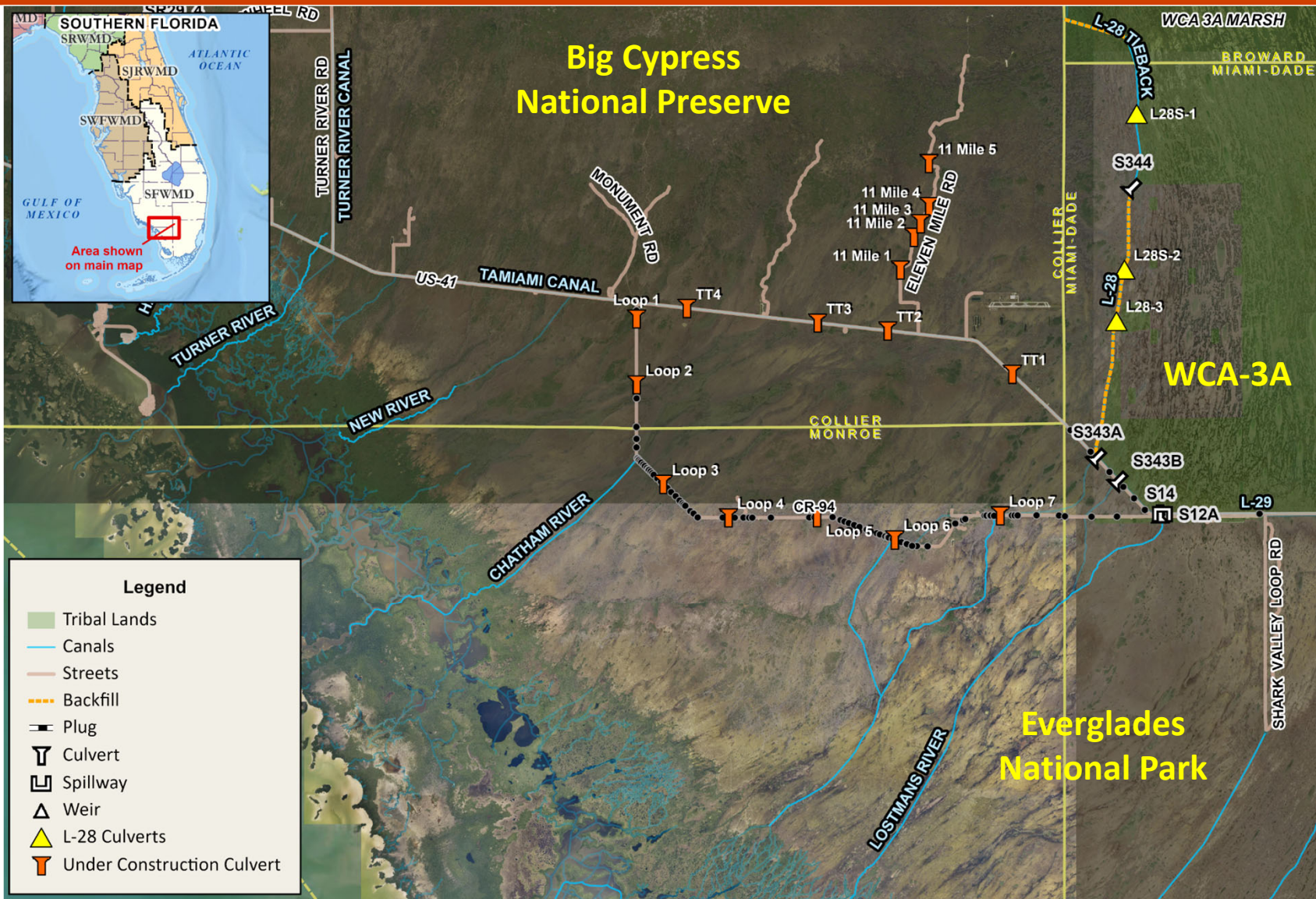


# L-28 Culverts Structures S-229A, S-229B and S-229C

Lucine Dadrian, P.E.  
Division Director, Engineering, Construction & Modeling  
South Florida Water Management District  
Governing Board  
December 14, 2023



# Location

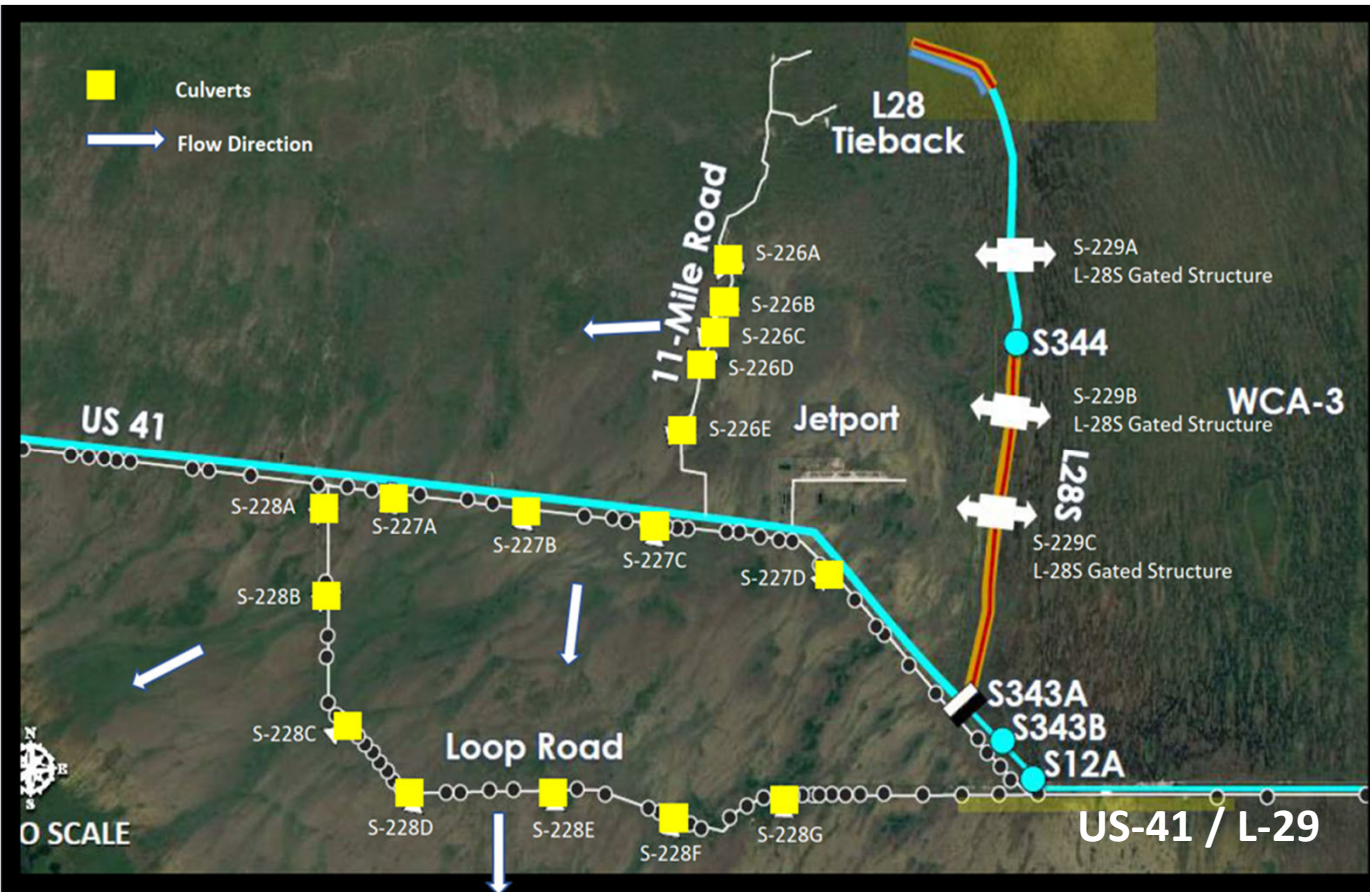


# Background

- These structures will work in conjunction with existing structures S-343A, S-343B and S-344 located on the L-28 Levee to equalize water between WCA-3A and Big Cypress National Preserve, delivering water to Lostman's Slough.
- Allow more water to flow west into the Big Cypress National Preserve and Everglades National Park, restoring freshwater flows through Lostman's Slough to Florida Bay.
- Reestablish ecological connectivity and resilience of the historic wetland/upland mosaic of habitats.
- They will work in conjunction with additional culverts under US 41 and Loop Road to ensure flows can move naturally across the landscape.

# Scope

- Construction of three new remotely operable gated box culverts S-229A (250 cfs), S-229B (350 cfs), and S-229C (400 cfs)
- Canal excavation, stilling wells, staff gauges, stainless steel walkways, and riprap stabilization. The project also includes a control building with instrumentation, telemetry, site lighting, and electric service conduit for each site
- Levee improvements as a result of the new culvert construction
- Connection to the previously installed permanent power along the levee
- New backup LPG generator at the communication tower



# Bid Summary

- RFB Advertised: November 1, 2023
- Bid Opening: December 5, 2023
- Number of Bids Received: 4
- Bid Range: \$46,717,331 - \$69,964,885
- Engineer's Estimate: \$44,975,000 - \$49,700,000



# Resolution

**Authorize entering into a 1107-day contract with Phillips and Jordan, Incorporated, for the construction of the L-28 Culvert Structures S-229A, S-229B and S-229C Project, in the amount of \$46,717,331 for which \$15,000,000 in dedicated funds (Land Acquisition Trust Fund) and Ad Valorem funds are budgeted in Fiscal Year 2023 - 2024 and the remainder is subject to Governing Board approval of future years budgets. (Contract Number 4600004894).**

# Central Everglades Planning Project Everglades Agricultural Area

## Project Update & Board Actions

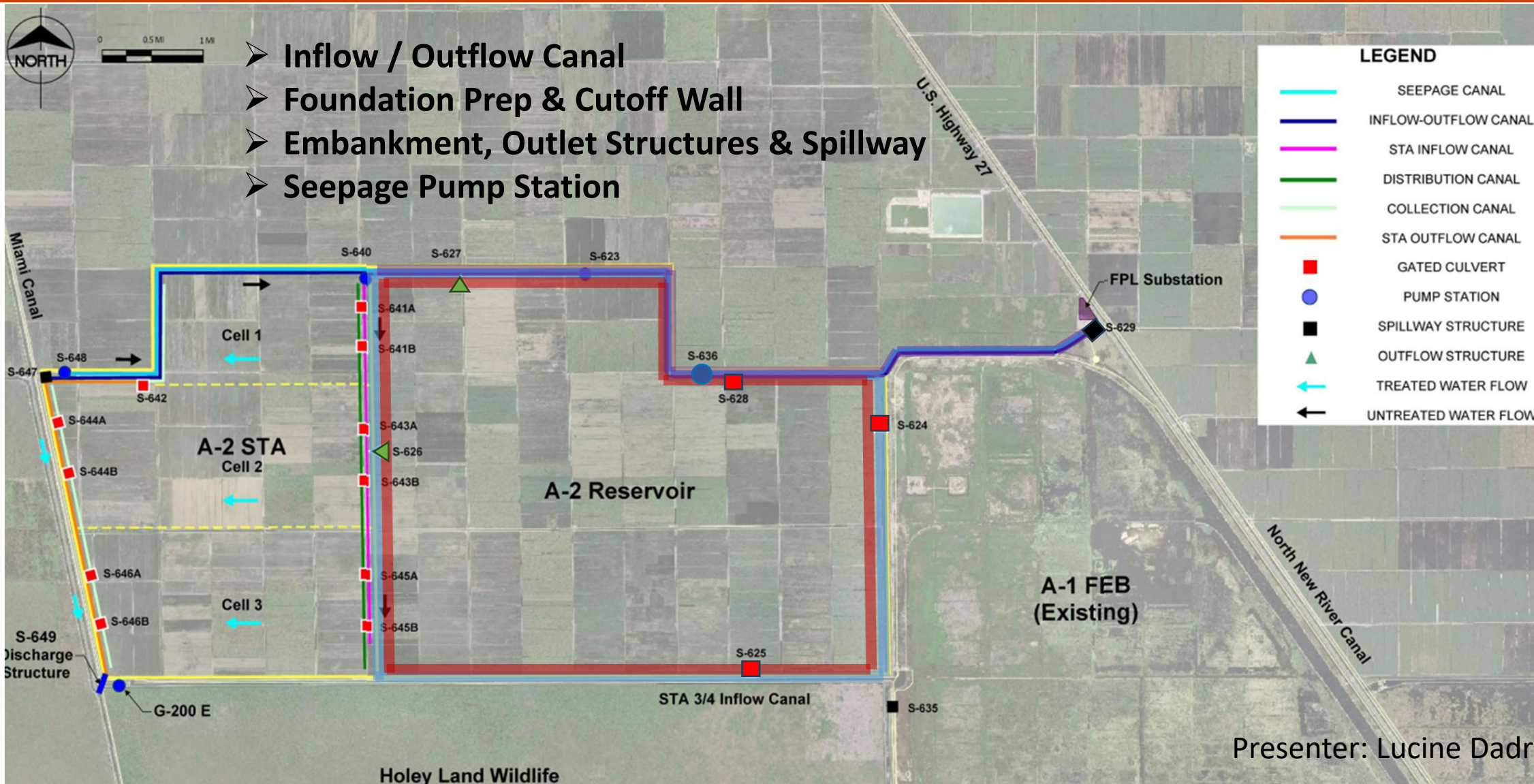
Lucine Dadrian, P.E.  
Division Director, Engineering, Construction & Modeling  
South Florida Water Management District  
Governing Board  
December 14, 2023



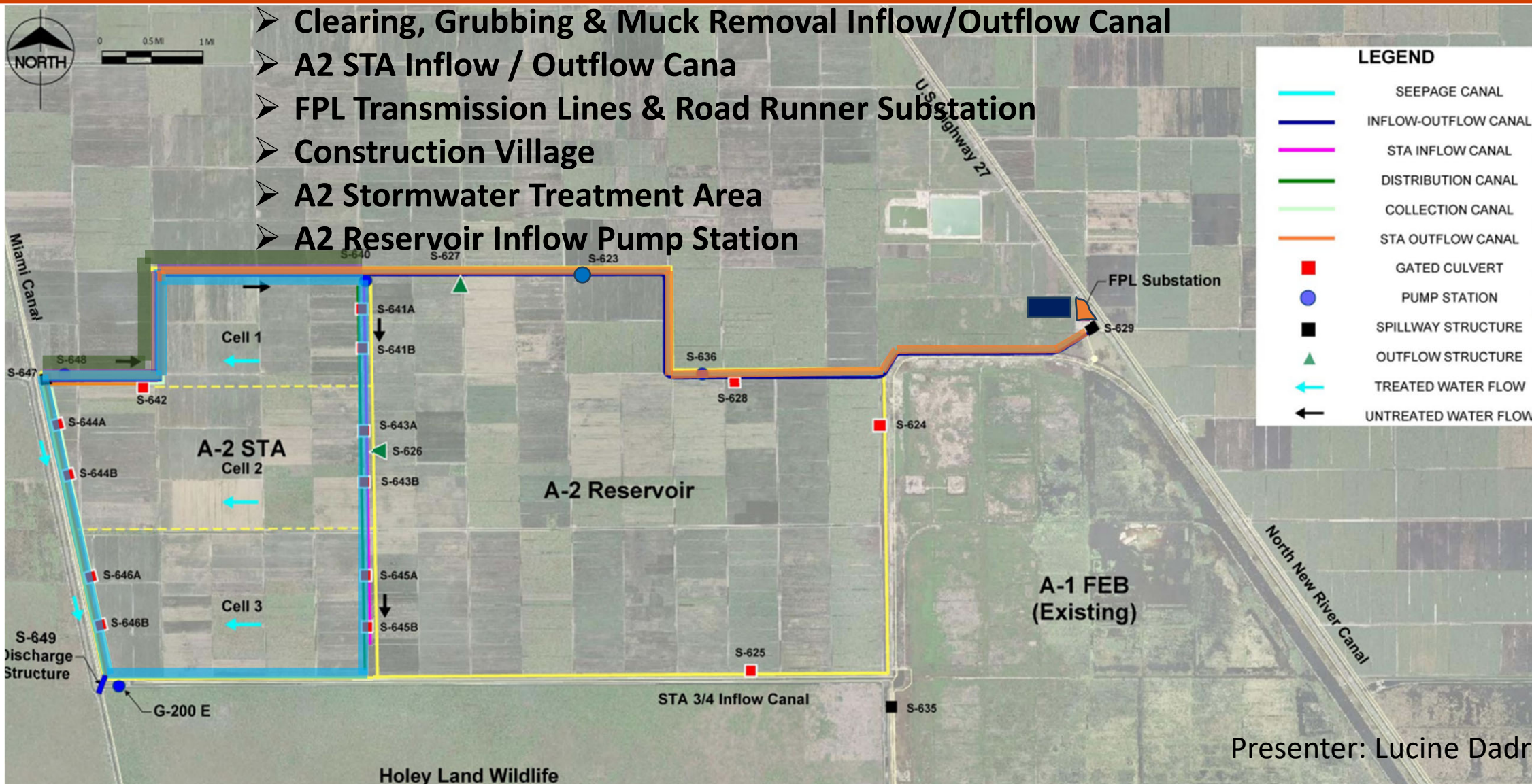




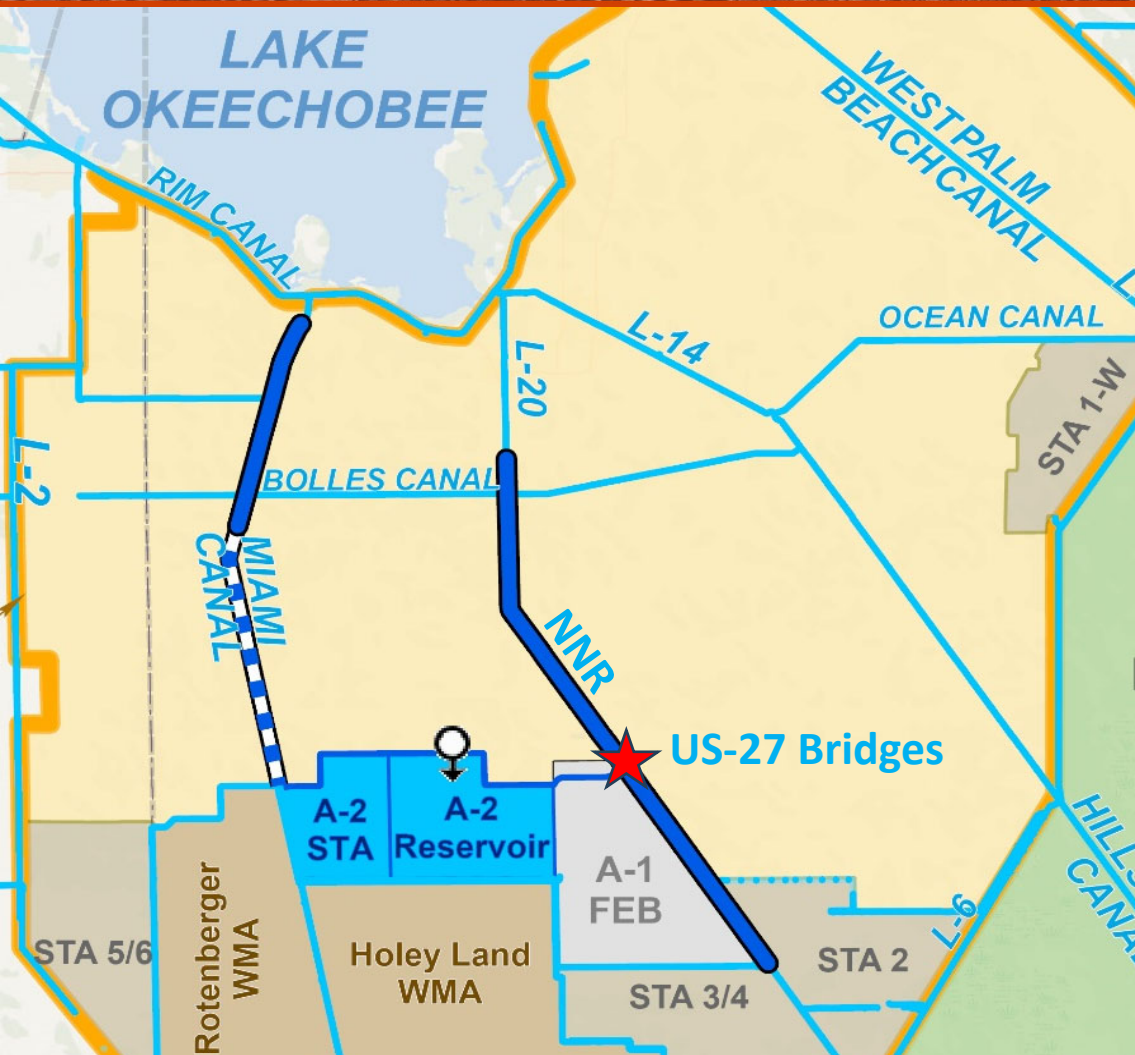
# CEPP EAA USACE CONSTRUCTION



# CEPP EAA SFWMD CONSTRUCTION



# North New River Conveyance Improvements



- Increase the North New River Canal's conveyance capacity by 200 cfs by widening and deepening the canal using both mechanical and hydraulic dredging.
- Conveyance improvements will occur in 3 segments due to the existing conditions of the canal.
- Miami and North New River Canals will be primary arteries bringing water from Lake Okeechobee into the A-2 Reservoir and Stormwater Treatment Area.
- Future Miami Canal improvements will be completed in 2 packages expanding the canal to provide an additional 1,000 cfs capacity.
- US27 Bridges are in design and construction award in the summer of FY 2025

# Bid Summary

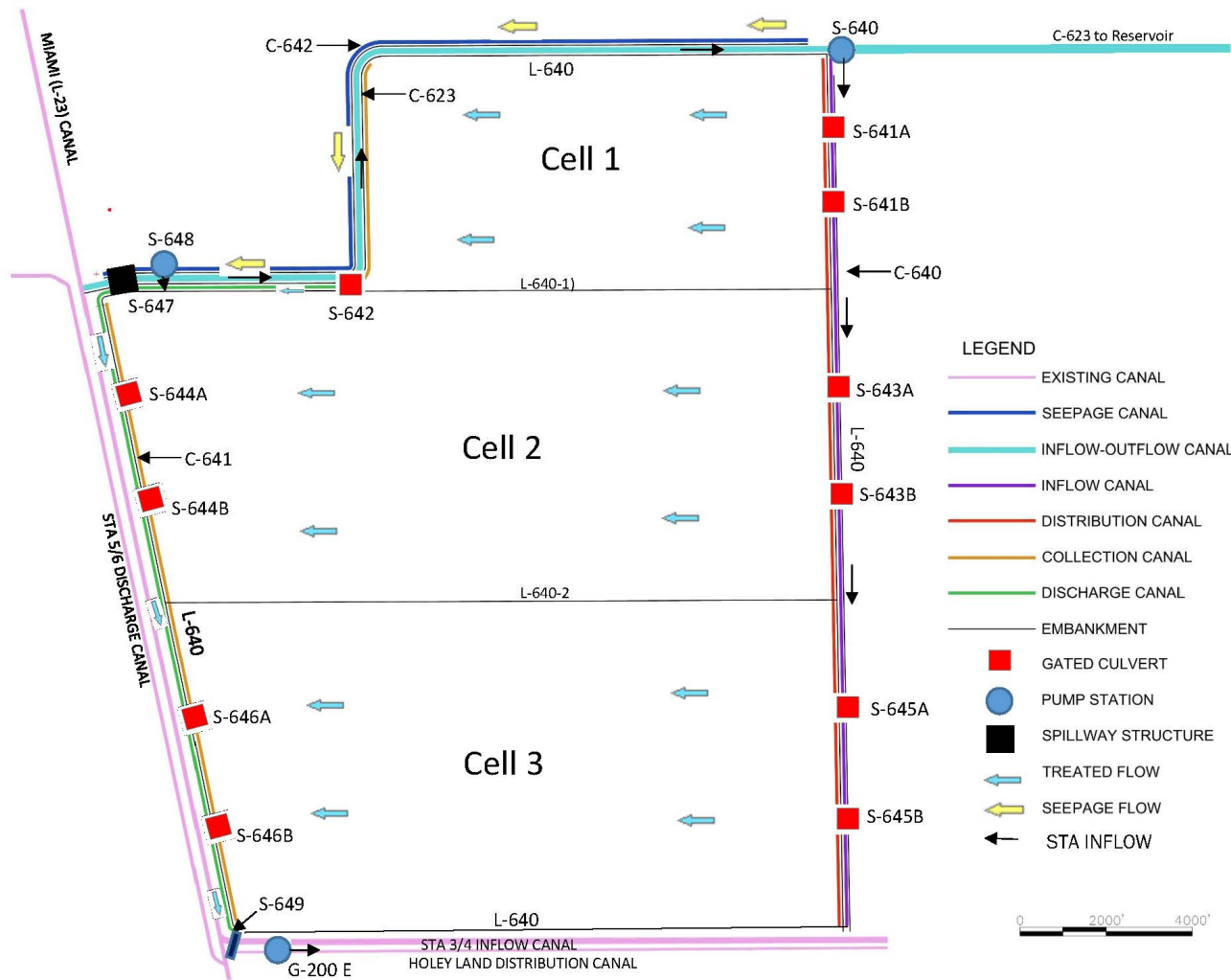
- RFB Advertised: September 25, 2023
- Bid Opening: November 8, 2023
- Number of Bids Received: 3
- Bid Range: \$86,213,656 - \$123,000,000
- Engineer's Estimate: \$111,455,200 - \$123,187,400



# Resolution

**Authorize entering into a 645-day contract with Ryan Incorporated Southern, the lowest responsive and responsible bidder, for the North New River Canal Conveyance Project, in the amount of \$86,213,626 for which \$33,000,000 in dedicated funds (Everglades Trust Fund, State General Revenue and Land Acquisition Trust Fund) and Ad Valorem funds are budgeted in Fiscal Year 2023-2024 and the remainder is subject to Governing Board approval of future years budgets. (Contract No. 4600004891)**

# EAA A2 STA Change Order Scope



- Scope includes surveying, clearing, disking and grading Cells 1, 2 & 3.
- Grading the cell bottoms will maximize the efficiency of nutrient removal in a Stormwater Treatment Area.
- Will minimize the risk of short-circuiting of the flow through the STA which would require additional regrading in the future.
- Original contract did not include this scope, performing work now is more cost effective and does not delay start-up / grow-in period.



# Resolution

**Authorize Change Order No. 9 to Contract No. 4600004380 with Phillips & Jordan, Inc., in the amount of \$22,924,603.66 for which dedicated funds (Everglades Trust Fund and Land Acquisition Trust Fund) and ad valorem funds are budgeted in Fiscal Year 2023-2024. (Contract No. 4600004380-CO09)**

# Water Conditions Summary

## South Florida Water Management District Governing Board Meeting December 14, 2023



**John P. Mitnik, PE**  
Chief District Engineer  
Assistant Executive Director



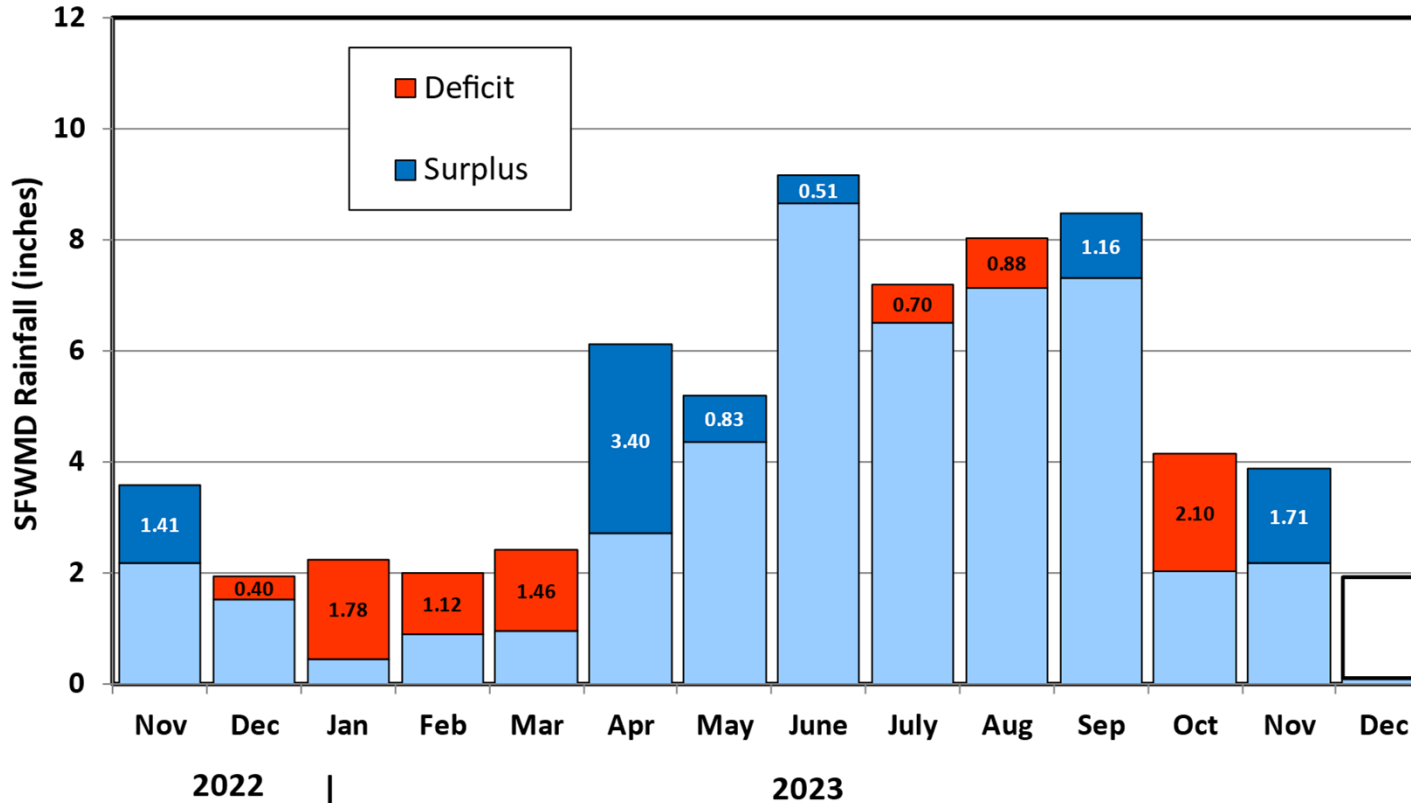
**Lawrence Glenn**  
Division Director  
Water Resources



### SFWMD Rainfall Distribution Comparison (November 2022 - December 2023)

Wet-Season Rainfall

- Total rainfall 108% of normal since the start of the 2023 wet season (14 May)
- May (119% normal)
  - June (106% normal)
  - July was dry (90% normal),
  - August (89% normal)
  - September (116% normal)



**District Wide Average Rainfall**

Month	Average (inches)
Jan	2.24
Feb	2.01
Mar	2.43
Apr	2.71
May	4.37
Jun	8.65
Jul	7.20
Aug	8.03
Sep	7.31
Oct	4.15
Nov	2.18
Dec	1.94

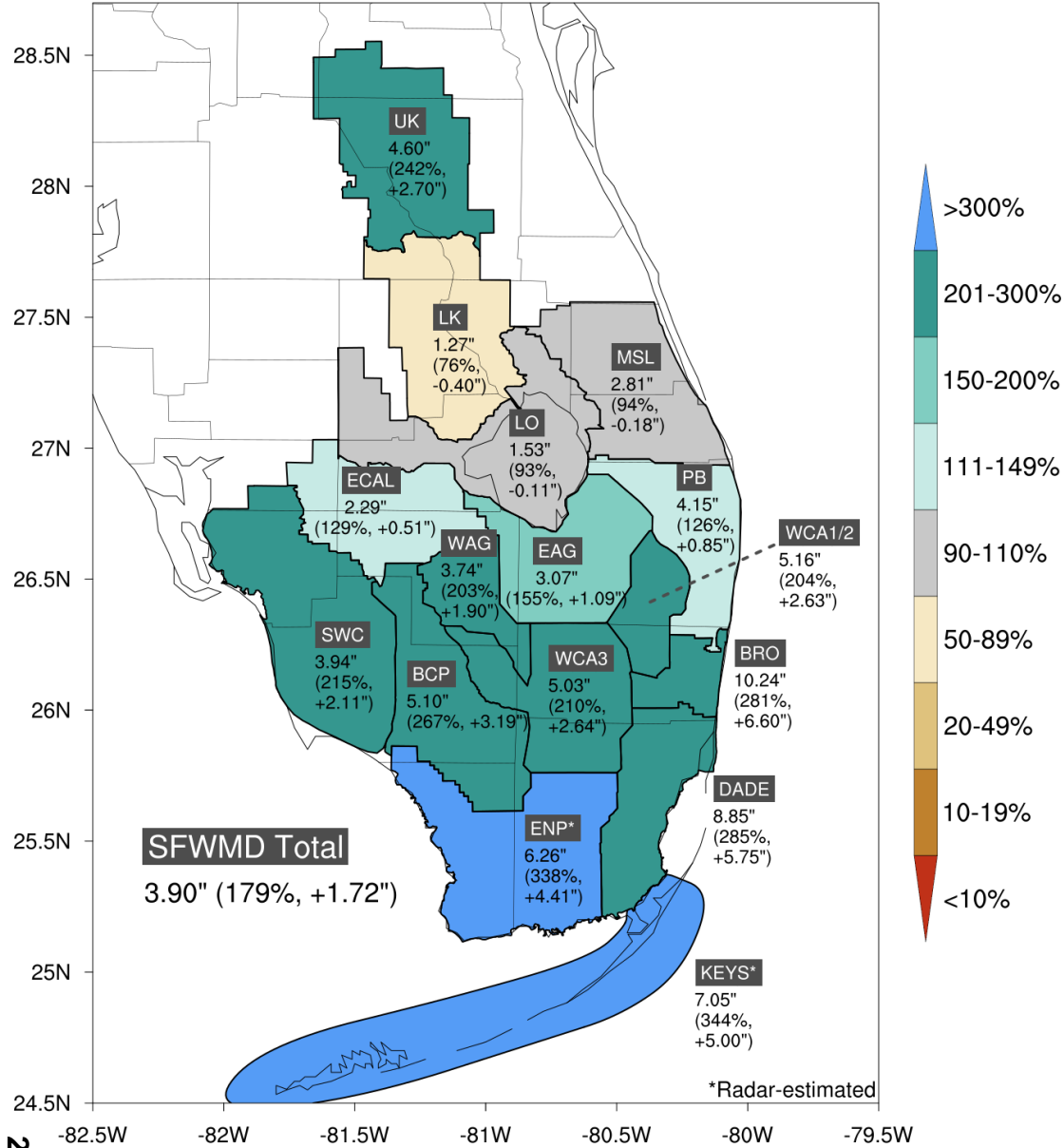
} Wet Season

<p><b>2022-2023 DRY SEASON</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Started 9/29/2022 and ended 5/13/2023</li> <li>• Including Oct. 2022, 5/6 months are below Normal</li> <li>• 4/6 full months are more than 50% below Normal</li> <li>• April was ~ 225% Normal</li> </ul>	<p><b>2023 WET SEASON</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Started 5/14/2023 ended 9/30/2023</li> <li>• May, June and September were above Normal</li> <li>• July and August were below Normal</li> <li>• 8% above Normal overall</li> </ul>	<p><b>2023-2024 DRY SEASON</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Started 10/01/2023</li> <li>• October was extremely dry (49% normal)</li> <li>• November was 179% of normal.</li> <li>• Most of the rain falling Nov. 14 to 17.</li> </ul>
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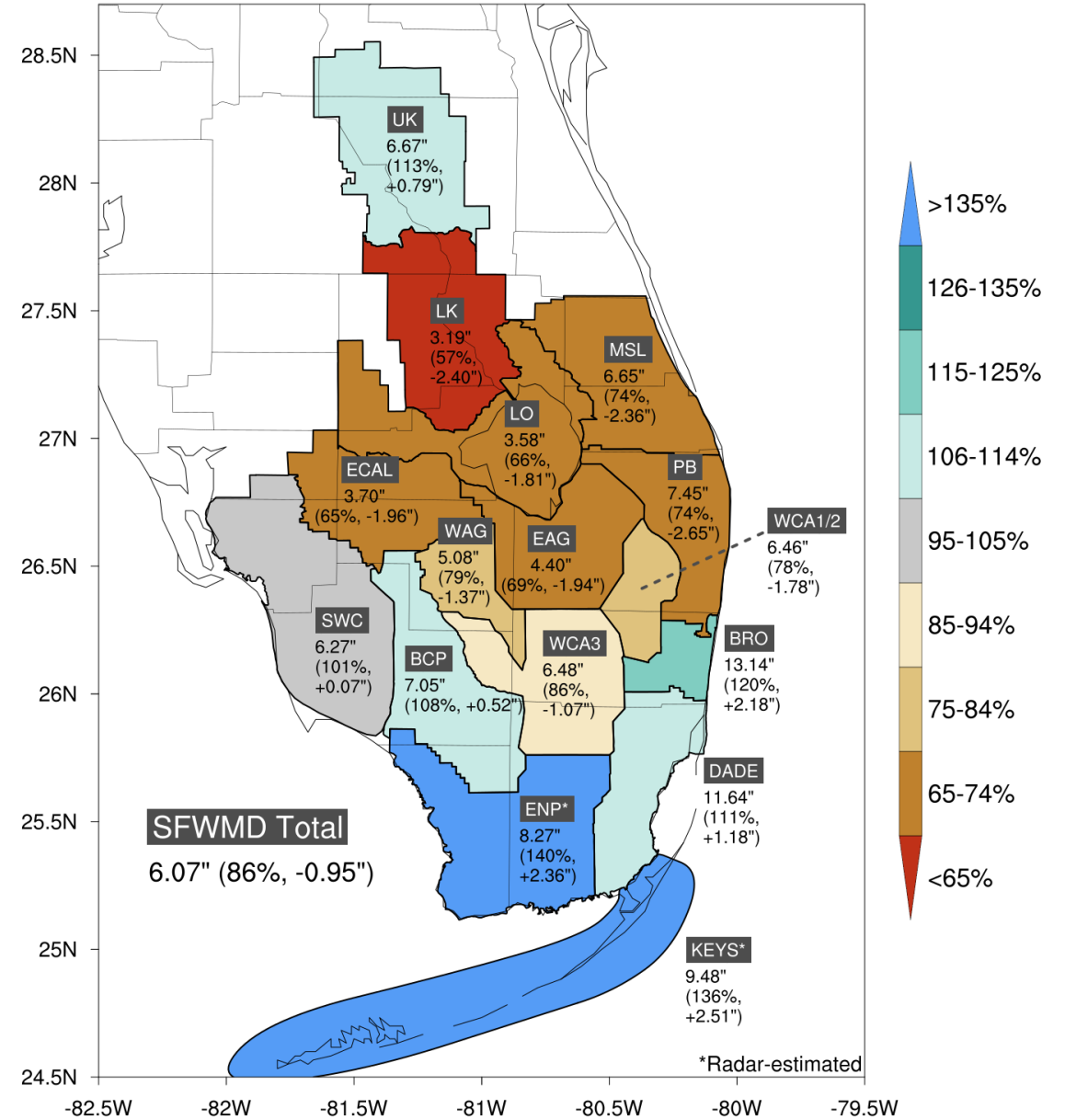
**November 2023**

Rainfall, Percent of Normal, and Departures

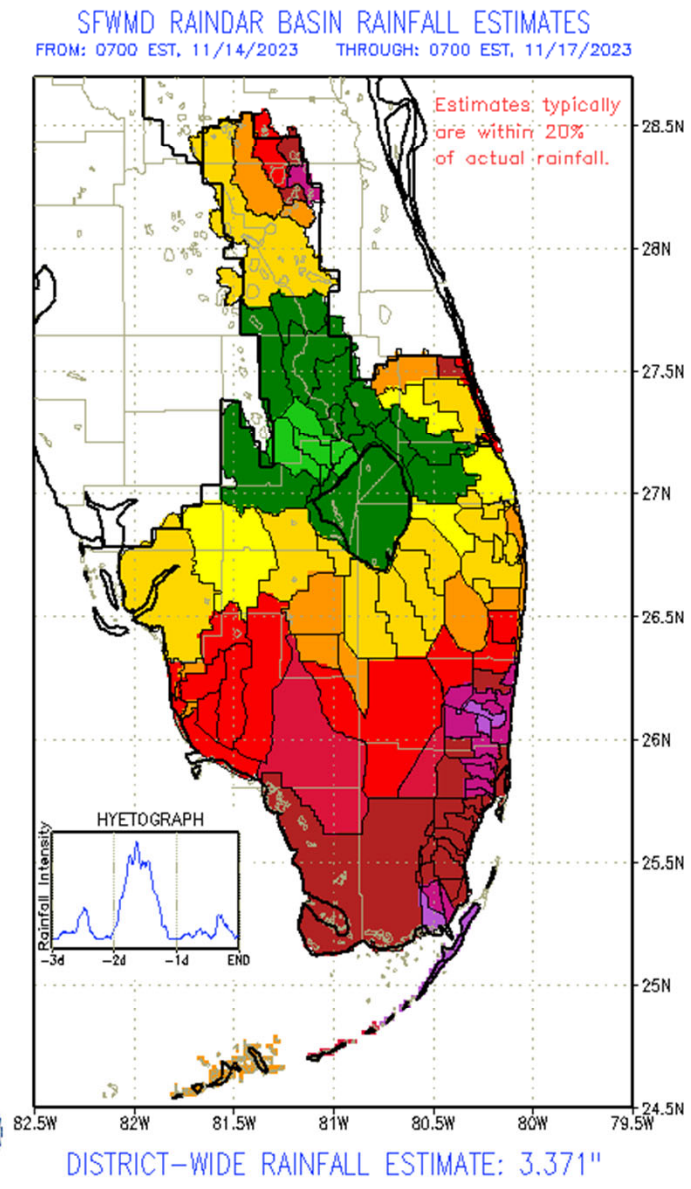
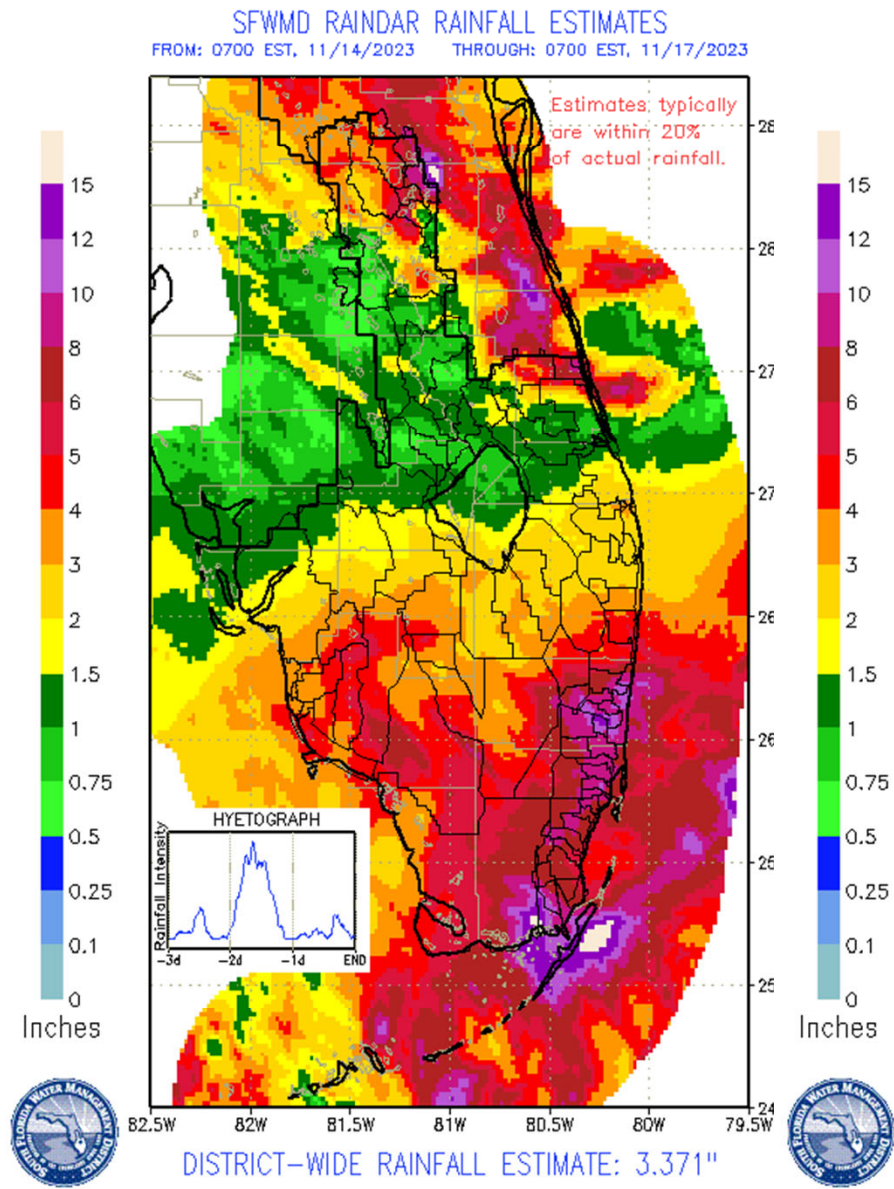


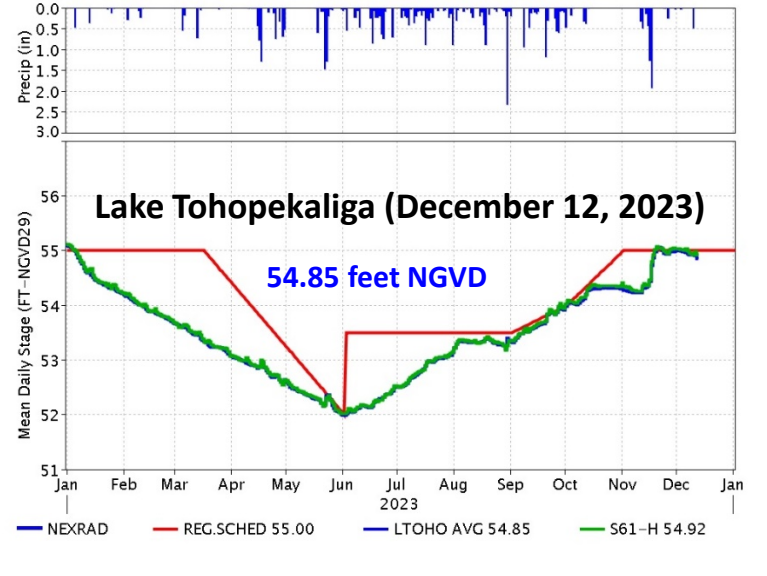
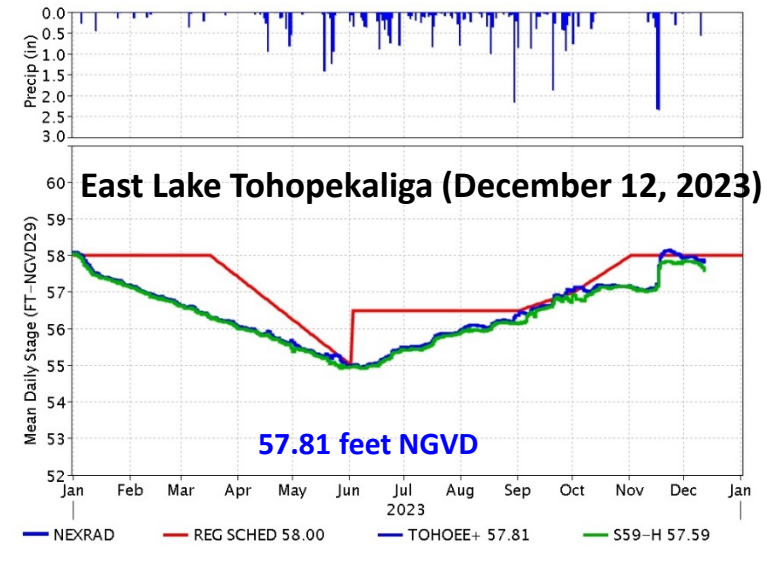
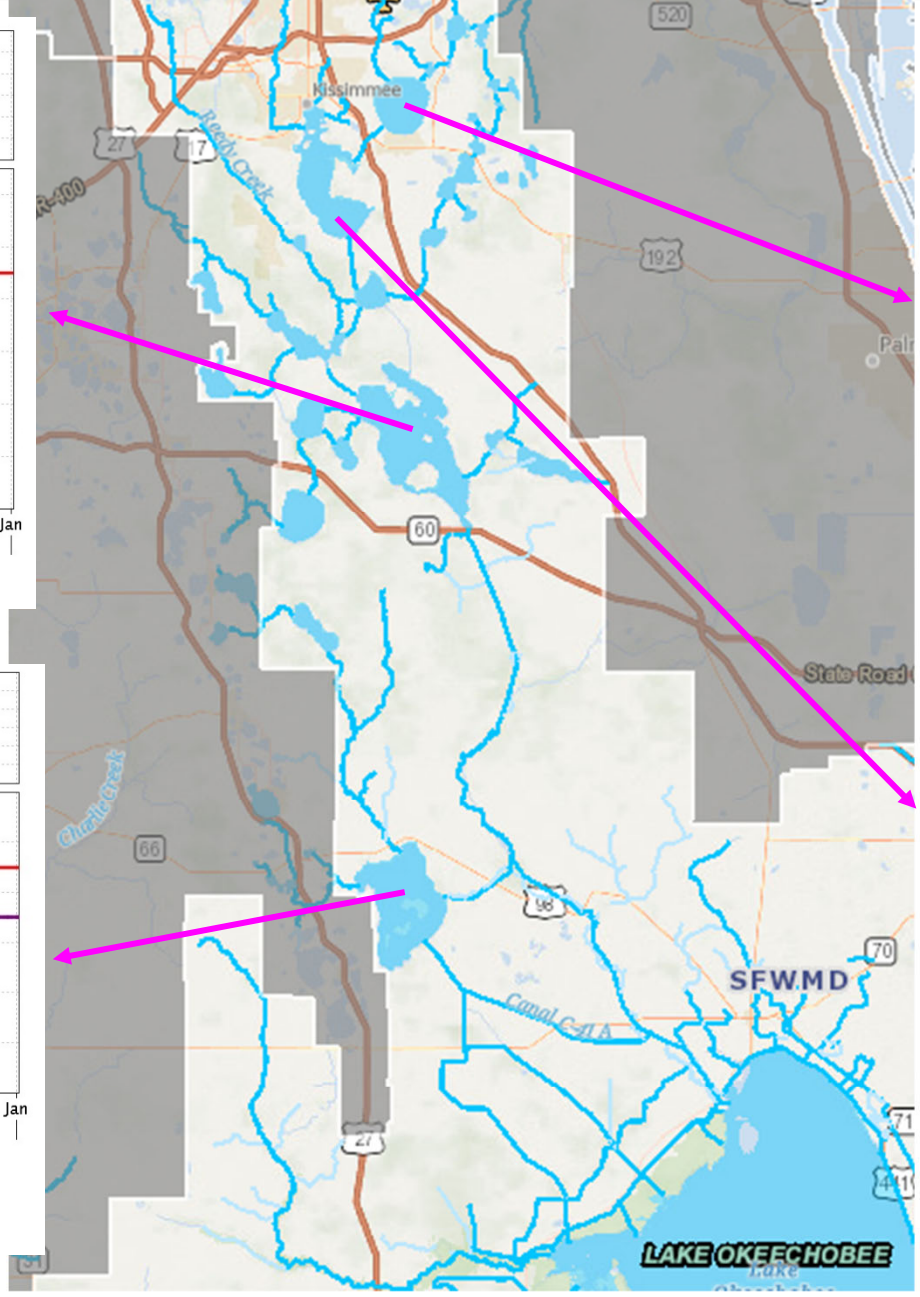
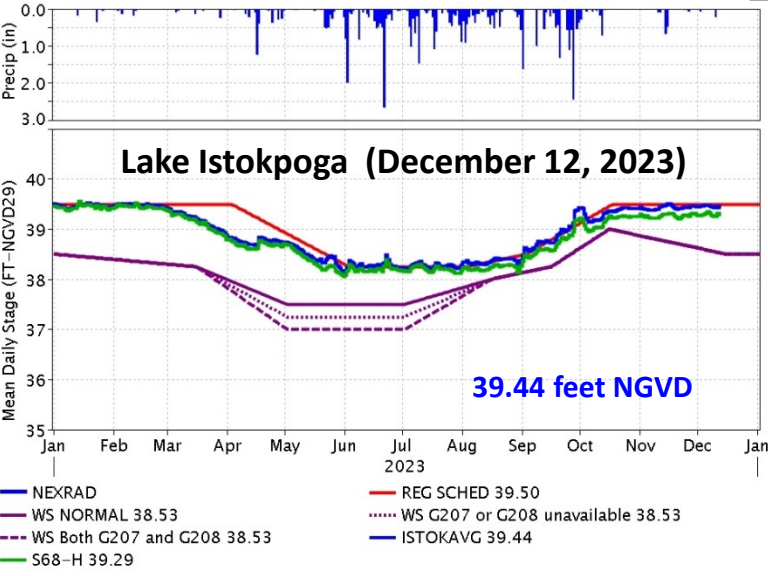
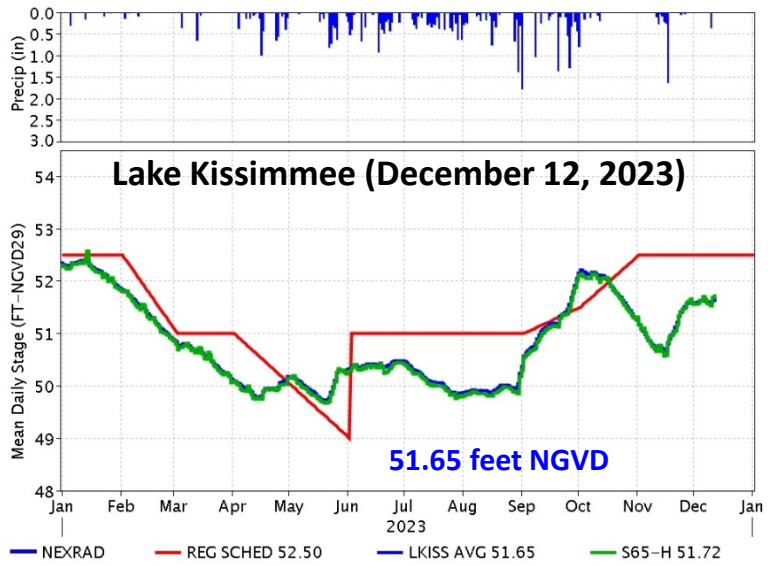
**2023-2024 Dynamic Dry Season (10/1/23 to 12/11/23)**

Rainfall, Percent of Normal, and Departures

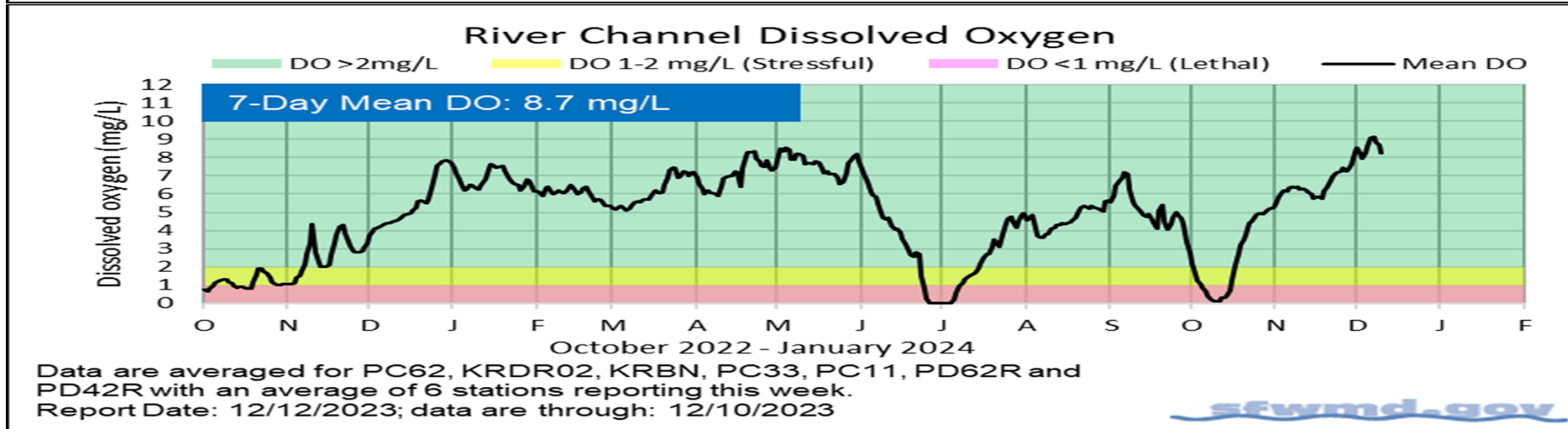
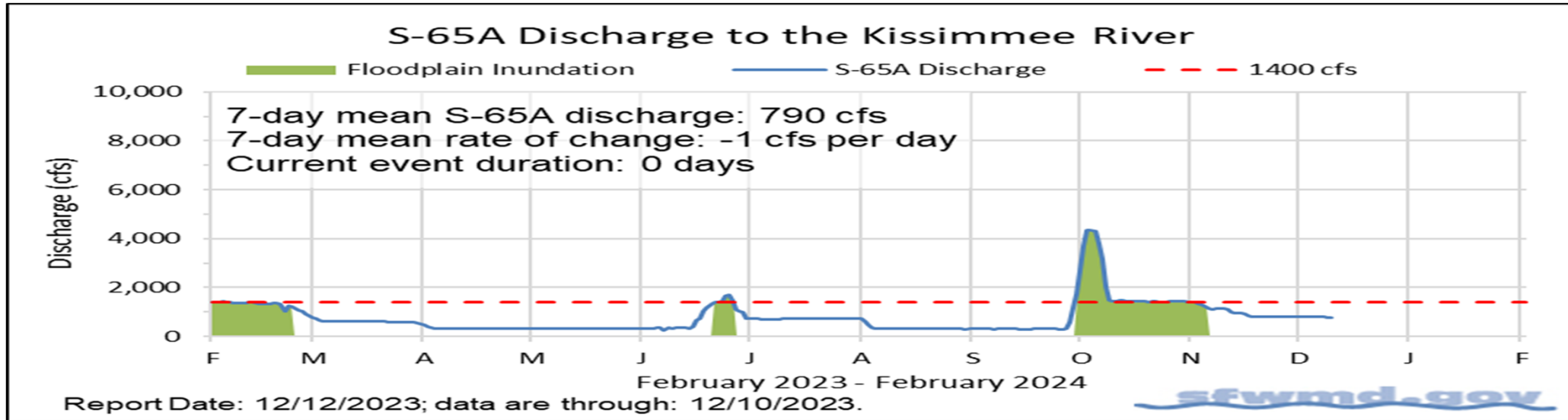


# Rainfall Event November 14 to 17, 2023

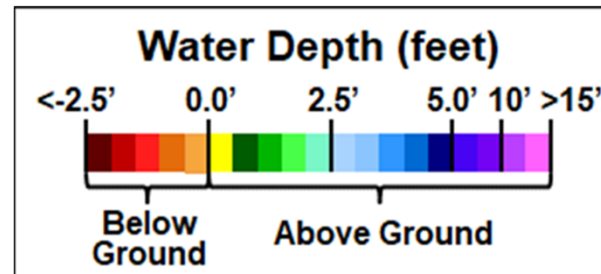
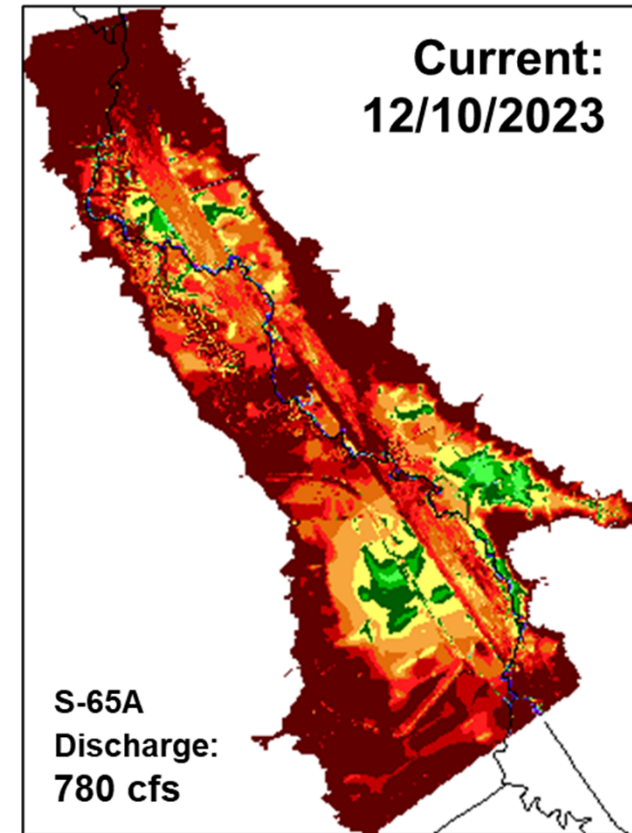
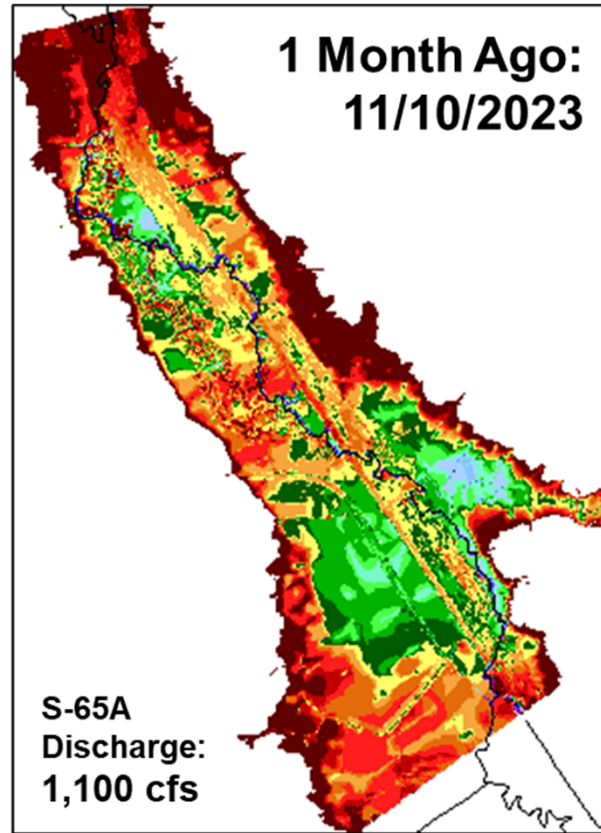
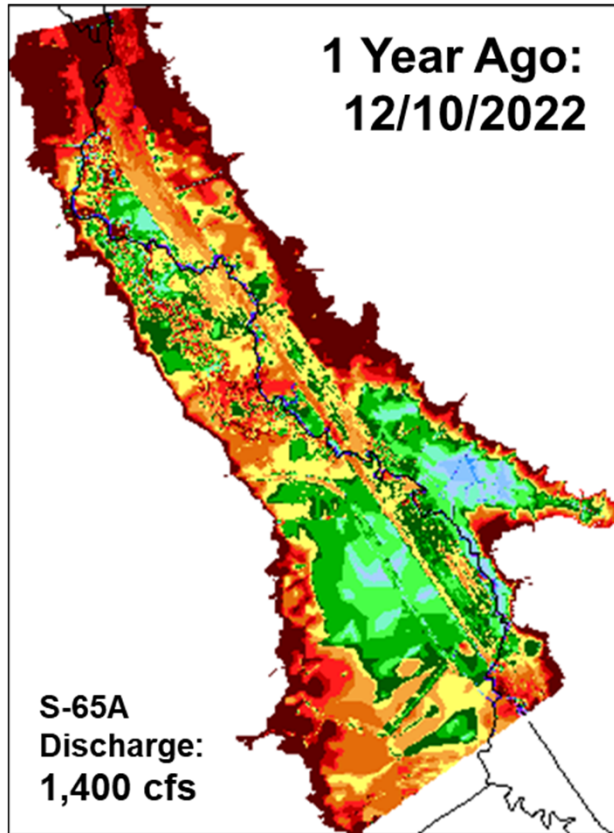




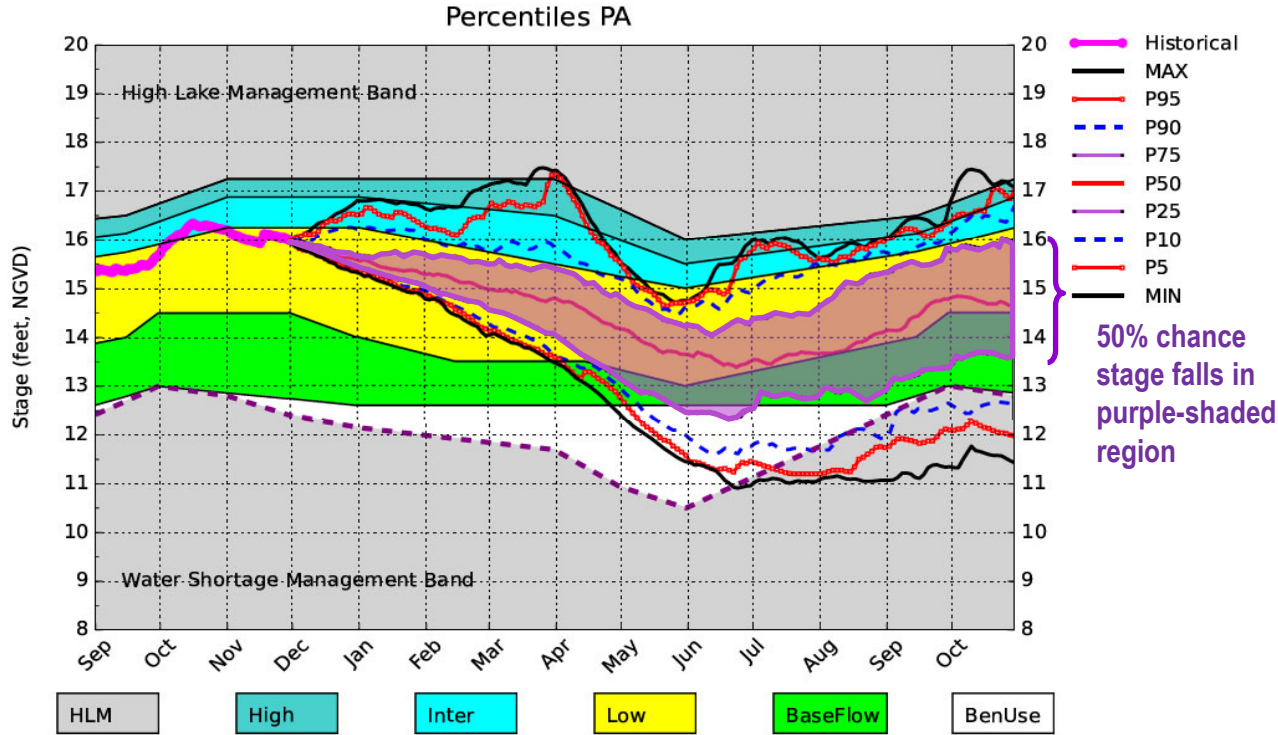
# Kissimmee River Discharge & Dissolved Oxygen



# Kissimmee River Floodplain Inundation



Lake Okeechobee SFWMM Decenter 2023 Position Analysis



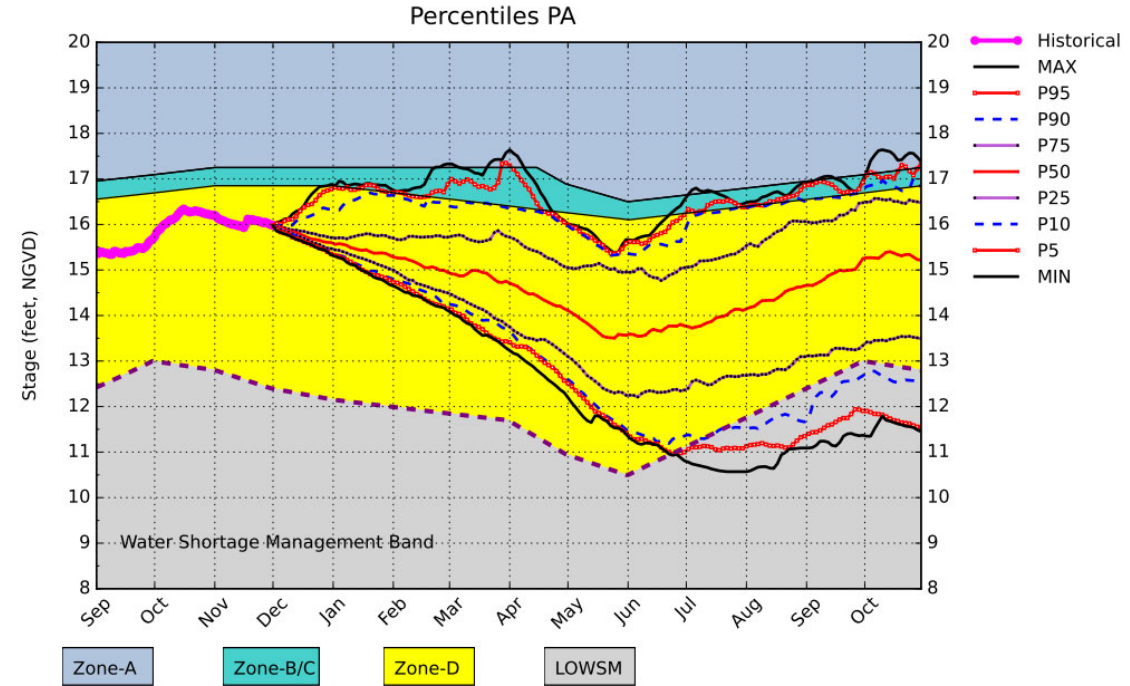
12/06/23 14:03:10

(See assumptions on the Position Analysis Results website)



Current Lake Okeechobee Regulation Schedule (LORS2008)

Lake Okeechobee SFWMM Decenter 2023 Position Analysis



12/07/23 21:31:37

(See assumptions on the Position Analysis Results website)

Provisional Tool Under Development for the Proposed July 2023 Water Control Plan (LOSOM PA25)

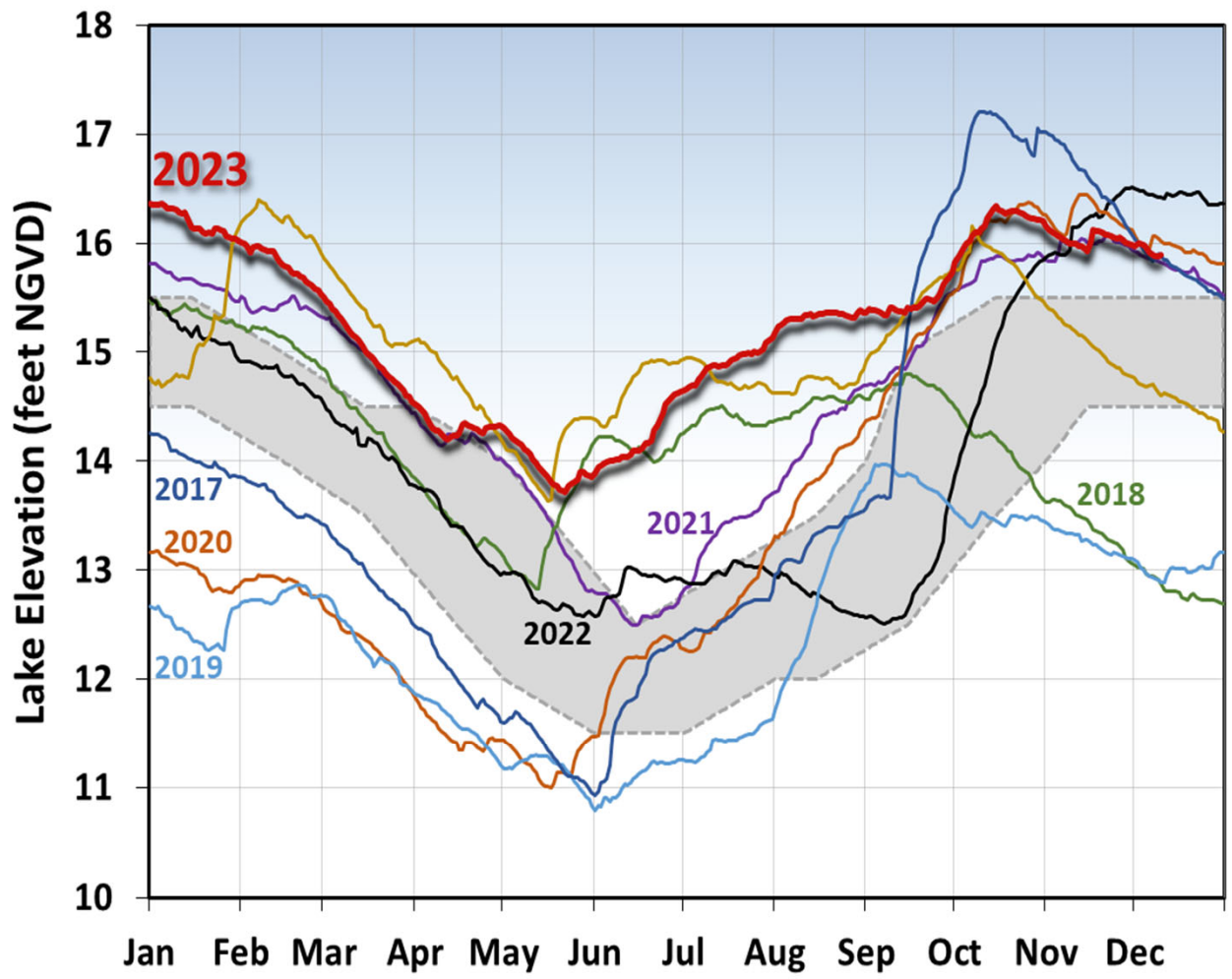




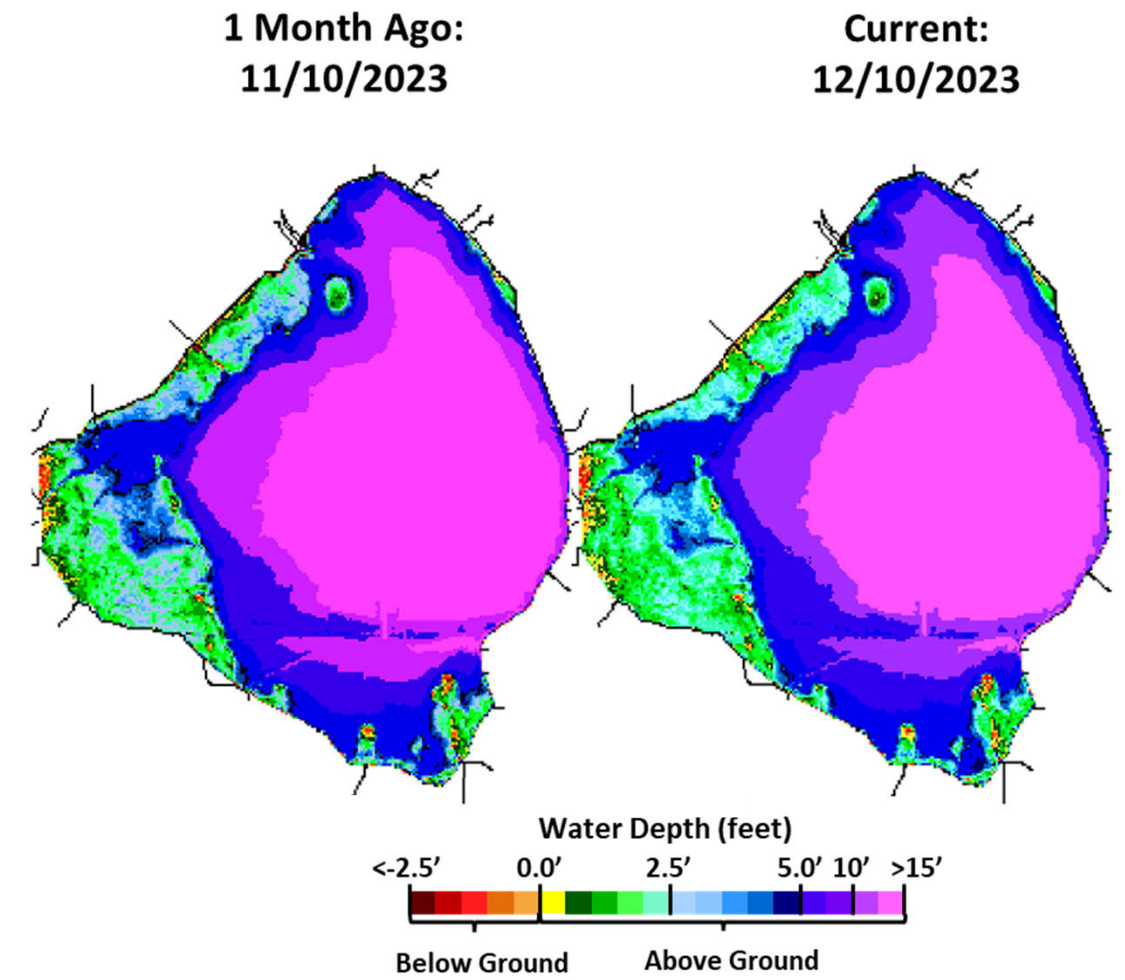


# Ecological Envelope and Water Depths

Lake Okeechobee Stage vs Ecological Envelope

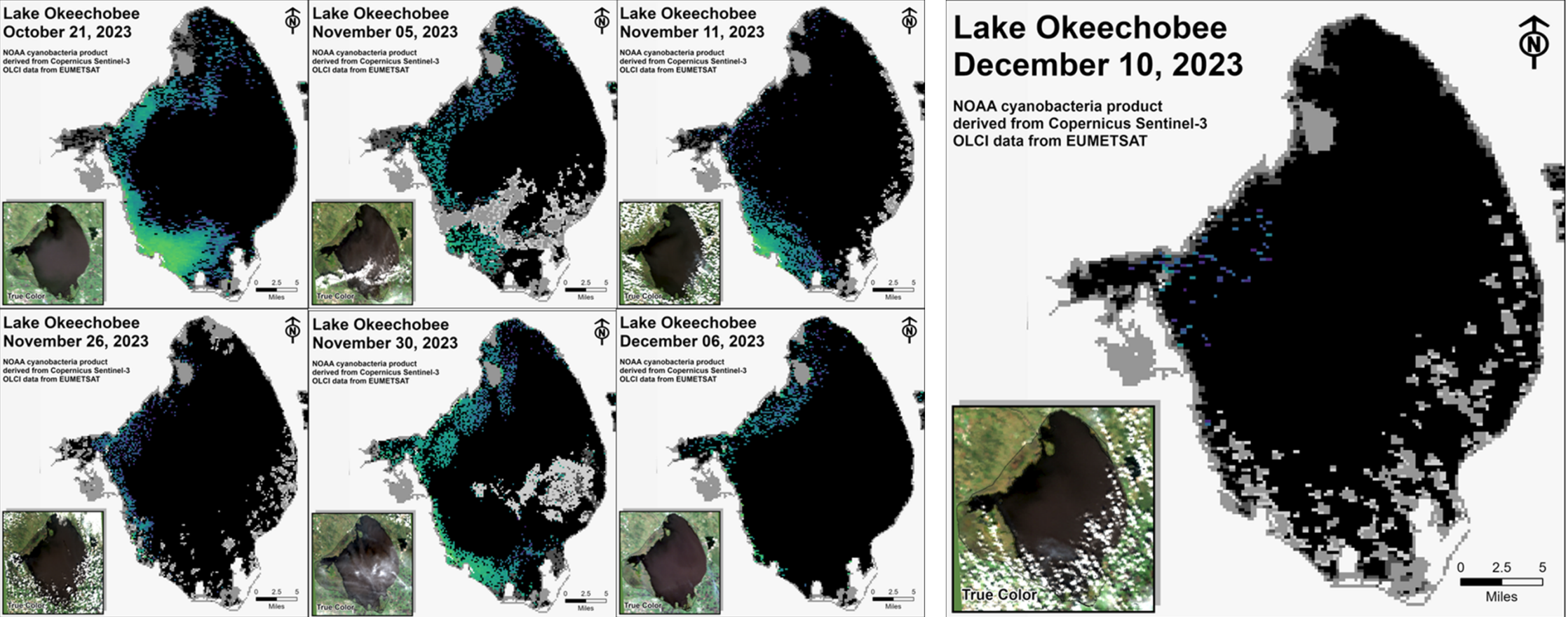


Changes in Water Depth



# Lake Okeechobee

## Cyanobacteria Bloom Distribution and Intensity

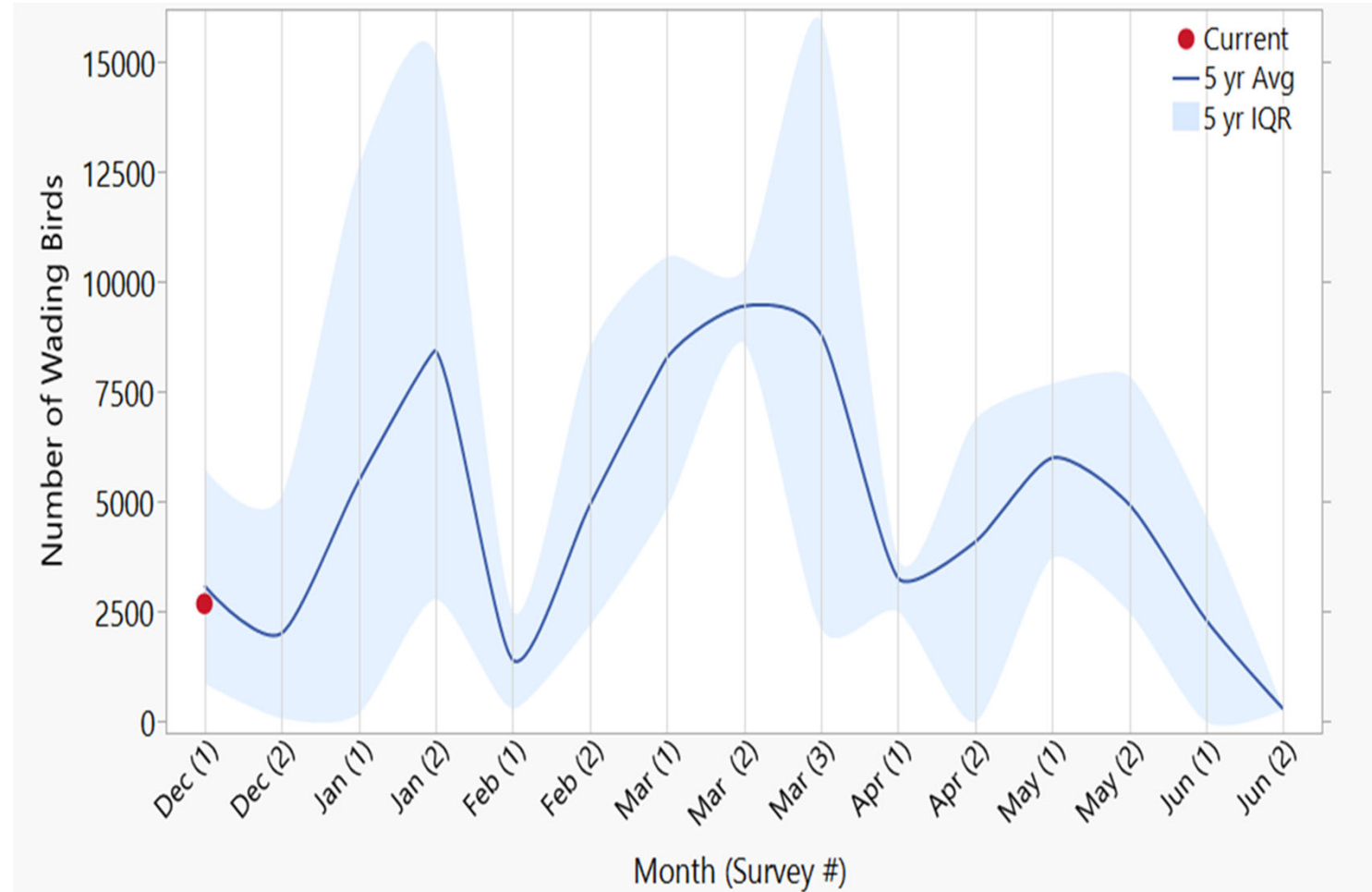
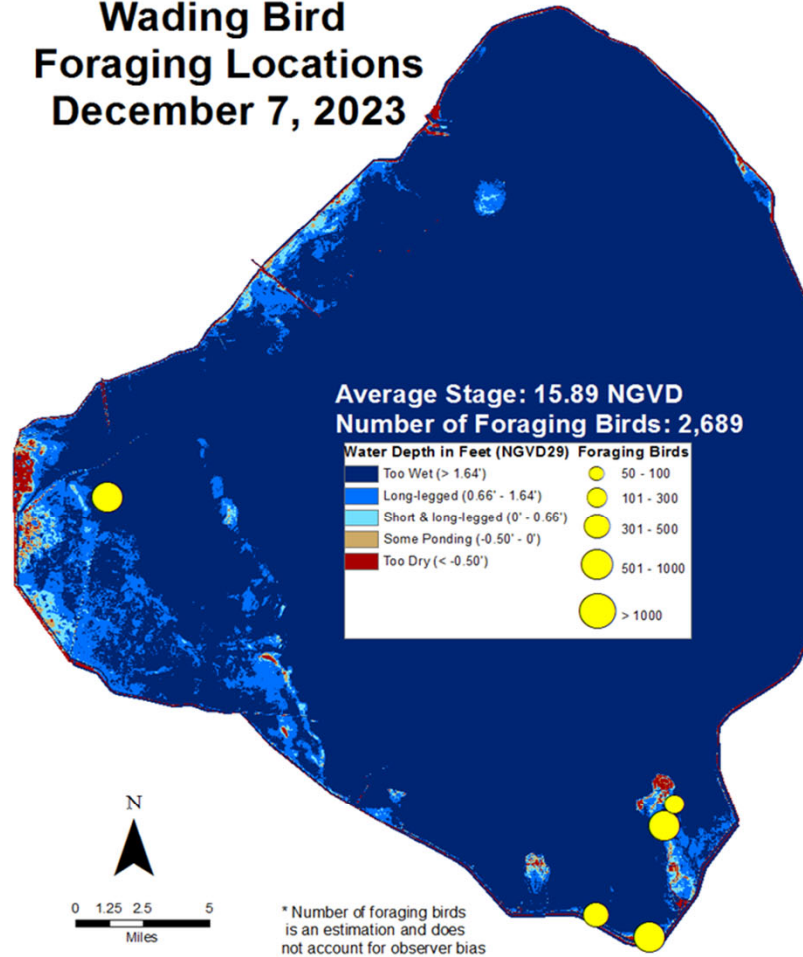


NOAA cyanobacteria product derived from Copernicus Sentinel-3 OLCI data from EUMETSAT

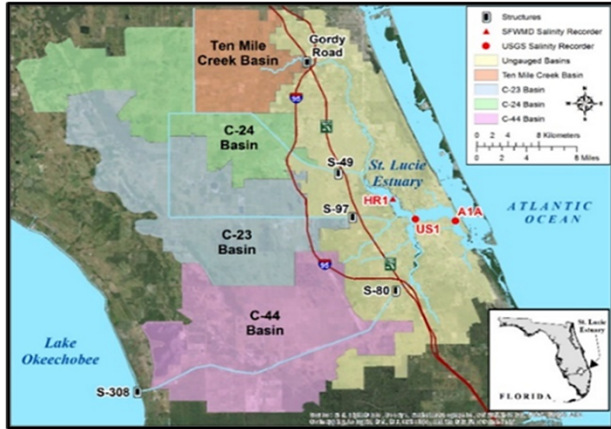
# Lake Okeechobee

## Foraging Wading Birds

**Wading Bird Foraging Locations**  
December 7, 2023



# St. Lucie Inflows and Salinity Conditions

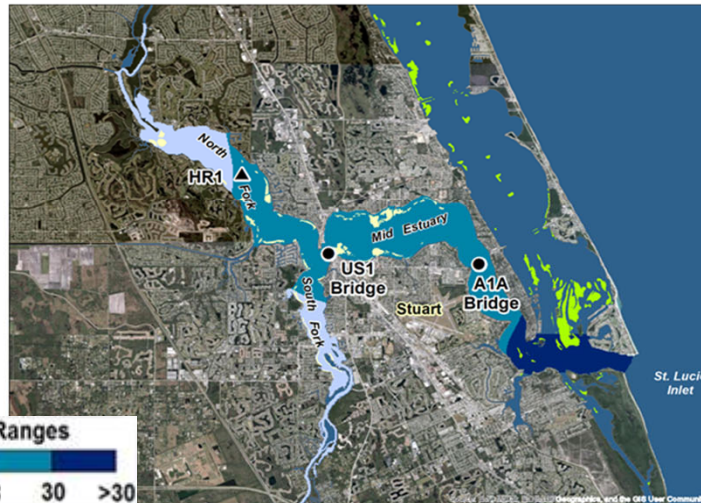
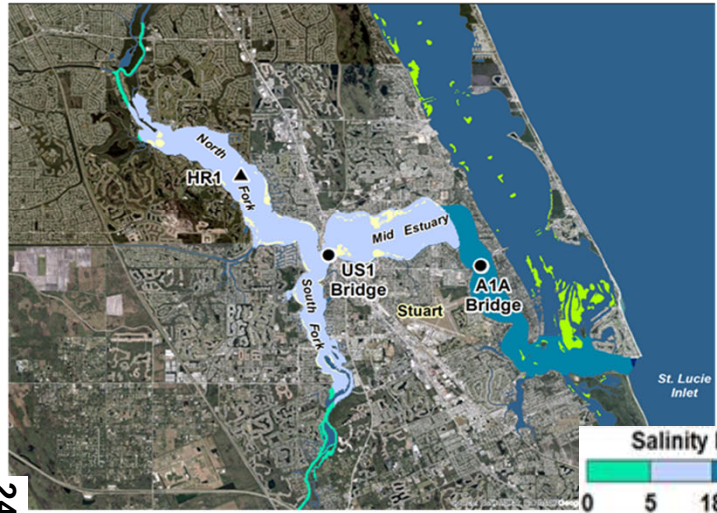
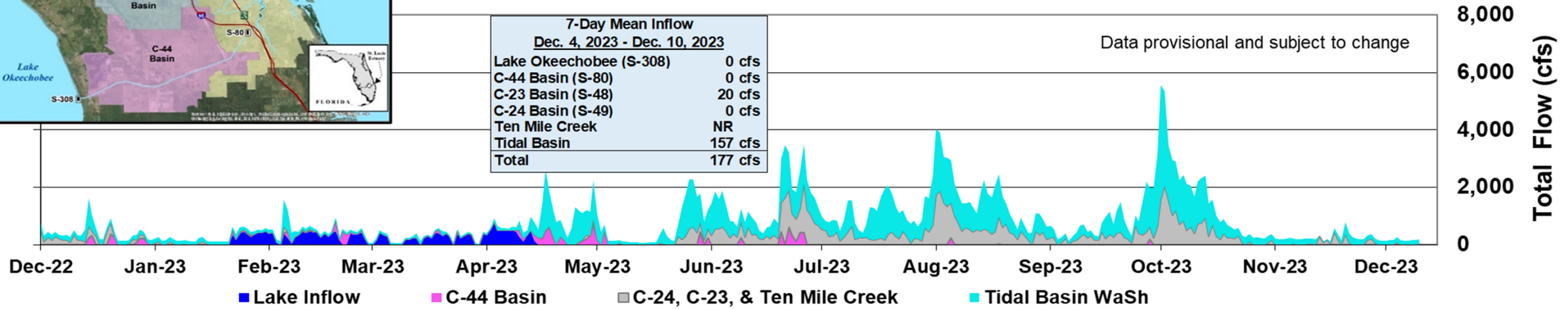


## Total Daily Inflow into the St. Lucie Estuary

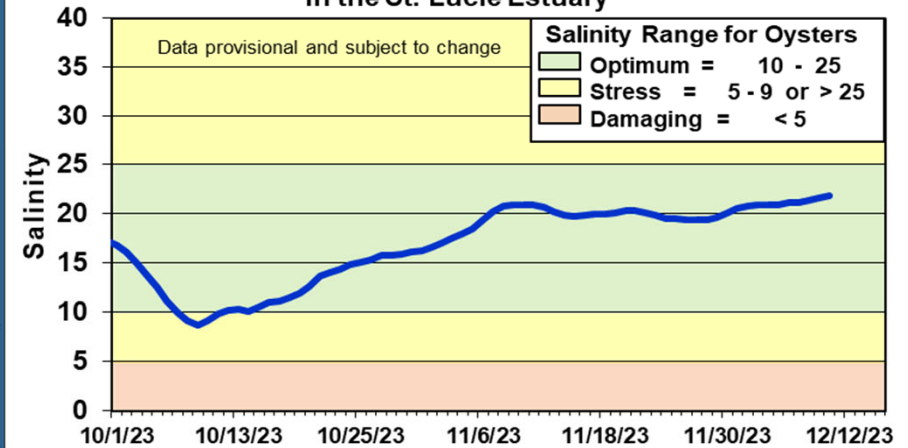
7-Day Mean Inflow  
Dec. 4, 2023 - Dec. 10, 2023

Lake Okeechobee (S-308)	0 cfs
C-44 Basin (S-80)	0 cfs
C-23 Basin (S-48)	20 cfs
C-24 Basin (S-49)	0 cfs
Ten Mile Creek	NR
Tidal Basin	157 cfs
<b>Total</b>	<b>177 cfs</b>

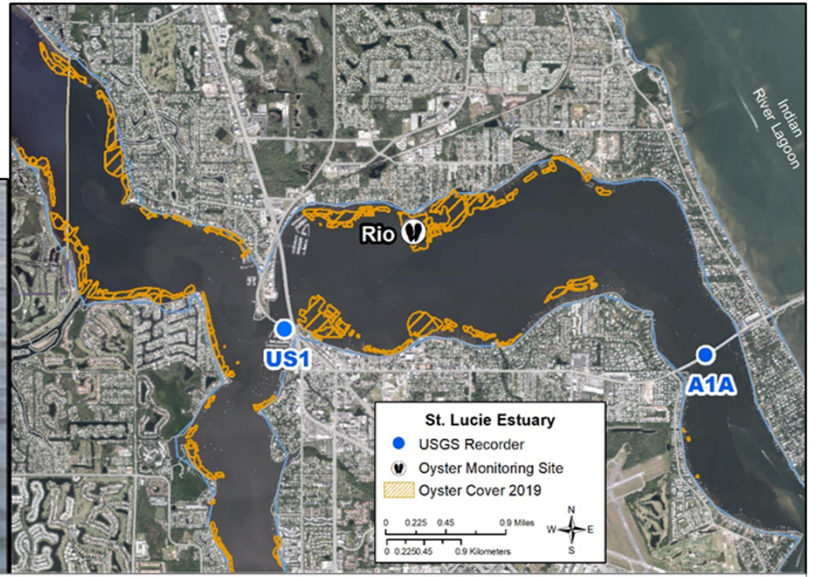
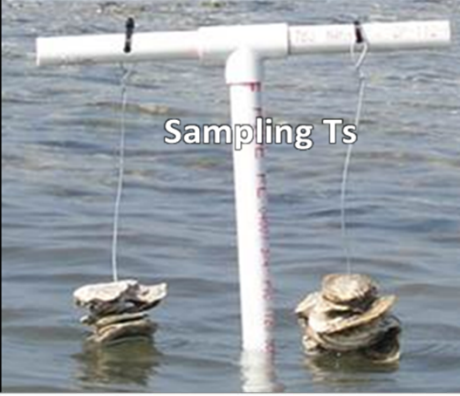
Data provisional and subject to change



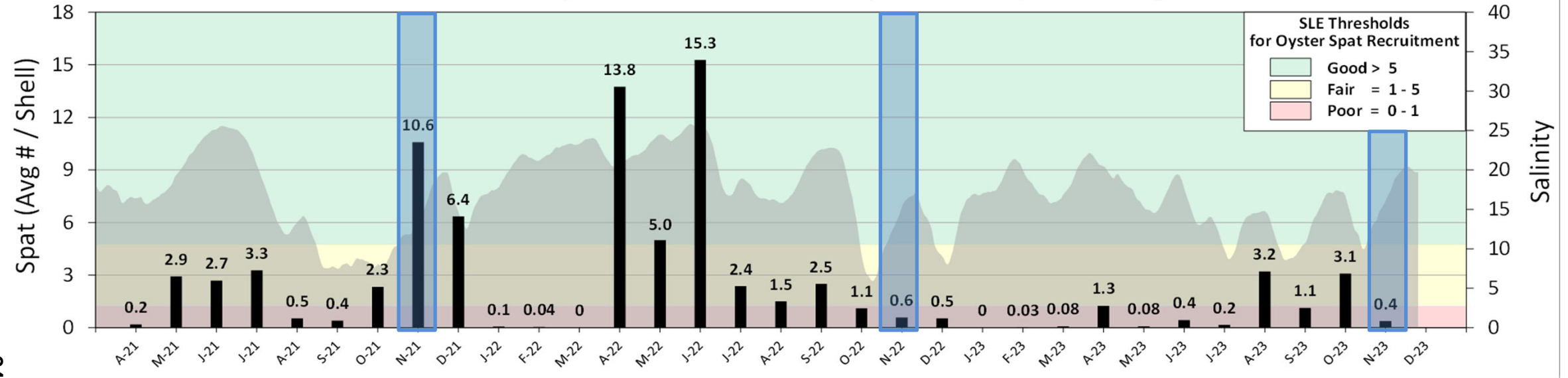
## Seven-day mean salinity of the water column at US1 Bridge in the St. Lucie Estuary



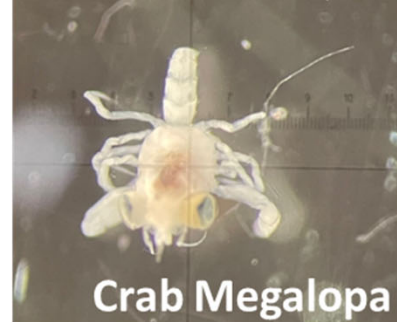
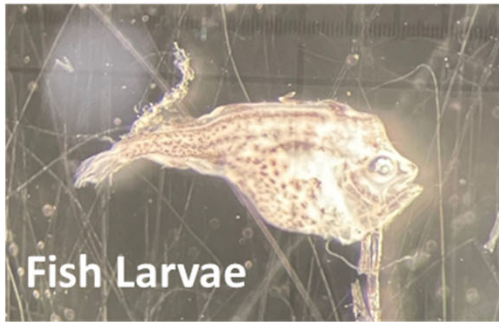
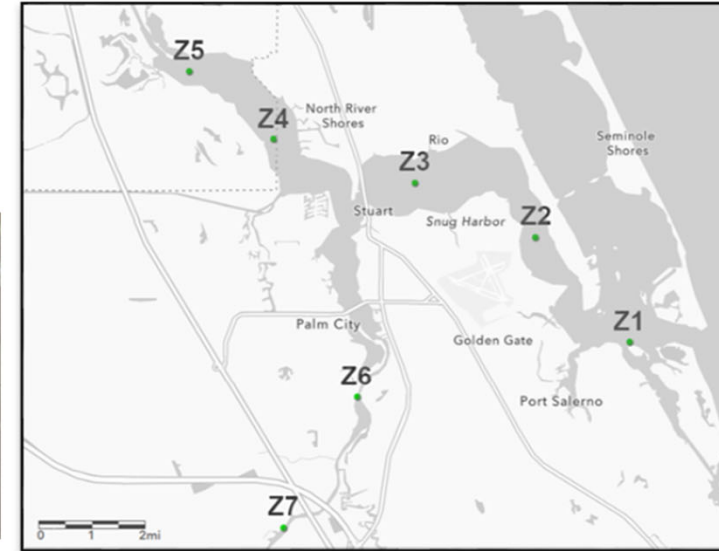
# St. Lucie Estuary Oyster Conditions



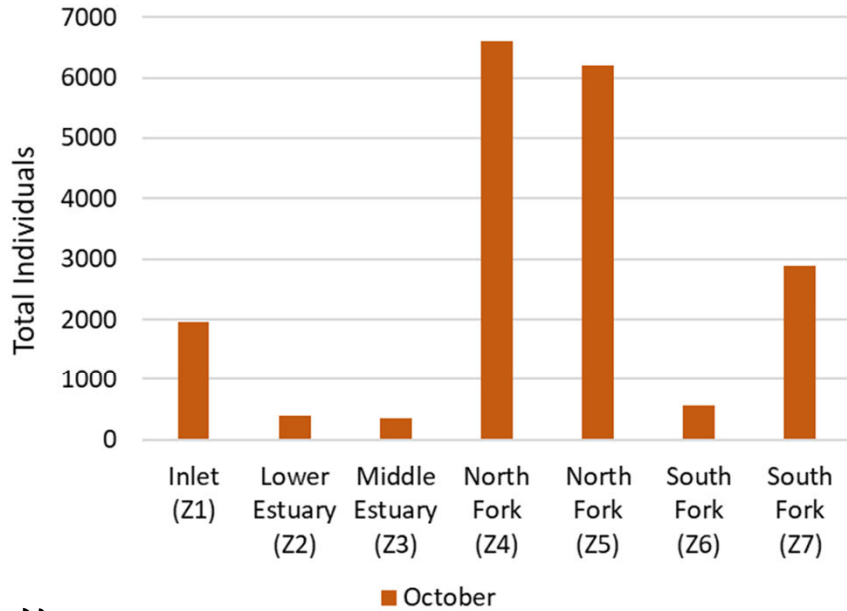
2021 - 2023 Rio Oyster Recruitment and 14-Day Mean Salinity at US1 Bridge



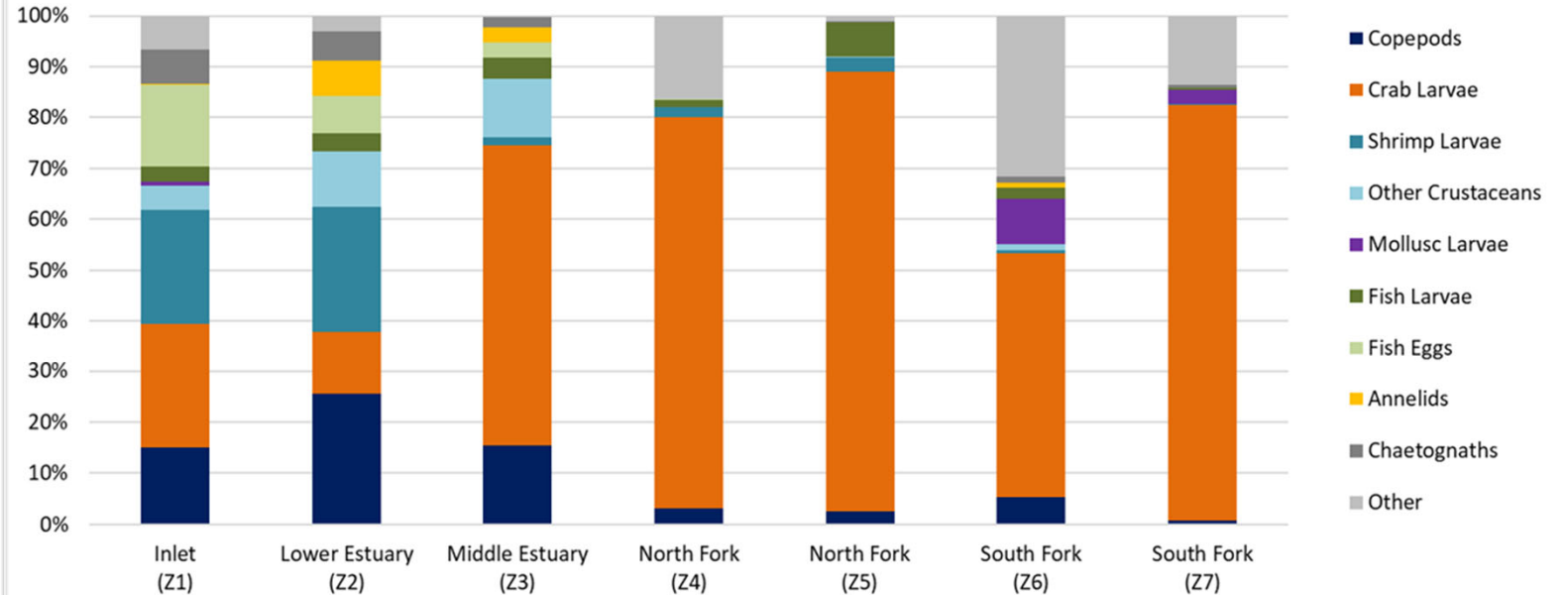
# St. Lucie Estuary Zooplankton Monitoring



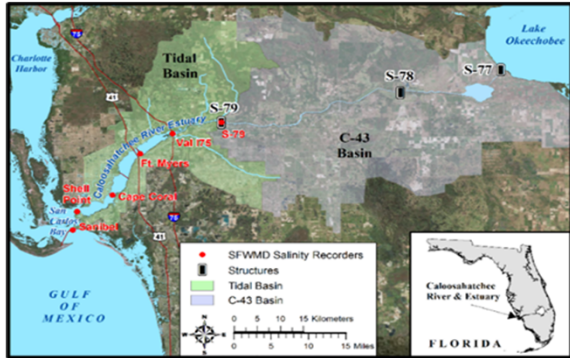
Zooplankton Densities October 2023



Zooplankton Communities in the St. Lucie Estuary October 2023



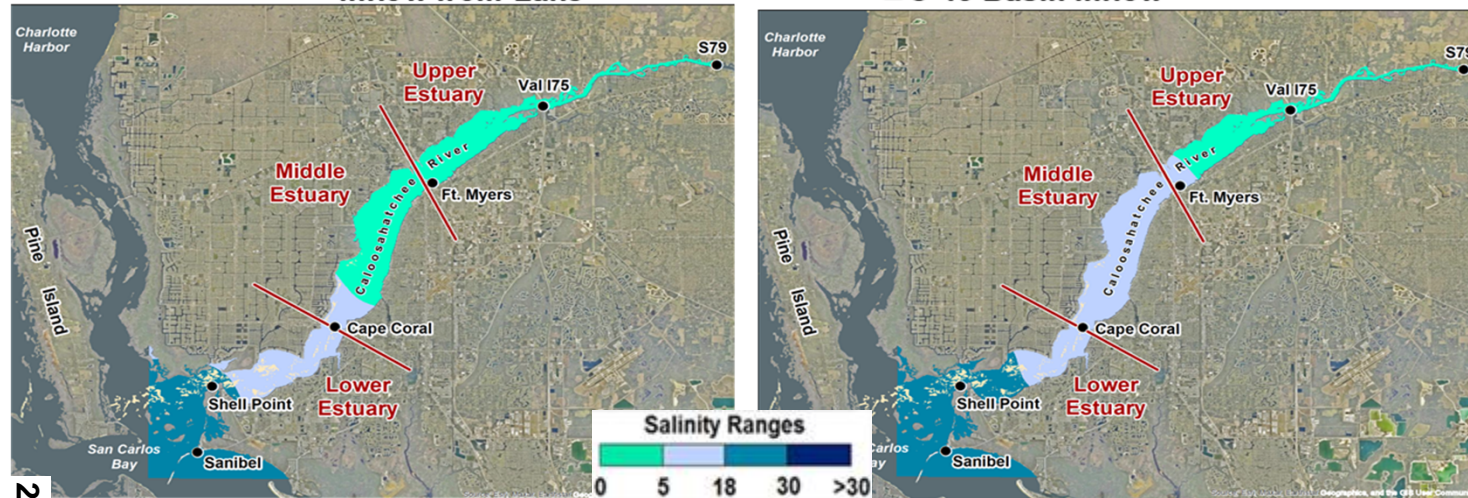
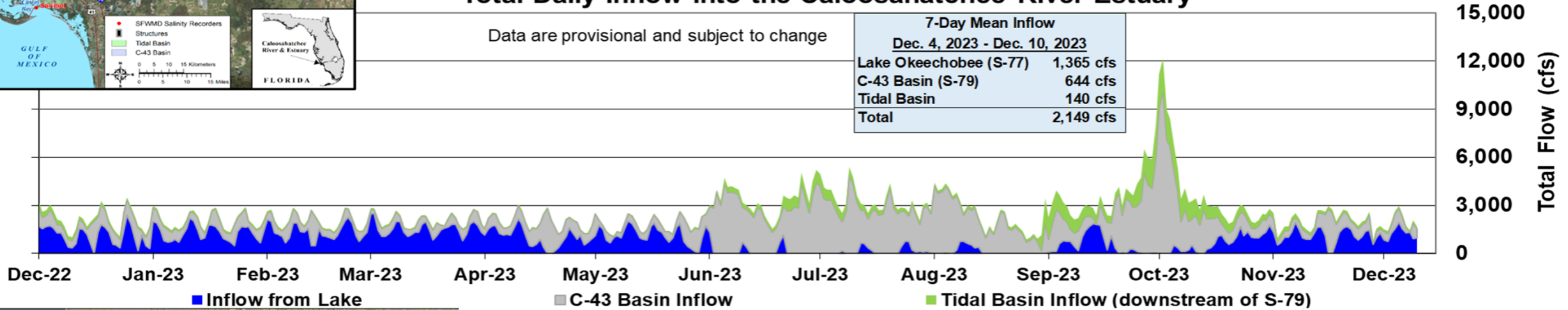
# Caloosahatchee Inflows and Salinity Conditions



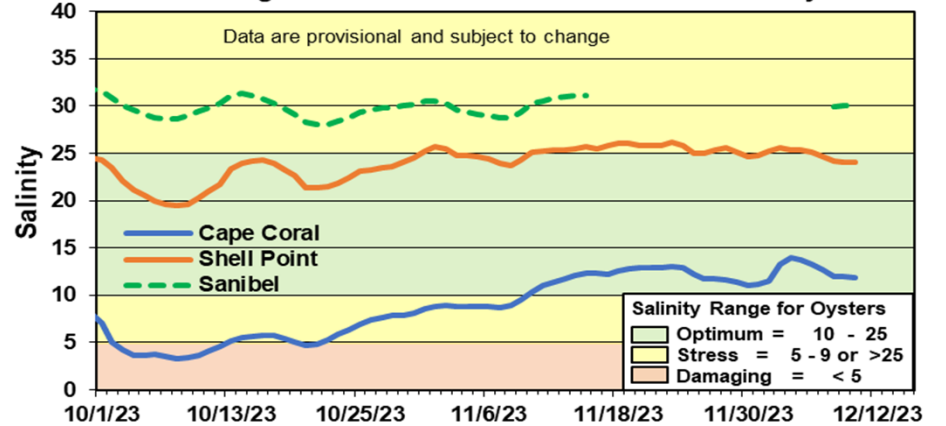
## Total Daily Inflow into the Caloosahatchee River Estuary

Data are provisional and subject to change

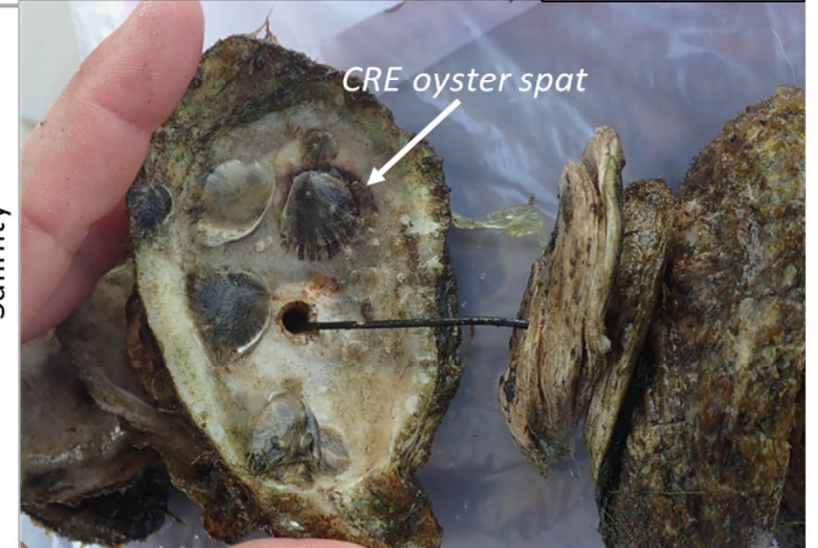
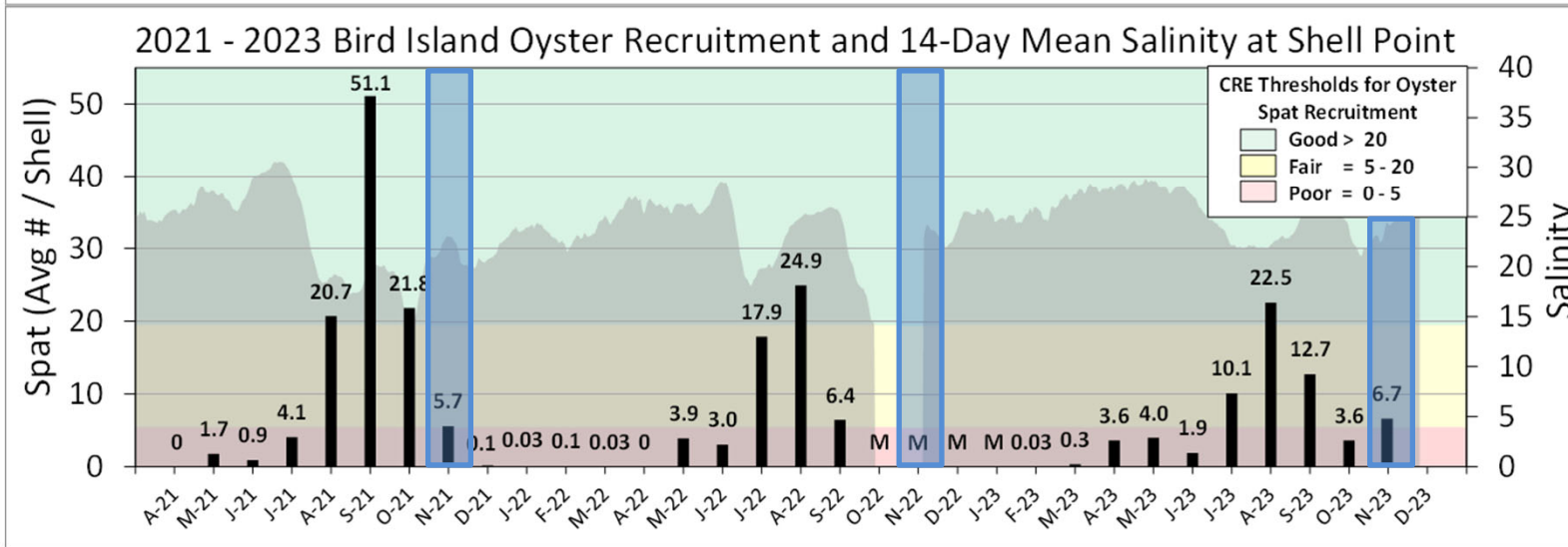
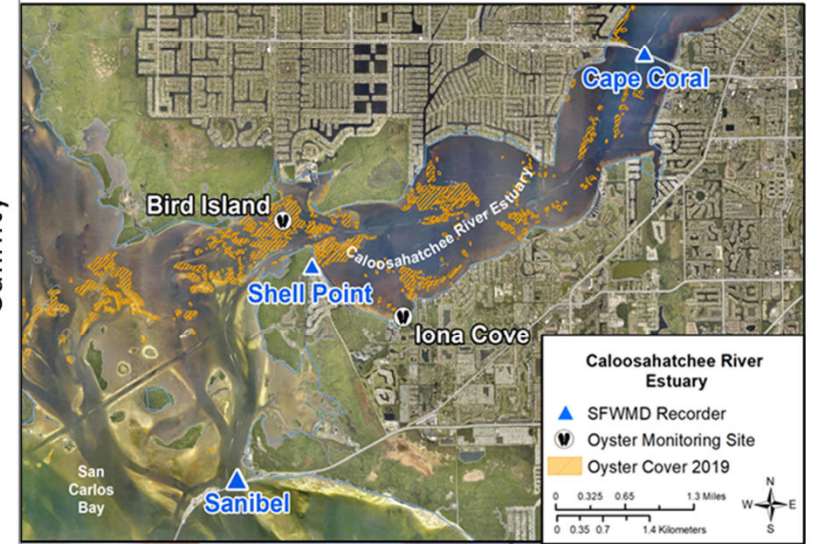
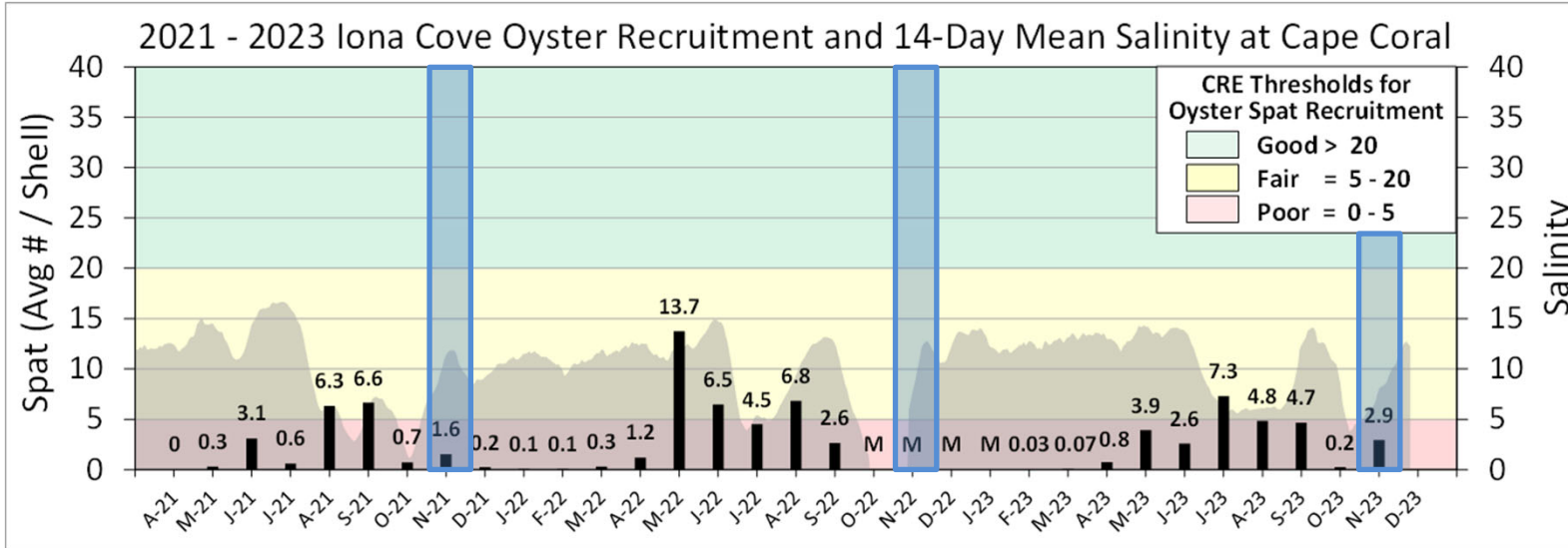
7-Day Mean Inflow Dec. 4, 2023 - Dec. 10, 2023	
Lake Okeechobee (S-77)	1,365 cfs
C-43 Basin (S-79)	644 cfs
Tidal Basin	140 cfs
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,149 cfs</b>



## Seven-day moving average surface and bottom salinities at oyster monitoring sites in the Caloosahatchee River Estuary

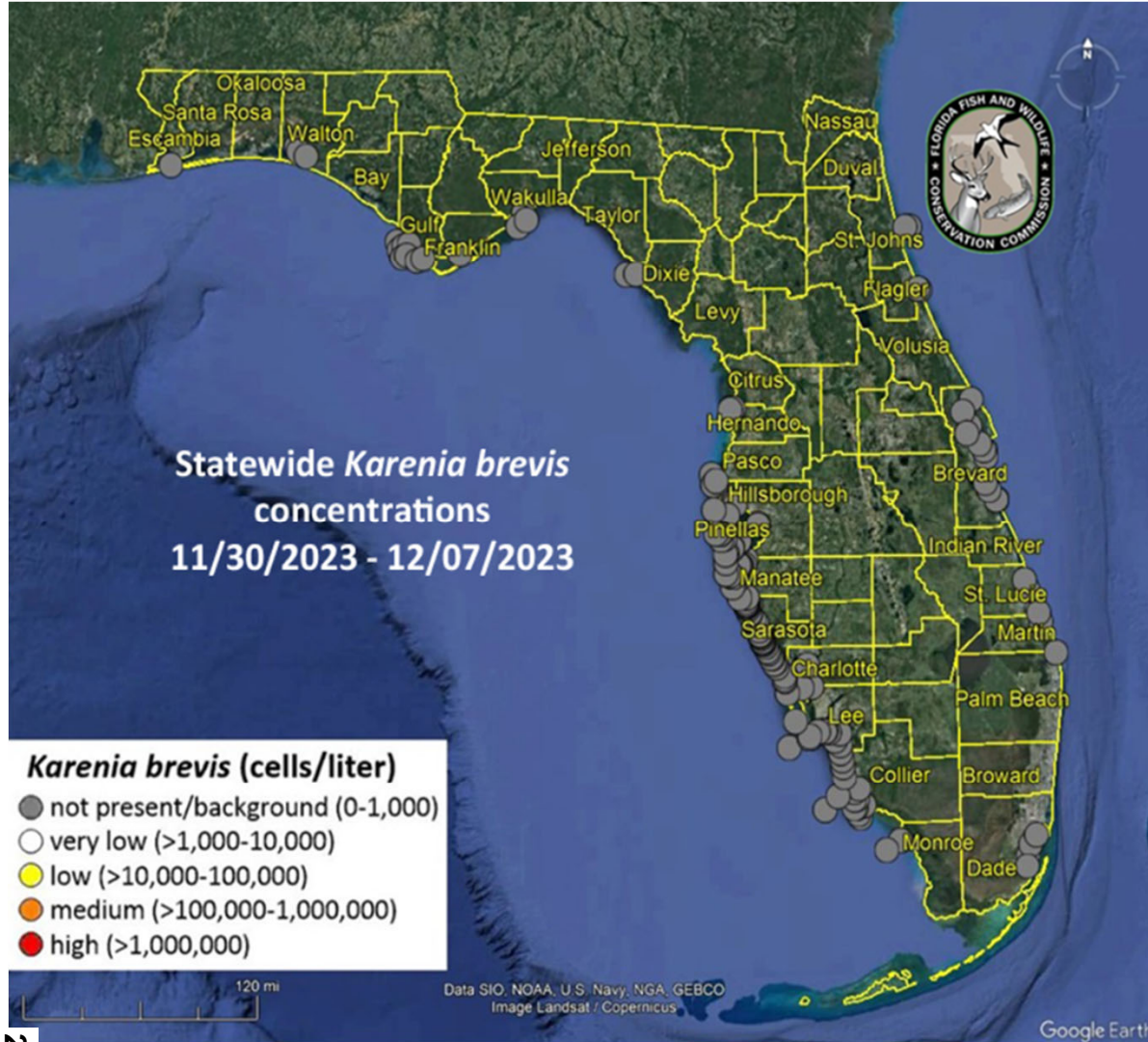


# Caloosahatchee Estuary Oyster Conditions



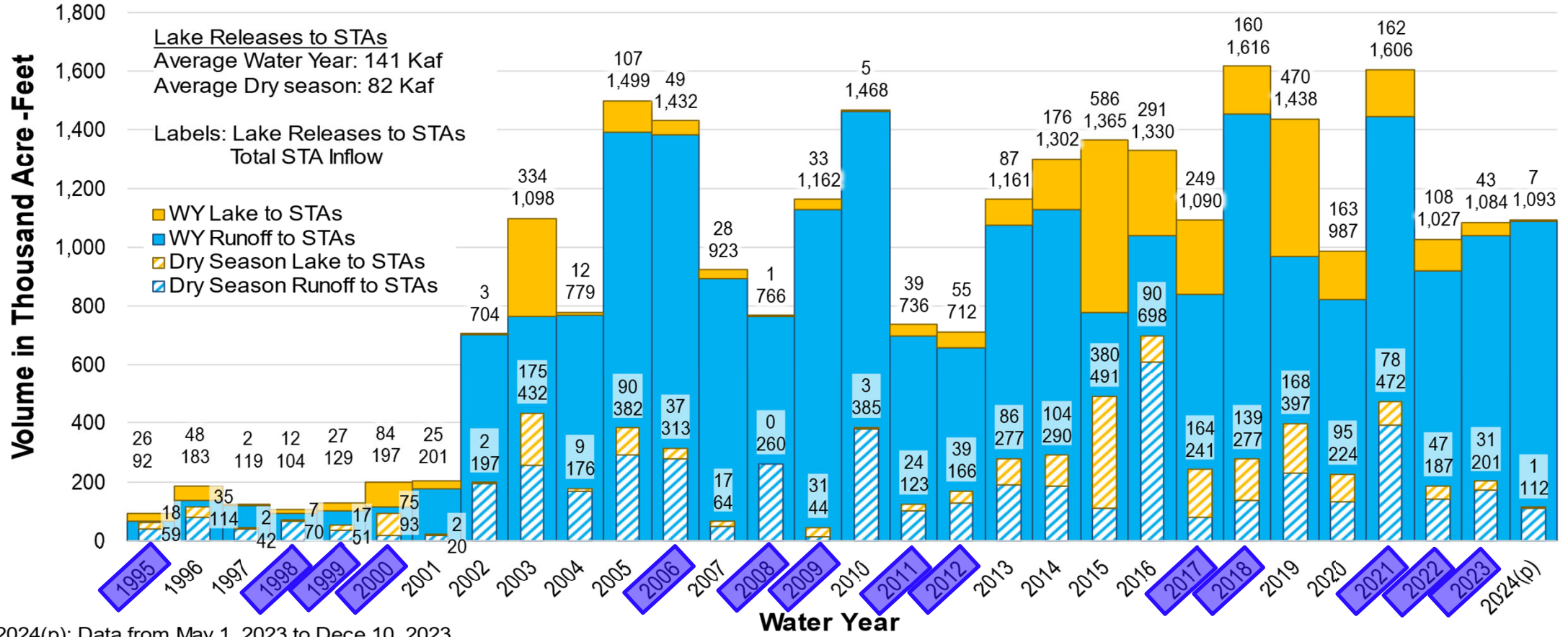


# Florida Fish and Wildlife Research institute Red Tide Status



- *Karenia brevis* was not observed at bloom concentrations (>100,000 cells/liter) in any samples collected within the District region.
- Respiratory irritation and fish kills (suspected to be related to red tide) were not reported within the District region.
- On the East coast, red tide was not observed in any samples collected from St. Lucie, Martin, Palm Beach, or Miami-Dade counties

### Total STA Inflow and Lake Releases to STAs

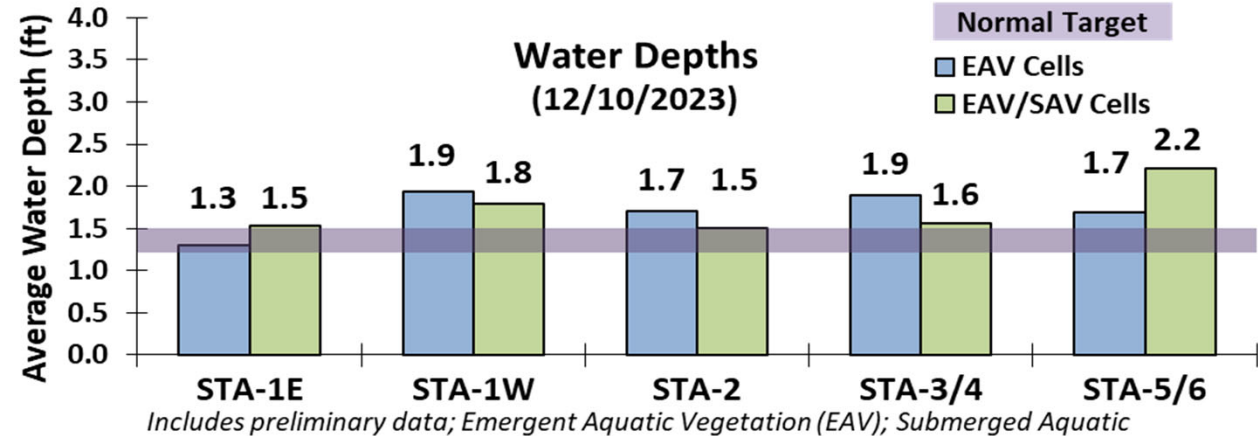
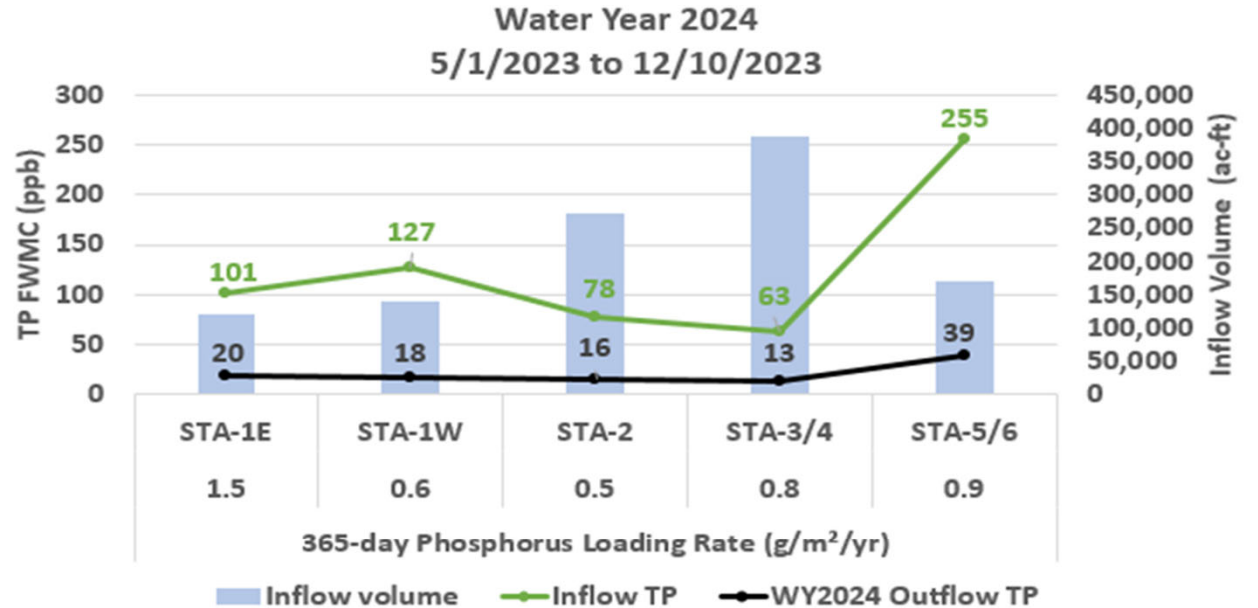


2024(p): Data from May 1, 2023 to Dec 10, 2023.

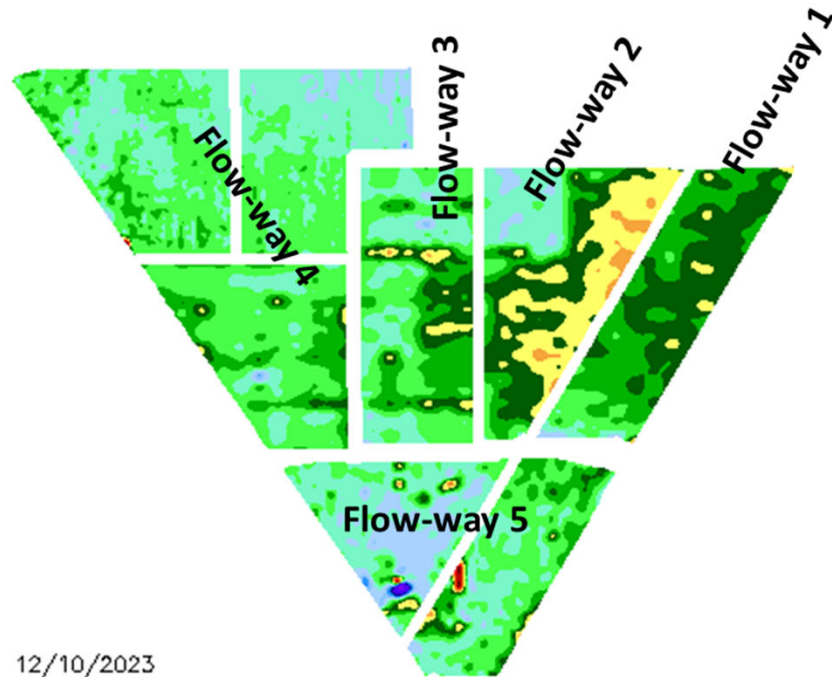
La Niña Water Years

# Everglades Stormwater Treatment Areas - STAs

- STAs treated basin runoff in November
- Total WY2024 inflows to STAs (5/1/2023 to 12/10/2023): ~1,093,300 ac-ft
- Lake Okeechobee releases to FEB/STAs in WY2024: ~7,300 ac-ft
- Extensive vegetation management activities underway to address stressed and highly stressed vegetation especially in EAV cells
- Most treatment cells are near or above target depth



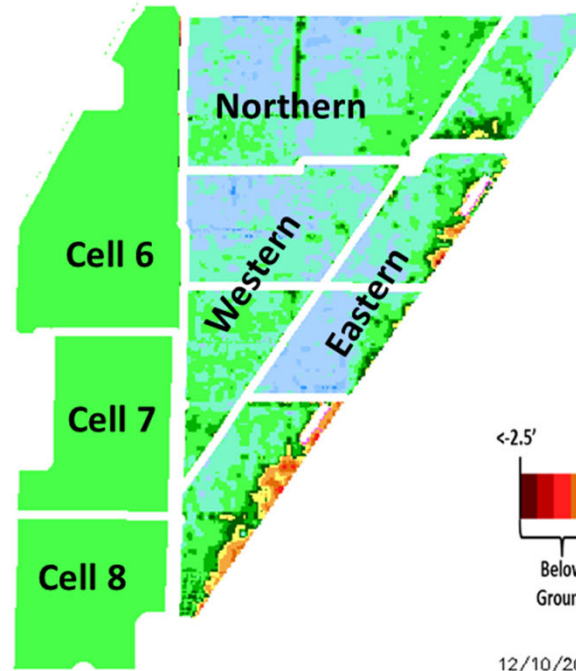
# Stormwater Treatment Areas Water Depths



12/10/2023

Flow-Way	Restrictions
1	On-line
2	On-line; vegetation management
3	On-line
4	On-line; vegetation management
5	On-line

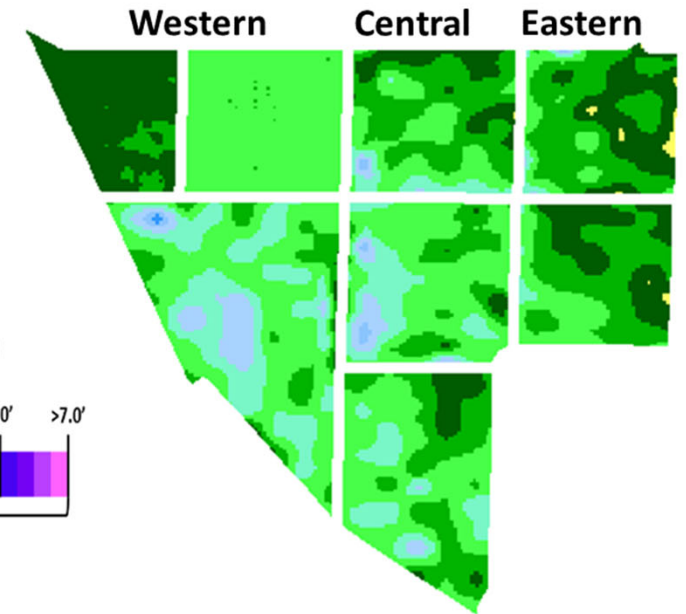
STA-2



12/10/2023

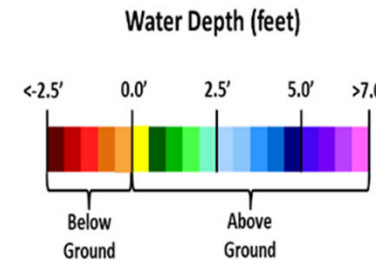
Flow-way	Restrictions
Northern	On-line; vegetation management
Eastern	On-line
Western	On-line
Cell 7	On-line
Cell 8	On-line; construction activities

STA-1W

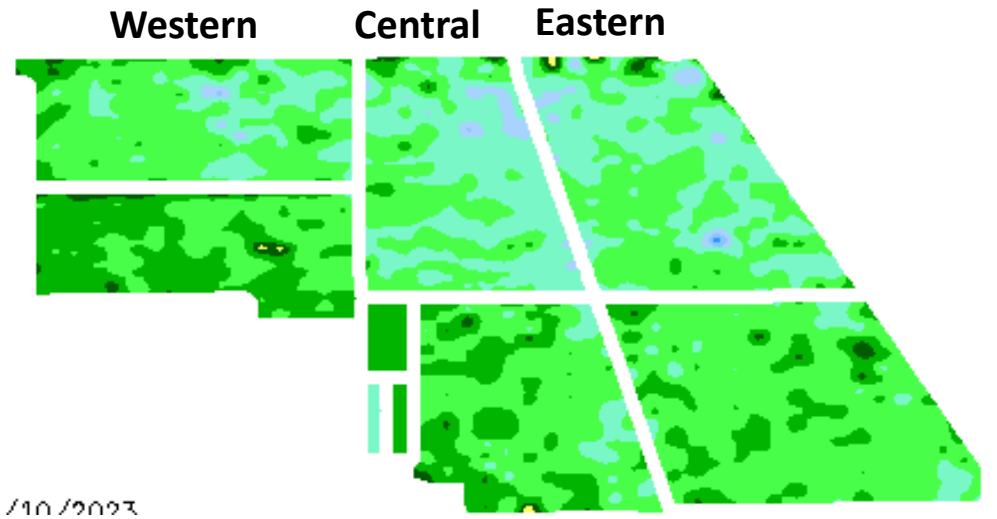
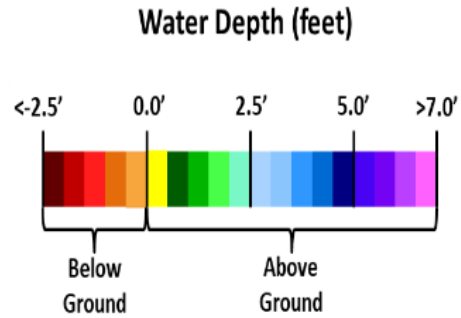
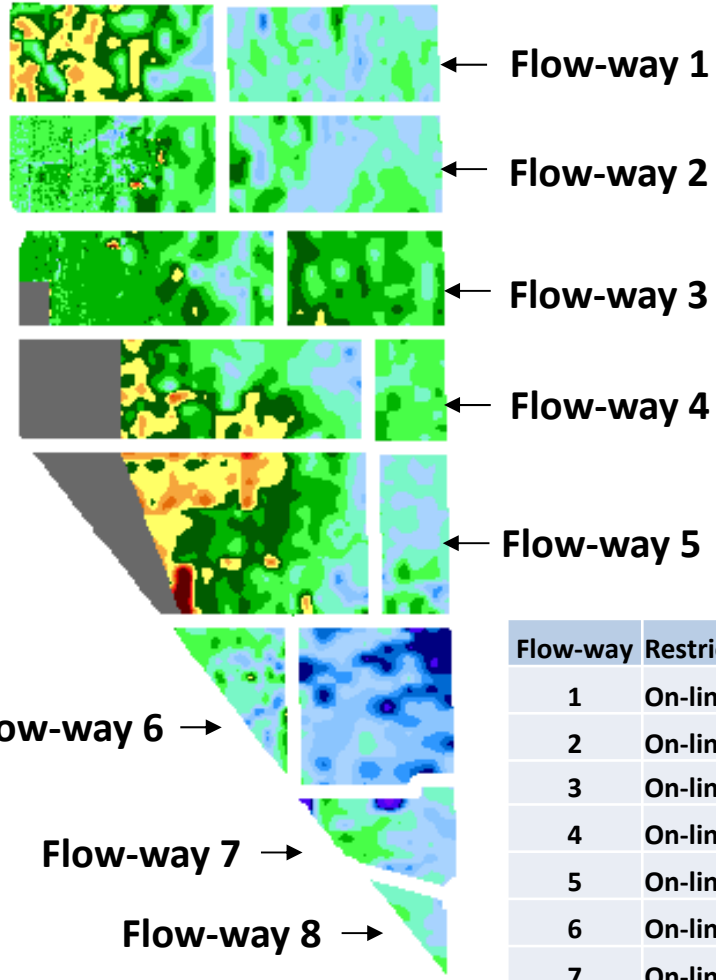


Flow-way	Restrictions	Back on-line
Western	Off-line; post-construction grow in	December
Central	On-line	
Eastern	On-line	

STA-1E



# Stormwater Treatment Areas Water Depths



Flow-way	Restrictions
1	On-line
2	On-line
3	On-line
4	On-line; vegetation management
5	On-line
6	On-line
7	On-line
8	On-line

Flow-way	Restrictions
Western	On-line
Central	On-line
Eastern	Online; post-drawdown vegetation grow-in

Flow-way 6 →







Flow-way 7 →

Flow-way 8 →

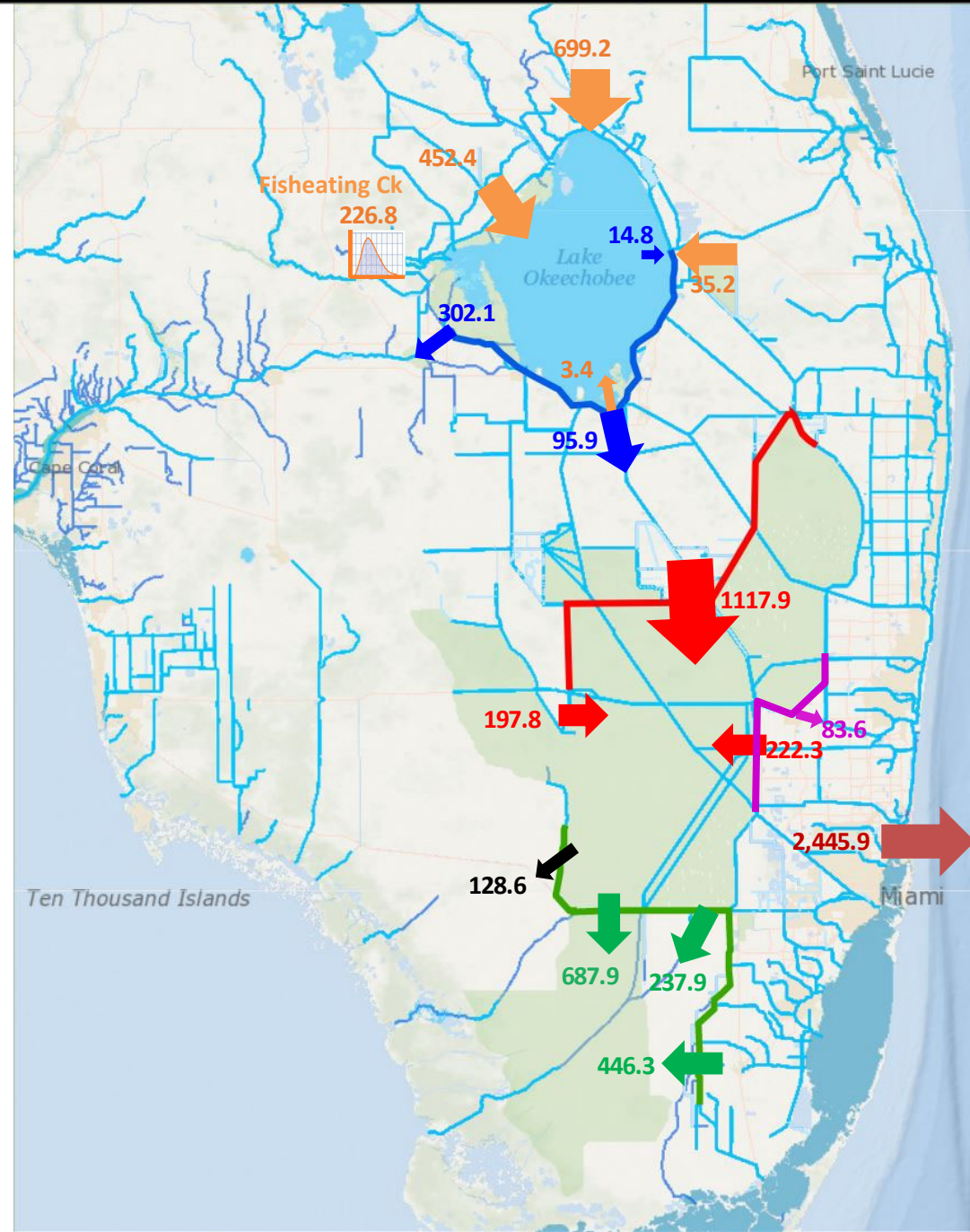
STA-5/6

STA-3/4

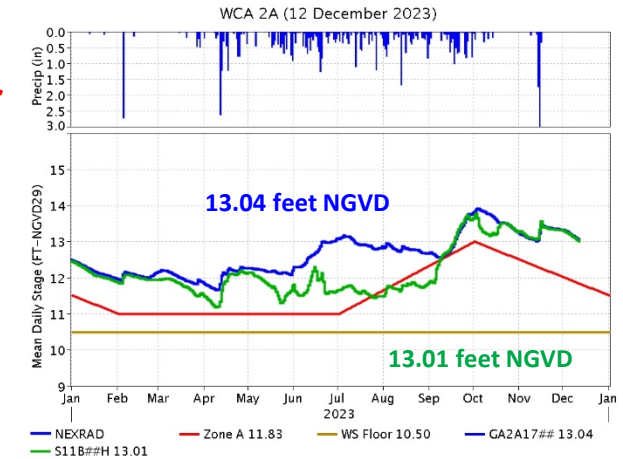
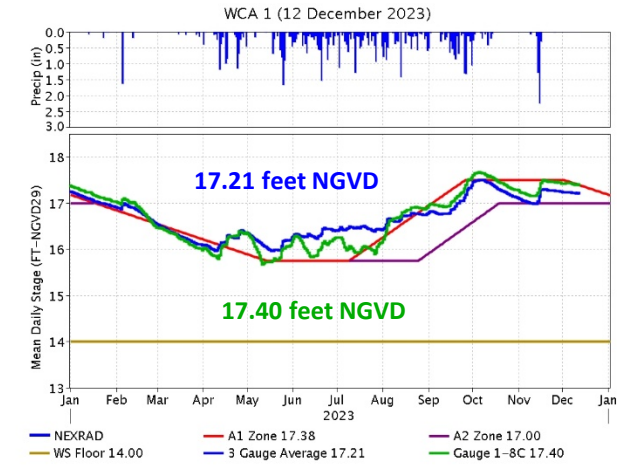
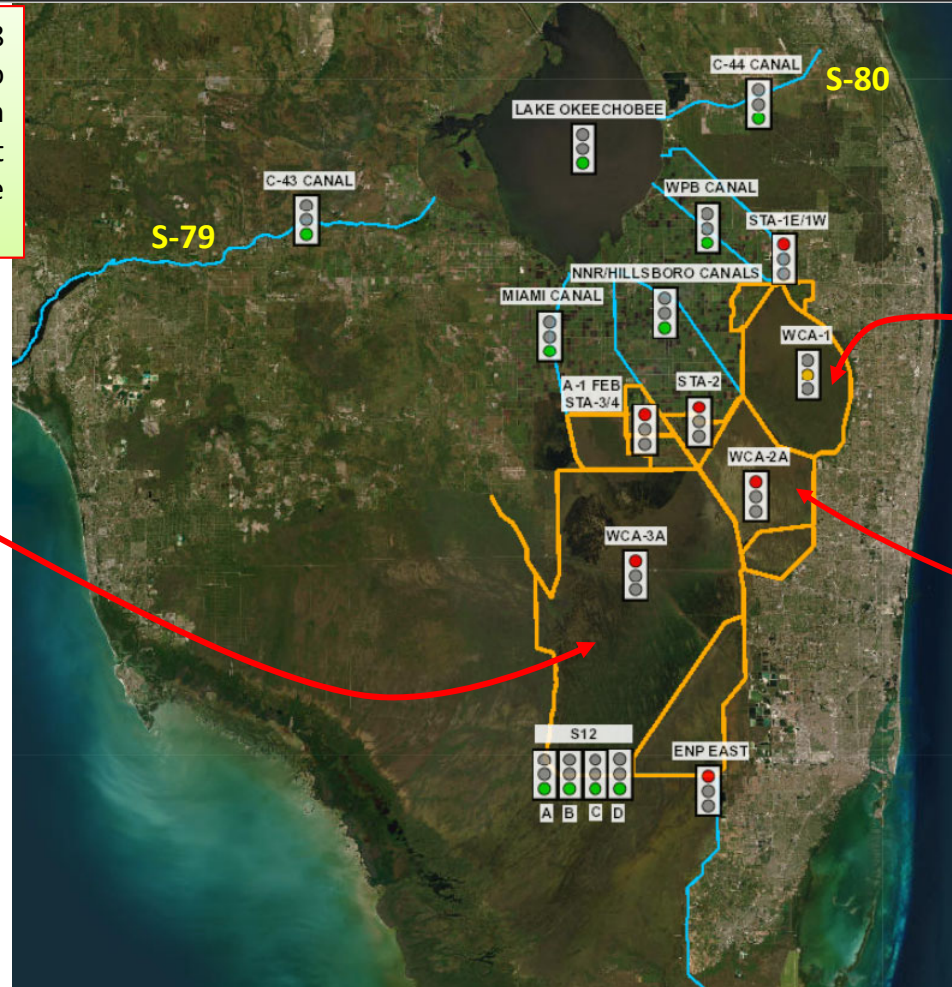
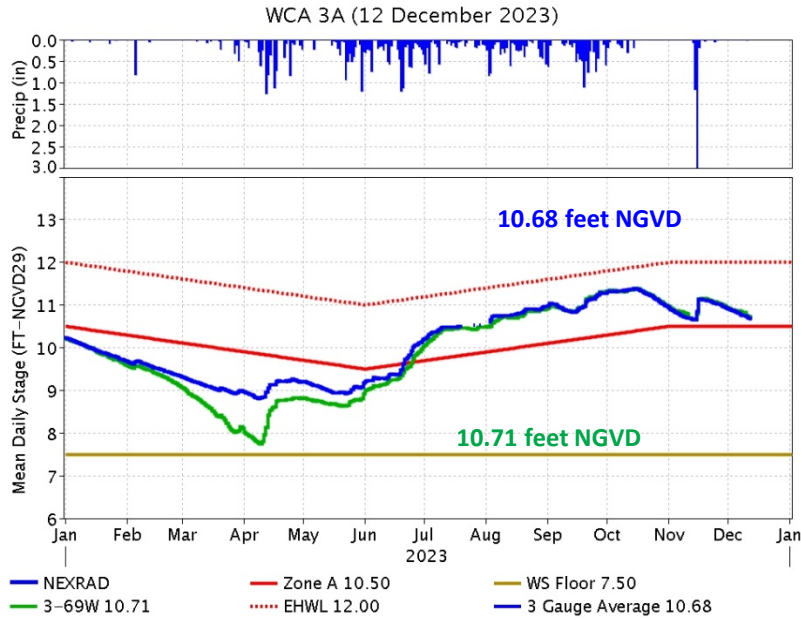
**SFWMD –Volumes Flowing  
Down the System for the  
Period May 1, 2023 to December 12, 2023**  
(volumes in 1,000 acre-feet)

Symbol	Description	Volume (1,000 acre- feet)	
		WYR 2023	Last Month
	Lake Okeechobee Inflows	1417.0	81.9
	Lake Okeechobee Outflows	412.8	91.6
	WCAs Inflows	1538.0	167.1
	ENP / Detention Cell Inflows	1372.1	228.8
	WCAs to East	83.6	1.4
	Flows to Intracoastal	2445.9	395.2

1,000 acre-feet = 325.9 Million Gallons



Lake Okeechobee stage is in the Low Sub-band of the LORS-2008 Regulation schedule. LORS release guidance suggests "Up to Maximum Practicable to the WCAs, if desirable or with minimum Everglades impact". Up to 3,000 cfs at S-79 and up to 1,170 cfs at S-80. Using flexibility in LORS 2008, USACE started to bank lake regulatory releases on September 16, 2023.

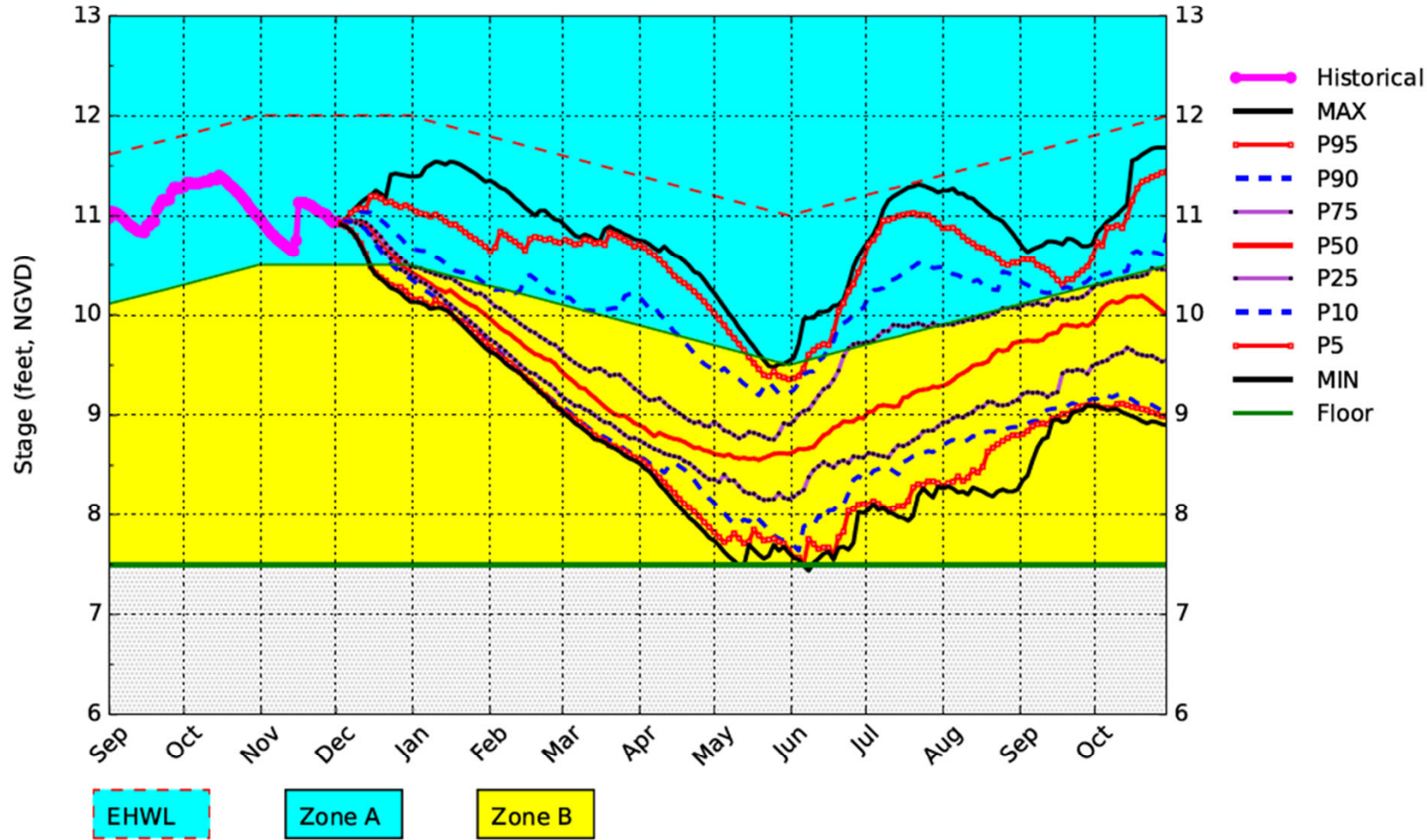


For this week, the Tamiami Trail Flow Formula calls for maximum releases from WCA-3A to NESRS. Current L-29 stage constraint is at 8.3 feet NGVD and S-356 is secured in preparation for expected rain. South Dade Conveyance System is moving water steadily. S-332s are pumping as needed. S-176 and S-177 are closed. S-18C is currently open. S-197 was open after the November storm but is now closed. LPG-2 stage at 8.5 SMA went above ground in November for ~ 24 hr but it receded below ground. S-357 is pumping as needed to maintain stages 4.5 to 5.0 ft NGVD in the C-357 canal. S-199 and S-200 are pumping, no CSSS restrictions currently but those will come in in January 2024.

WCA-1 stage is slightly above regulation schedule; WCA-2A stage is above regulation schedule; WCA-3A stage is above regulation schedule in Zone A. S-10s are closed. S-11s were open on Nov. 16, passing ~ 1,450 cfs. S12 A&B were closed 11/04/2013 according to COP but were re-opened based on the approved Planned Operational Deviation for WCA-3A. S12 C&D are fully open. Total S-12s discharge is ~ 1,850 cfs. S-333 and S-333N were closed Dec. 13. S-343 A and B are open based on the approved Deviation. S-344 is open passing ~ 150 cfs.

### WCA3A SFWMM Decenter 2023 Position Analysis

Percentiles PA

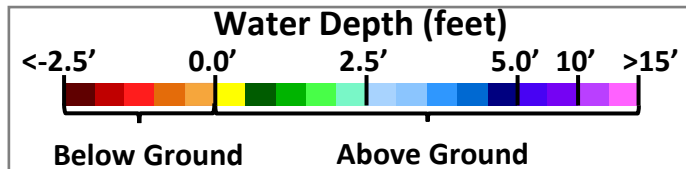
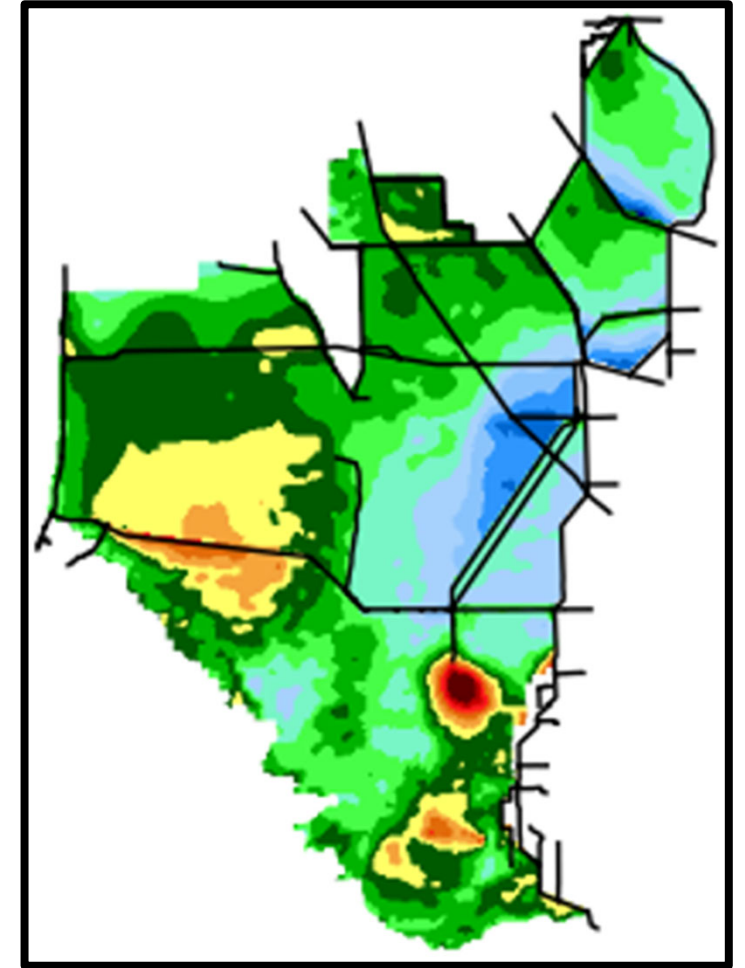
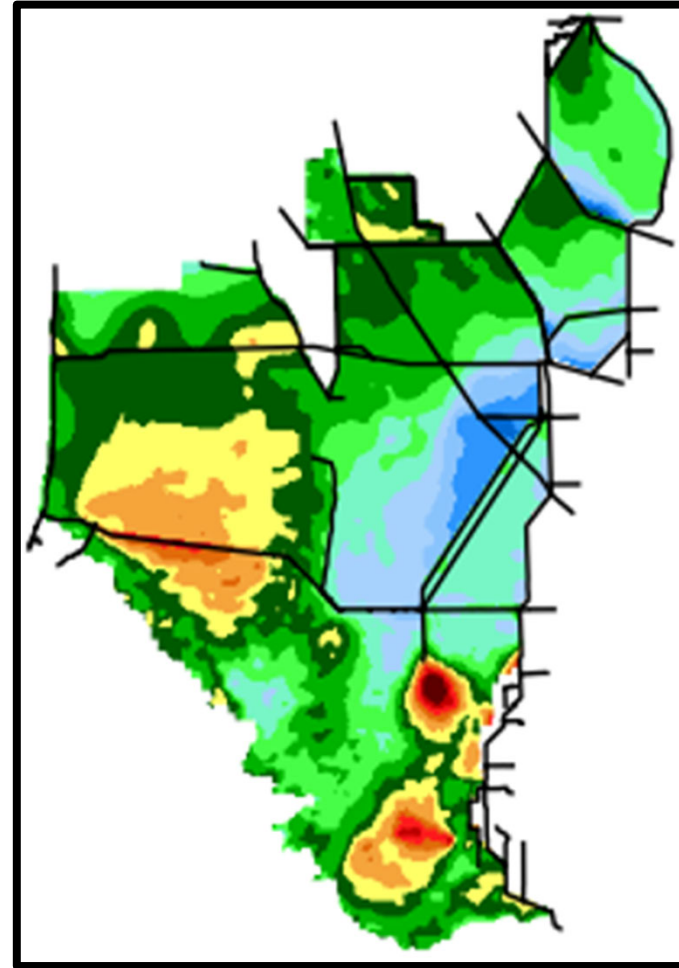
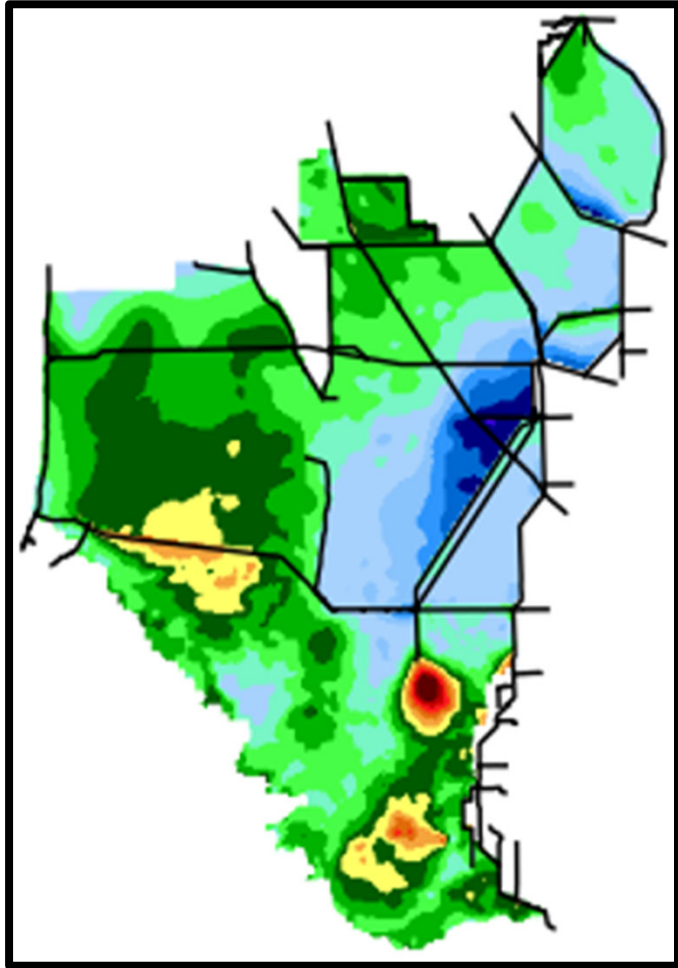


(See assumptions on the Position Analysis Results website)

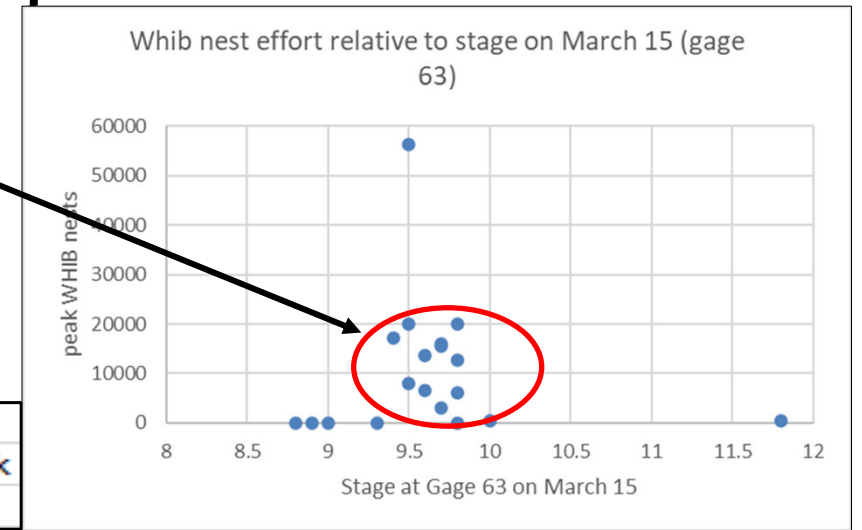
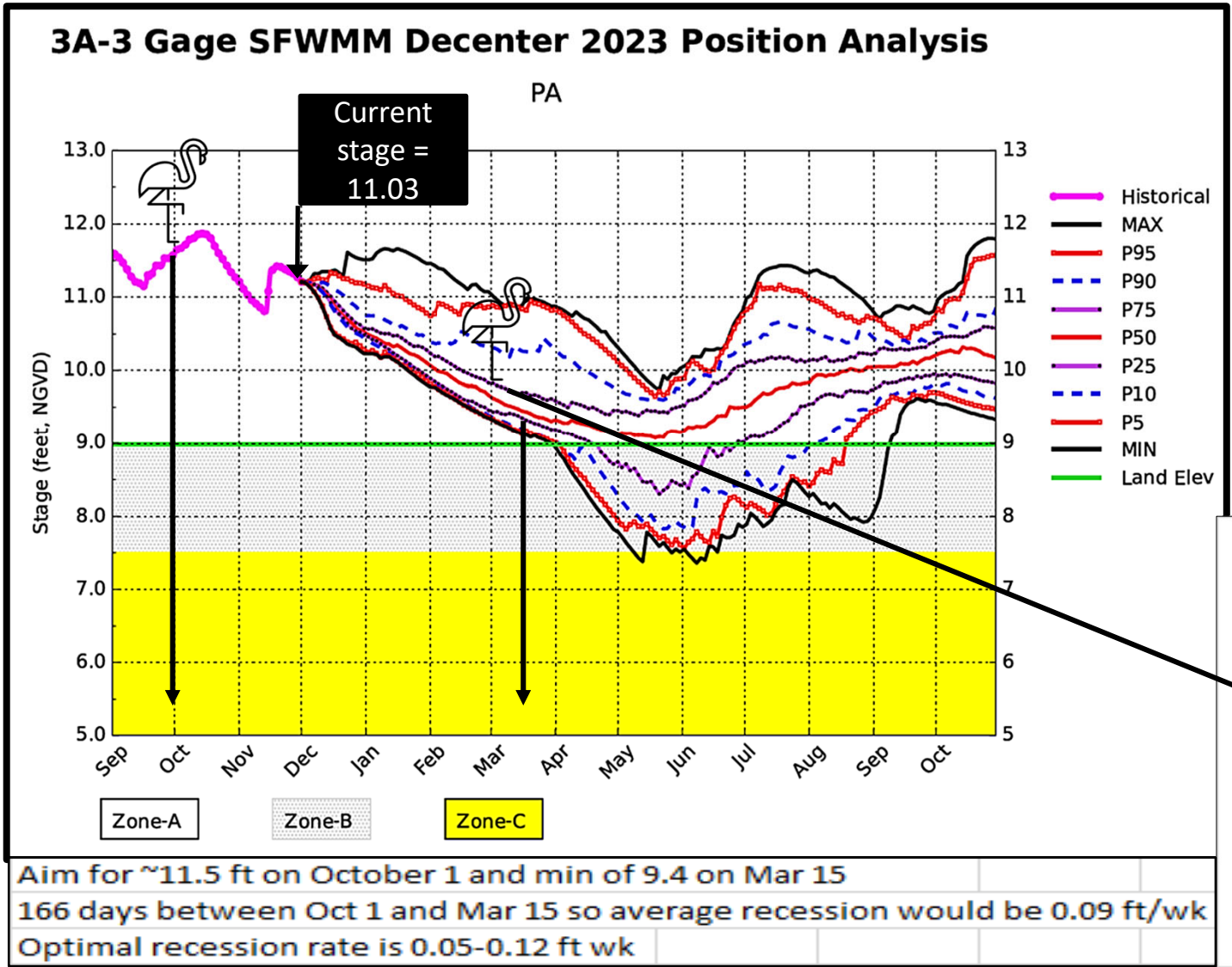
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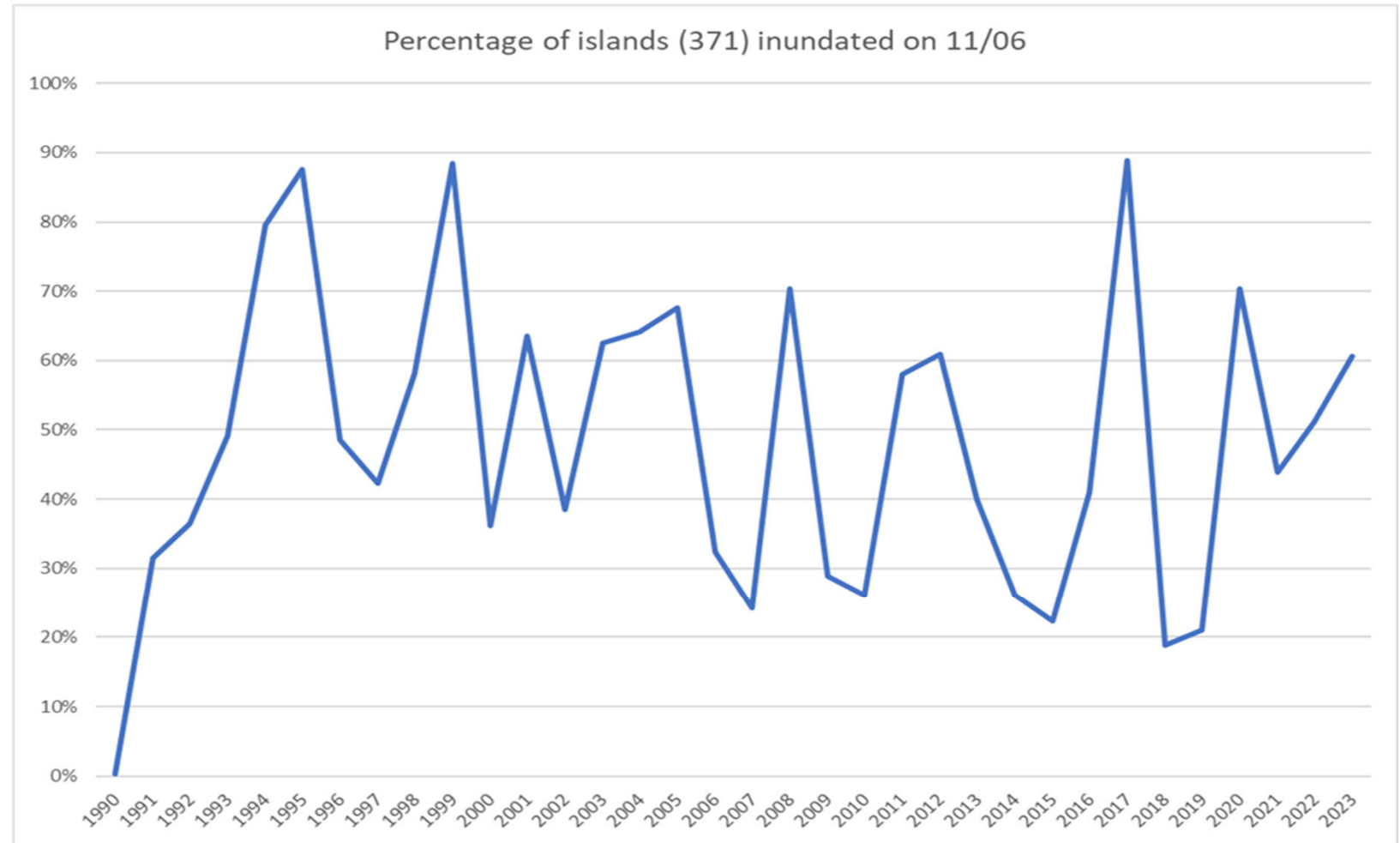
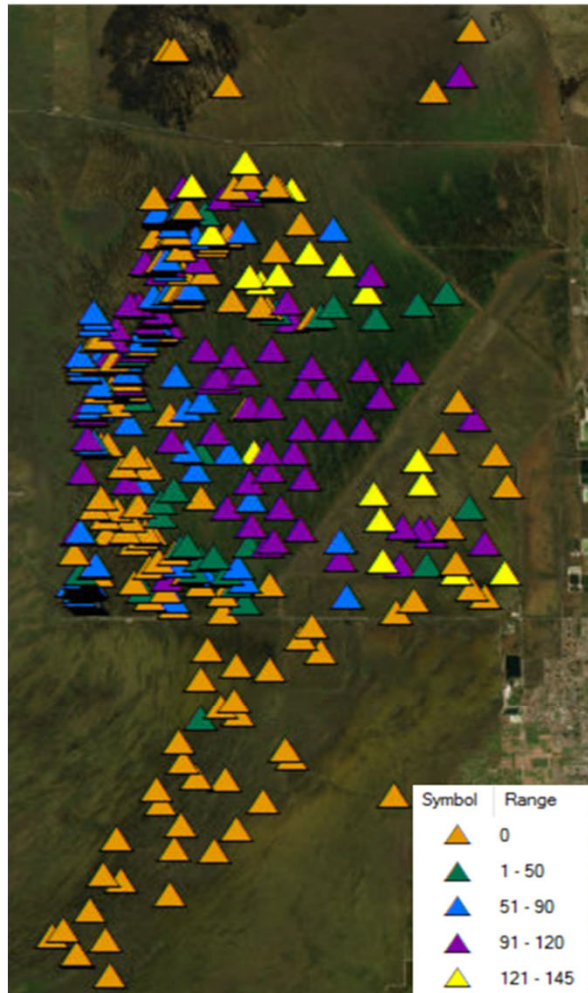
# Everglades Water Depths



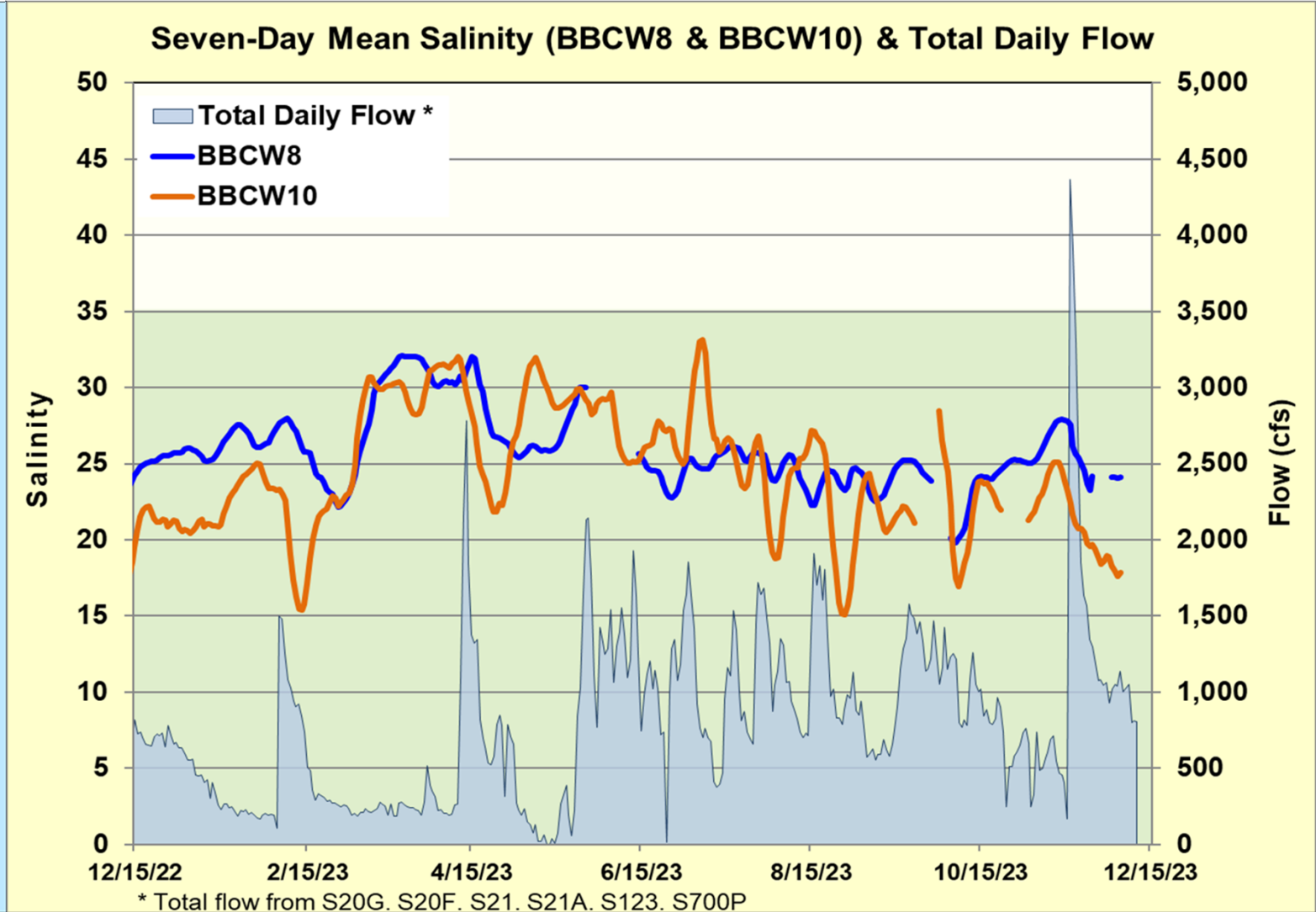
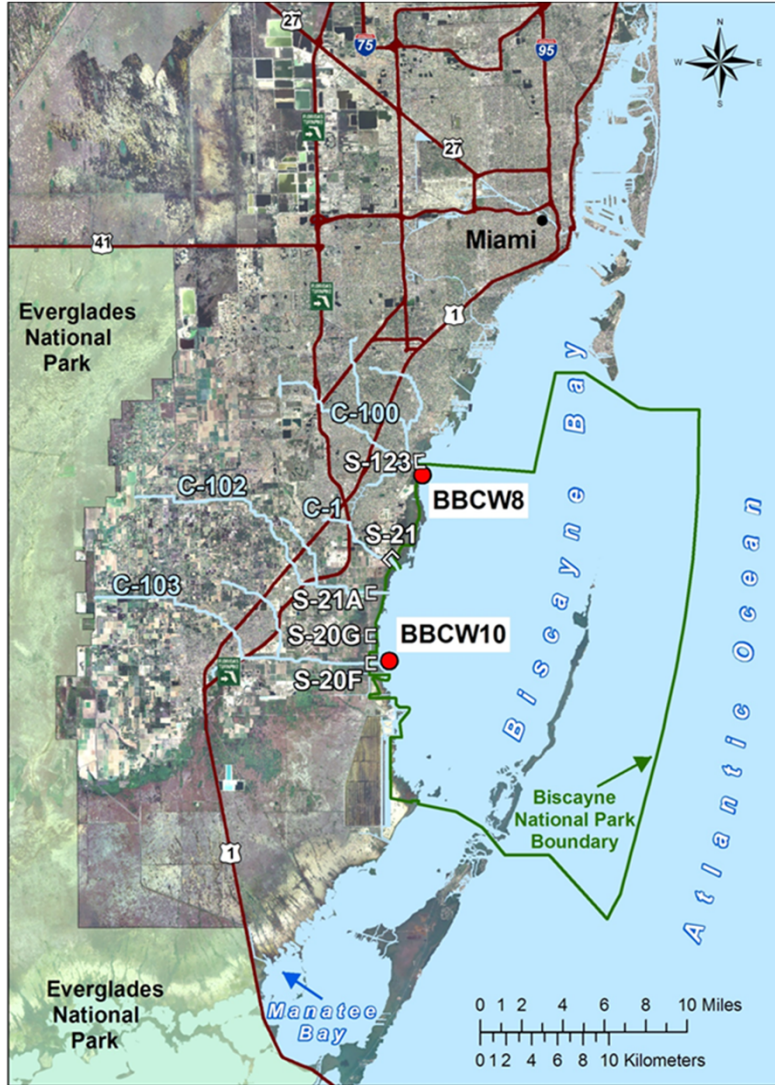
# Alley North Wading Bird Colony Conditions



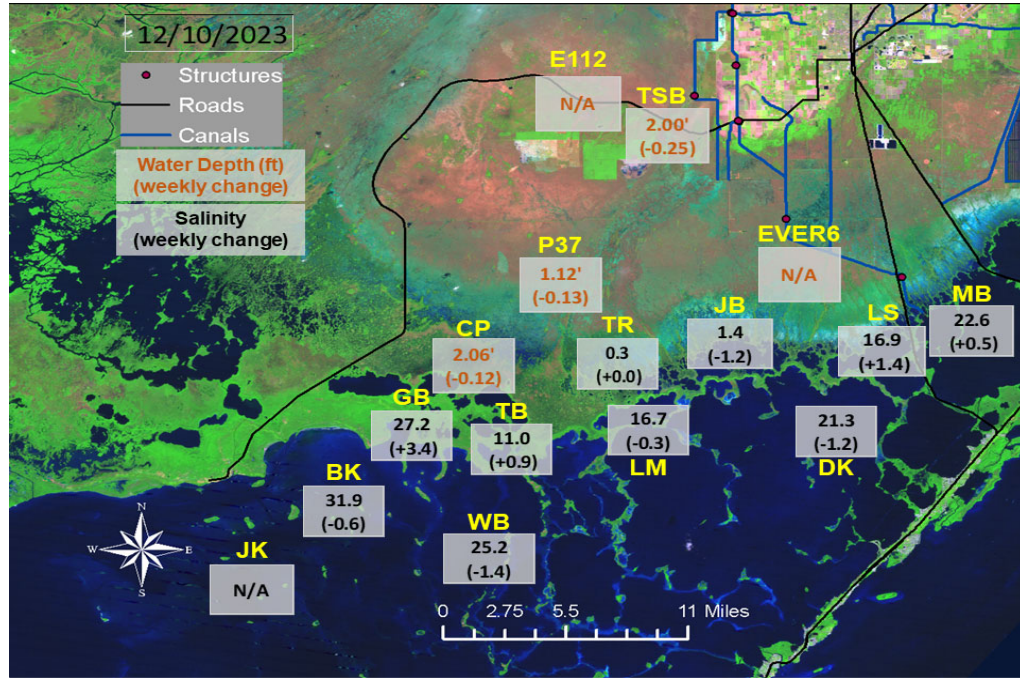
# Tree Island Inundation – 11/6/23



# Biscayne Bay Salinity Conditions

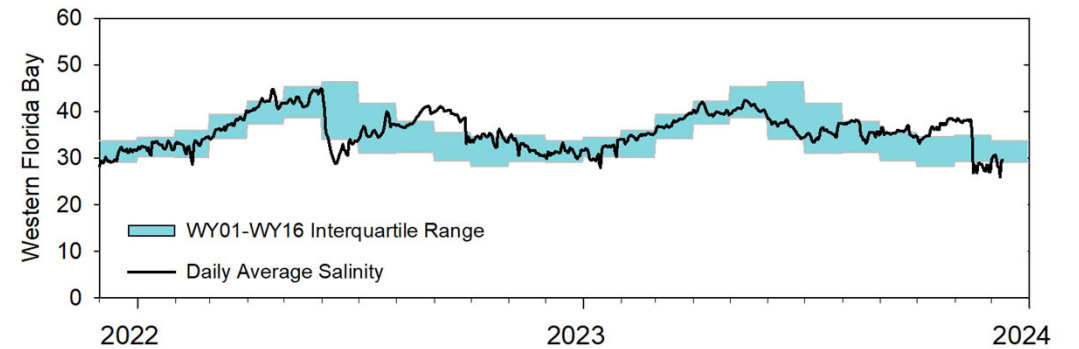
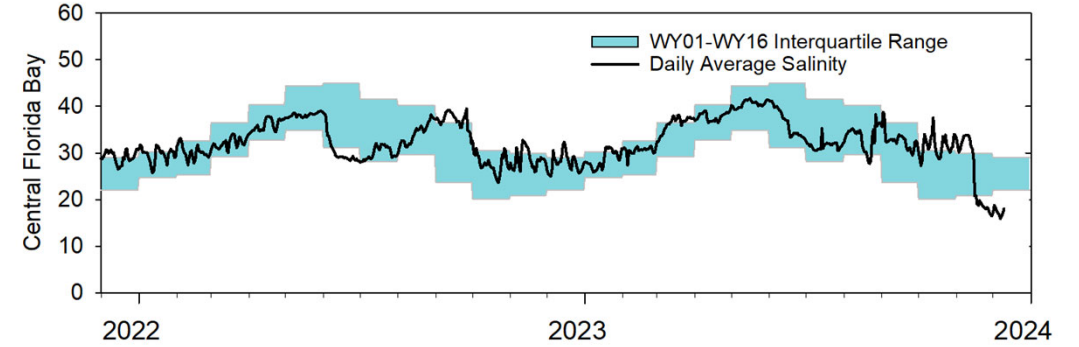
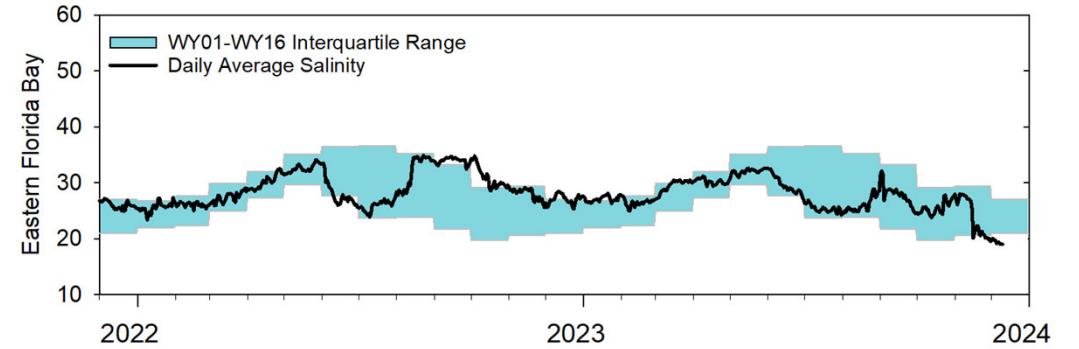
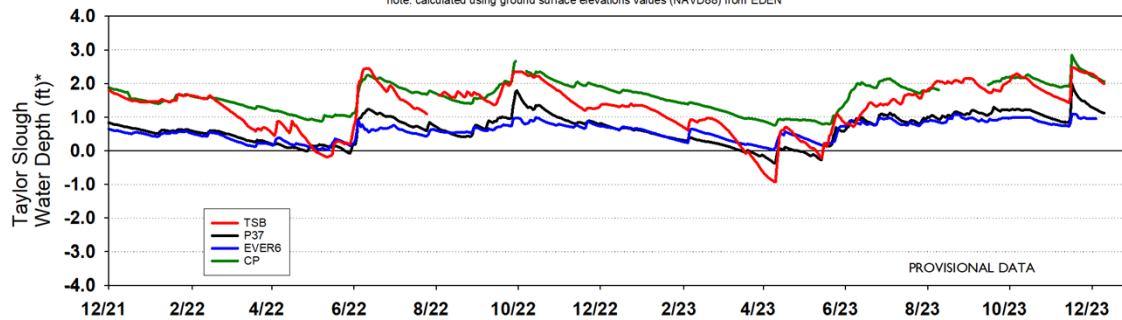


# Florida Bay Salinity



Taylor Slough Water Depths

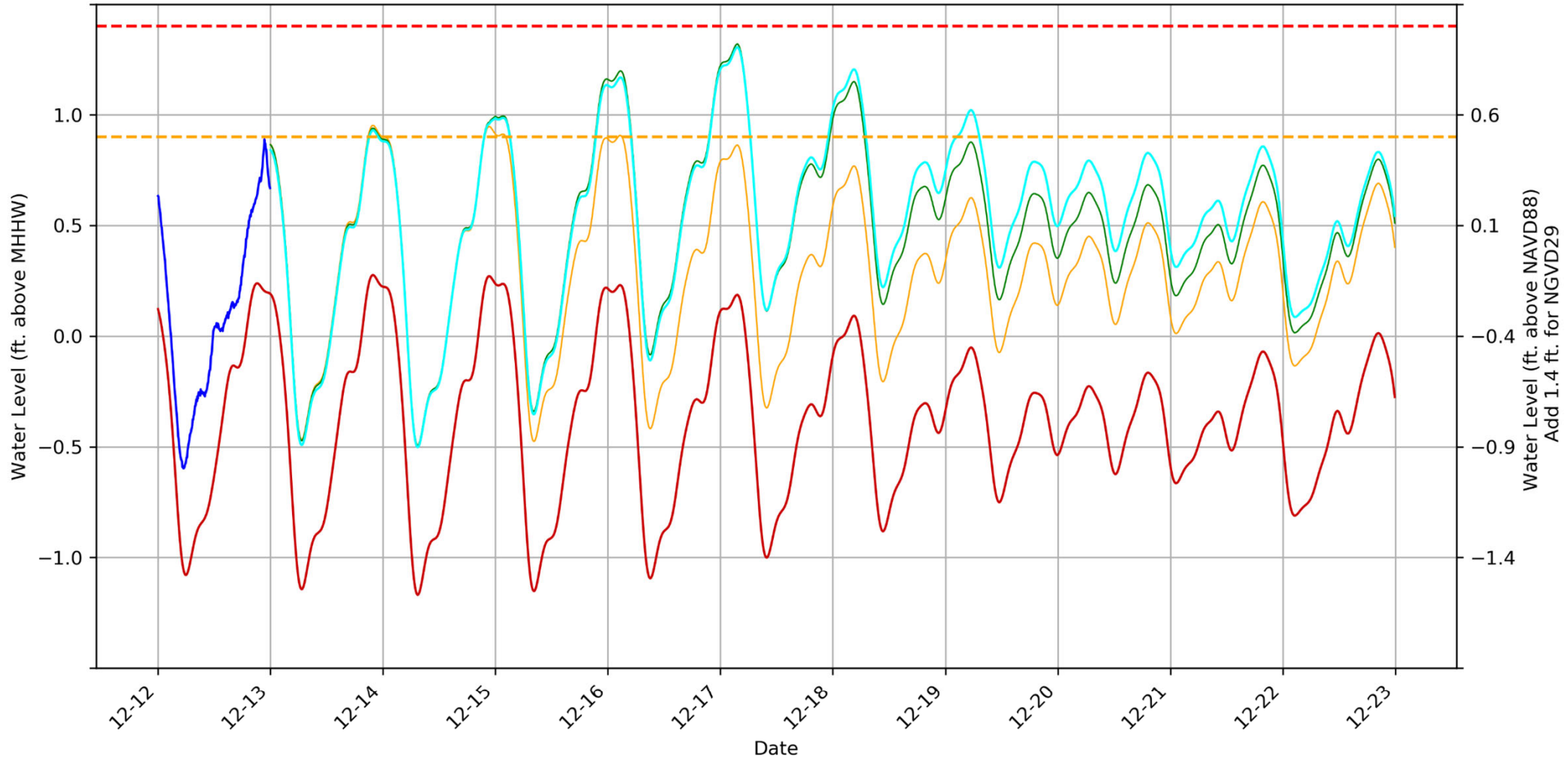
\*note: calculated using ground surface elevations values (NAVD88) from EDEN



# Upcoming Weather Event

- Wednesday–Friday: heaviest rainfall mainly confined to the lower and middle east coast in association with a stationary frontal zone.
- An area of low pressure will develop along the western extension of the front over the Gulf of Mexico by Friday/Saturday
- This area of low pressure will rapidly develop and probably track to the west of Florida. However, that track is not etched in stone.
- There is a growing signal for a significant rainfall event on Saturday/Sunday; the event could be rather high or even extreme (potentially historic).
- There could be a wide range of hazards: high winds, storm surge flooding, heavy or extreme rainfall, and severe weather
- The Saturday-Sunday forecast will evolve as the system moves across the Gulf of Mexico and is subject to a high degree change.

## Vaca Key 6-Minute Tide Predictions for 12-13-23



UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI  
**ROSENSTIEL SCHOOL of  
 MARINE, ATMOSPHERIC  
 & EARTH SCIENCE**



- Observations
- NOAA Prediction
- NOAA + SLR
- NOAA + SLR + SLP
- Model Forecast
- Minor Flooding Threshold
- Moderate Flooding Threshold
- Major Flooding Threshold



Flamingos in Florida Bay

Photo: Mark Cook





Construction at CEPP North.

# CERP Construction and Planning Projects

## Progress Report

South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Projects including the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP) are authorized when a planning study is approved by Congress as part of a Water Resource Development Act (WRDA). Responsibility for design and construction of CERP and other restoration projects is shared between the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD), based on coordination between the two agencies, the Integrated Delivery Schedule (IDS), and the Project Partnership Agreement for each project. This document reports on the USACE's progress on CERP efforts for the restoration of the Greater Everglades as directed by Governor DeSantis in Executive Order 23-06, as well as the SFWMD's continued efforts to expedite Everglades restoration projects and improve water quality and quantity.

### Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands – Cutler Wetlands Component

**Lead Agency:** SFWMD

**Anticipated Completion Year:** 2025

**Project Description:** The Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands Project – Cutler Wetlands Component will improve the health of Biscayne Bay, aid in wetland rehydration, build coastal resiliency and improve water quality. The Cutler Wetlands Component is the final component of the Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands Project.

**Status:** Construction.

- Contract 6A – Pump Station S-701 under construction
- Contract 6B – Design package out for bids, contract award in Q1 FY 2024

### Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands – L-31 East Flowway

**Lead Agency:** USACE

**Anticipated Completion Year:** 2026

**Project Description:** The project restores freshwater flows to southern Biscayne Bay and Biscayne National Park while improving salinity distribution near the shore. It also restores historical freshwater wetland habitat adjacent to the Bay, which acts like a sponge, soaking up water in the wet season and slowly releasing it in a more natural pattern.

**Status:** Construction; Operational Testing and Monitoring Period.

- Contract 4 – Pump Station S-709: Construction is complete. Operation Testing and Monitoring Period is underway.
- Contract 5A – Pump Station S-705: Contractor is still working with FPL to install permanent power. On Sept. 28, 2023, USACE, SFWMD, FDEP, and the Contractor conducted a final inspection of the pump station located on the L-31E Canal at the intersection with the C-102 Canal.
- Contract 5B – Pump Station S-703 and Recreational Sites: Excavation of the intake vault and installation of all sheet pile and king piles are complete, spreader canal excavation is ongoing and forming work for the caps continues.



Pump Station S-709.

- Contract 5C – Pump Stations S-710 and S-711, Seepage Canal C-711W: Piling and auguring are ongoing for S-711 and are complete for S-710. Clearing and grubbing for the spreader canal continues. Seepage Canal berm construction is complete.

### Biscayne Bay and Southeastern Everglades Ecosystem Restoration (BBSEER)

**Lead Agency:** USACE

**Anticipated Completion Year:** 2026

**Project Description:** The BBSEER Project aims to restore natural areas in southeastern Miami-Dade County, including the Model Lands, Southern Glades, nearshore estuarine habitats of Biscayne Bay, and the associated coastal and freshwater wetlands.

**Status:** Planning; A 3x3x3 planning study waiver request for scope, schedule and budget is in development to complete the study. The project team is in round three modeling process and will continue to refine alternatives. Next Milestone: Confirmation of a Tentatively Selected Plan is scheduled June 2024.

### Broward County Water Preserve Areas

**Lead Agency:** USACE

**Anticipated Completion Year:** 2034

**Project Description:** This project will reduce water loss from the Central Everglades. It is designed to perform two primary functions: reduce seepage loss from Water Conservation Area (WCA) 3A/3B to the C-11 and C-9 basins; and capture, store and distribute surface water runoff from the western C-11 basin that has been discharged into WCA 3A/3B.

**Status:** Design.

- Contract 2 – C-11 Impoundment Embankment: Final design is in progress and the construction award is expected in Q4 FY 2024.
- Contract 3 – C-11 Impoundment Pump Station: Design is in progress, and the construction award is expected in late FY 2025.
- Contract 4 – WCA3A Seepage Management Area: Design to begin in Q1 FY 2024.
- Contract 5 – C-9 Impoundment: Design to begin in Q3 FY 2024.

## Caloosahatchee (C-43) Reservoir

**Lead Agency:** SFWMD

**Anticipated Completion Year:** 2025

**Project Description:** The project will capture excess C-43 Basin runoff and regulatory releases from Lake Okeechobee during the wet season and release water from the reservoir during the dry season. It includes development of one aboveground reservoir, with a total storage capacity of approximately 170,000 acre-feet. The project will reduce the extreme salinity changes in the Caloosahatchee River Estuary by providing a more consistent flow of freshwater discharging into the estuary.



*S-470 Pump Station at the Caloosahatchee (C-43) Reservoir.*

**Status:** Construction.

- Package 1 – Embankment Preloading at 6 critical structures around the dam and demolition of existing infrastructure work is complete.
- Package 2 – S-476 Pump Station replaces the original irrigation pump station located on the header canal that supplied water to existing water users work is complete.
- Package 3 – S-470 Inflow Pump Station which pulls water from the Caloosahatchee River through the Townsend Canal to the Reservoir work is complete.
- Package 4 – Reservoir: Concrete work at S-475 and S-478 complete, Concrete work at S-471, S-473, S-483, Site Access Bridge & Local Bridge continue, soil cement proof of concept (buttress) completed and 3 miles of soil cement buttress completed, soil cement proof of concept (slope) completed and under review, sheet pile installation at S-472, S-474 and S-482 completed, Phase I Soil Bentonite Wall in Segment F5 completed and E2 ongoing, Phase II Soil Bentonite Wall completed in G1, G2, G3 and continues in H2, F5 embankment work underway to close gap, Townsend Canal sheet pile installation ongoing, installed 1 - 40 cfs pump at S-479, M3 header canal completely recovered in preparation of embankment, and perimeter canal and intake canal work are underway.

## Central Everglades Planning Project (CEPP) Everglades Agricultural Area (EAA) Reservoir

**Lead Agency:** USACE

**Anticipated Completion Year:** 2030

**Project Description:** CEPP includes four phases of projects that help restore the natural flow of water south from Lake Okeechobee to the Central & Southern Everglades. The CEPP EAA Phase will store, treat and send new water to the Everglades. The EAA Reservoir reduces damaging discharges from Lake Okeechobee to the Northern Estuaries. The 10,000-acre reservoir component includes 240,000 acre-feet of storage and delivers water to the 6,500-acre A-2 STA for water quality treatment. The project provides an additional average annual 370,000 acre-feet of clean water sent to the Everglades.

**Status:** Design; Construction.

- Contract 11B - Embankment, outlet structures and spillway: Final design expected to be completed in Nov. 2023, with the construction award expected at the end of FY 2024.
- Contract 11C - S-636 Seepage Pump Station: Design began in March 2023, and the construction award is expected in Sept. 2026.

- Contract 10A - Seepage Inflow/Outflow Canal: Environmental monitoring and pre-construction survey work continues. Dewatering within the footprint of the inflow/outflow canal is ongoing. De-mucking, clearing, and grubbing activities began in March 2023. Excavation of the canal footprint is underway, and 7.2 miles of canals have been constructed from North New River Canal and Miami Canal.
- Contract 11A - Foundation Preparation & Cutoff Wall: Contractor mobilized to the site in Aug. 2023 and began setting up temporary facilities. Clearing, grubbing and de-mucking of borrow pit area 3 is complete and borrow area 2 is ongoing. Construction on the east side of the batch plant platform has begun. The dewatering plan is under development.
- Contract 12: S-623 Reservoir Inflow Pump Station: In design and will be in construction by SFWMD in mid-2024.

## Central Everglades Planning Project (CEPP) Everglades Agricultural Area (EAA) Stormwater Treatment Area (STA)

**Lead Agency:** SFWMD

**Anticipated Completion Year:** 2024

**Project Description:** The 6,500-acre STA will clean water stored in the 240,000 acre-foot EAA Reservoir and allow it to be moved south to the Everglades. Stormwater Treatment Areas use aquatic vegetation to remove harmful nutrient pollution from the water. Sending more clean water south will support the ecological health of the Everglades and Florida Bay.

**Status:** Construction.

- Contract 9B - STA Cells: In construction. Initial filling commences end of Jan. 2024.
- Contract 9B - STA Inflow-Outflow Canal: Construction completed in FY 2023.

## Central Everglades Planning Project (CEPP) Everglades Agricultural Area (EAA) Canal Conveyance Improvements

**Lead Agency:** SFWMD

**Anticipated Completion Year:** 2027

**Project Description:** The North New River Canal Conveyance increases canal capacity by 200 cfs. The Miami Canal Conveyance Improvements increase canal capacity by 1,000 cfs.

**Status:** Design.

- Contract 9A - EAA North New River Canal Improvements: Design package is out for bids, contract award Q1 2024.
- Contract 9A - EAA Miami River Canal Improvements Phase 1: Design is ongoing and construction award by end of FY 2024.
- Contract 9A - EAA Miami River Canal Improvements Phase 2: Design is ongoing and construction award in early FY 2025.

## Central Everglades Planning Project (CEPP) New Water Seepage Barrier Wall Project

**Lead Agency:** SFWMD

**Anticipated Completion Year:** 2024

**Project Description:** The CEPP New Water Seepage Barrier Wall Project extends the successful underground wall that was built as part of the 8.5 Square Mile Area Seepage Wall Project. The project supports ongoing restoration efforts to move water south through the Everglades and into Florida Bay while mitigating potential flooding impacts in communities outside of Everglades National Park.

**Status:** Construction.

- Contract 13 - CEPP Seepage Wall: In construction. Trenching is complete. CB wall is 89% complete. Permanent capping 42% complete.

## Central Everglades Planning Project (CEPP) North Phase

**Lead Agency:** SFWMD

**Anticipated Completion Year:** 2030

**Project Description:** CEPP North will restore water levels in the northern portion of the Central Everglades and improve our water resource resiliency in South Florida. The features within the CEPP plan include a reservoir, a stormwater treatment area and water flow improvements.

**Status:** Design; Construction.

- Contract 7A - L-6 Diversion: A groundbreaking for S-620 was held in May 2023. S-622 is in design and contract award is in Q1 FY2025.
- Contract 7A - L-4 Canal Improvements & Distribution Features & S-8A Modifications are in design.
- Contract 7B - S-8 Pump Station Modifications is in design and contract award is in Q1 FY2024.
- Contract 8A - L-5 Canal Improvements is in design to be constructed in 2 packages.
- Contract 8B - Miami Canal Backfill and Vegetated Hammocks survey is ongoing.

## Central Everglades Planning Project (CEPP) South Phase

**Lead Agency:** USACE

**Anticipated Completion Year:** 2031

**Project Description:** CEPP South removes water flow barriers to allow natural flow of water south into Everglades National Park. Components include the construction of a pump station, the installation of culverts and spillways and the removal of a roadway and levees that will all help increase the flow of clean water south from WCA 3A to Everglades National Park.

**Status:** Design; Construction.

- Contract 1AR - L-67A Culverts: The contractor has mobilized the processing equipment to S-631 and has begun test crushing, screening and configuring equipment for the proper gradations for use in cofferdam. Temporary cofferdam construction has begun and geogrid placement started in Oct. 2023. Initial inspection held in late October. Cofferdam construction on the east side of S-631 is underway.
- Contract 2A - Pump Station S-356E and S-334E Gated Spillway: Design is complete with Contract Award rescheduled from March 2024 to June 2024 and possible risk of further delay due to additional time required to complete coordination with the FDOT to execute a construction agreement.
- Contract 3B - S-355W Gated Spillway in L-29 Canal: Final design is complete. The contract award has been rescheduled from Dec. 2023 to March 2024 and possible risk of further delay due to additional time required to complete coordination with the FDOT to execute a construction agreement.
- Contract 5 - Blue Shanty Flowway: Final design is scheduled to be complete in FY 2026, and the contract award is scheduled for FY 2026.
- Contract 6 - L-29 Levee Removal: Design is scheduled to begin in FY 2024, and the contract award is scheduled for FY 2028.

## Indian River Lagoon South – C-23 Estuary Discharge Diversion Canal

**Lead Agency:** SFWMD

**Anticipated Completion Year:** 2025

**Project Description:** This interconnect canal project will divert harmful discharges from the C-23 Canal and send it south to the C-44 Reservoir. It improves water quality in the St. Lucie Estuary and helps bring flows to the Estuary closer to its natural pattern.

**Status:** Construction; Concrete work on S-457 Pump Station has begun, Canal excavation in Segment 1 is 50% and Segment 3 is 85% complete, and Coca Cola Box Culvert excavation has begun.

## Indian River Lagoon South – C-23/24 North Reservoir

**Lead Agency:** USACE

**Anticipated Completion Year:** 2030

**Project Description:** The C-23/24 North Reservoir is a component of the IRL South Project, encompassing more than 2,000 acres. Once completed, it will store approximately 32,000 acre-feet of water.

**Status:** Design.

- Contract 1 – S-426 Pump Station, Afterbay, S-245 Culvert, PC-37 Canal and Structure: The draft final design is complete, and the contract award is scheduled for Q2 FY 2024.
- Contract 2 – Reservoir Embankment Construction: The draft final design is expected May 2024.

## Indian River Lagoon South – C-23/24 South Reservoir

**Lead Agency:** SFWMD

**Anticipated Completion Year:** 2030

**Project Description:** The C-23/24 South Reservoir is a component of the IRL South Project, encompassing more than 3,500 acres. Once completed, it will store approximately 57,000 acre-feet of water.

**Status:** Design is ongoing by the SFWMD. Two construction contracts will begin in 2024 and one will begin in 2025.

## Indian River Lagoon South – C-23/24 STA

**Lead Agency:** USACE

**Anticipated Completion Year:** 2026

**Project Description:** The 2,700-acre C23/24 STA is designed to treat water from the C-23 and C-24 Basins. Its purpose is to reduce the sediment, phosphorus, and nitrogen going to the St. Lucie River Estuary and the southern portion of the Indian River Lagoon.

**Status:** Construction; Nine of 17 water control structures underway. Contractor is completing embankment around cells 1 and 2. Levee construction in Cell 5 has started. Ring levee modification awarded in Sept. Sept. 2023 which shifted completion date to January 2026.

## Indian River Lagoon South C-25 Reservoir and STA

**Lead Agency:** SFWMD

**Anticipated Completion Year:** 2028

**Project Description:** The C-25 Reservoir and STA will capture, store and treat local stormwater runoff from the C-25 Canal. The project reduces the rate of harmful flows to downstream estuaries and improves water quality in the estuary and lagoon.

**Status:** Design.

## Indian River Lagoon South – C-44 Reservoir

**Lead Agency:** USACE

**Completion Year:** 2021

**Project Description:** The C-44 Reservoir will store 50,000 acre-feet of water, including local basin runoff and Lake Okeechobee releases. This will reduce harmful releases reaching the St. Lucie Estuary that can fuel harmful algal blooms.

**Status:** Construction Complete, in Operational Testing and Monitoring. Repairs to S-402 complete. Designing additional seepage management feature to be constructed under separate contract starting in 2024.

## Indian River Lagoon South – C-44 STA

**Lead Agency:** SFWMD

**Completion Year:** 2019

**Project Description:** The 6,400-acre C-44 STA will remove harmful nutrients and provide regional water quality benefits. It will treat the water stored in the reservoir before it is released into the estuary.

**Status:** Construction Complete, in Operational Testing and Monitoring.

## Indian River Lagoon South Natural Water Quality Storage Areas and Muck Removal

**Lead Agency:** SFWMD

**Anticipated Completion Year:** TBD

**Project Description:** This project is part of Indian River Lagoon – South Phase II and will work together with other IRL-South components to protect and restore the lagoon and estuary. It will create natural storage by preserving and restoring lands in the contributing basins of the north and south forks of the St. Lucie River and the estuary.

**Status:** Planning; Acquiring Lands.

## Lake Okeechobee System Operating Manual (LOSOM)

**Lead Agency:** USACE

**Anticipated Completion Year:** 2024

**Project Description:** The USACE is updating the Lake Okeechobee operations manual to reevaluate and define operations for the Lake Okeechobee regulation schedule that takes into account additional infrastructure that will soon be operational.

**Status:** Planning; The WCP will go into effect once the record of decision (ROD) is signed by USACE, South Atlantic Division. Additional coordination is still underway within USACE, and the Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will not be finalized until resolution of the remaining coordination is completed. The Final WCP will be released with the Final EIS once it is completed.

## Lake Okeechobee Watershed Restoration Project (LOWRP)

**Lead Agency:** SFWMD

**Anticipated Completion Year:** TBD

**Project Description:** LOWRP is an Everglades restoration planning effort that will improve water levels in Lake Okeechobee; improve the quantity and timing of discharges to the St. Lucie and Caloosahatchee estuaries; restore degraded habitat for fish and wildlife throughout the study area; and increase the spatial extent and functionality of wetlands.

The Florida Legislature appropriated a total of \$150 million for the LOWRP during the previous three legislative sessions. During the 2021 legislative session, the Florida Legislature also passed Senate Bill 2516 to further support and expedite the implementation of LOWRP. This funding was provided to the SFWMD for the design, engineering and construction of specific LOWRP components designed to achieve the greatest reduction in harmful discharges to the Caloosahatchee and St. Lucie Estuaries.

**Status:** Planning; Design, Well Testing and ASR Science Plan. The USACE is targeting a Chief's Report for the wetlands restoration in Summer 2024.

## Loxahatchee River Watershed Restoration Project

**Lead Agency:** SFWMD

**Anticipated Completion Year:** 2032

**Project Description:** The Loxahatchee River Watershed Restoration Project will restore and sustain the overall quantity, quality, timing and distribution of fresh water to the federally designated "National Wild and Scenic"

Northwest Fork of the Loxahatchee River for current and future generations. This project also seeks to restore, sustain and reconnect the wetlands and watersheds that form the historic headwaters for the river. These areas include Jonathan Dickinson State Park, Pal Mar East/Cypress Creek, DuPuis Wildlife and Environmental Management Areas, J.W. Corbett Wildlife Management Area, Grassy Waters Preserve, Loxahatchee Slough, the Northwest Fork of the Loxahatchee River and the Loxahatchee River Estuary.

**Status:** Design.

- Flowway 1: Anticipated to execute design contract in FY 2024.
- Flowway 2 and 3: In design, survey and geotechnical work underway.

## Picayune Strand Restoration Project

**Lead Agency:** USACE

**Anticipated Completion Year:** 2025

**Project Description:** This project restores the natural water flow across 85 square miles in western Collier County that were drained in the early 1960s in anticipation of extensive residential development. The restoration involves plugging 48 miles of canals, removing 260 miles of crumbling roads, and constructing three major pump stations, all of which will restore more than 55,000 acres of natural habitat.

**Status:** Construction.

- Miller Tram and Road Removal: Road removal is complete. Once the contract is closed the project feature will be turned over to SFWMD to maintain.
- Southwest Protection Feature Levee: Four of six lifts for the full seven miles are complete and the fifth lift is underway.
- Conveyance Features (Design/Build Contract): Construction completion in mid-Oct. 2023 for construction efforts under U.S. 41. Final Design will be complete for CR-92 in Oct. 2023 and construction will start in Oct. 2023. Overall construction completion is expected in June 2024.

## Southern Everglades

**Lead Agency:** USACE/SFWMD

**Anticipated Completion Year:** TBD

**Project Description:** The Southern Everglades project aims to provide substantial amounts of freshwater to improve the quantity, timing, and distribution of freshwater in the Greater Everglades and Everglades National Park wetlands and Florida Bay.

**Status:** Planning; The Draft 2023 Integrated Delivery Schedule indicates the study will kick off in 2025.

## Western Everglades Restoration Project (WERP)

**Lead Agency:** USACE/SFWMD

**Anticipated Completion Year:** TBD

**Project Description:** The Western Everglades Restoration Project is an Everglades restoration planning effort that aims to improve the quantity, quality, timing, and distribution of water in the western Everglades. The study area covers approximately 1,200 square miles, bounded by the L-1 Canal to the north; the L-2 Canal, Stormwater Treatment Area (STA) 5/6, and the eastern boundary of the Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida Reservation to the east; a natural watershed boundary to the west; and portions of U.S. Highway 41, Loop Road, and the southern Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida Reservation area to the south.

**Status:** Planning; In-person, "Open House" public meetings are scheduled for December 13, 2023 in Clewiston and December 14, 2023 at Big Cypress Preserve. The release of the Draft Project Implementation Report/ Environmental Impact Statement is planned for December 15, 2023 and the USACE is targeting a Chief's Report in September 2024. Region 4 early work - modeling complete and L-28 Culverts design complete and construction award December 2023.



# Northern Everglades and Estuaries Protection Program (NEEPP)

Progress Update – December 2023

## SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT (SFWMD) PROGRESS UPDATE

Scott Water Farm — a Northern Everglades Public-Private Partnership (NE-PPP) Project in the St. Lucie River Watershed — successfully completed its second year of operations as of November 5, 2023. As a priority NEEPP project in the C-25 Basin, upstream of the St. Lucie River and Estuary Basin Management Action Plan (BMAP), the 7,440-acre water farm retains stormwater so that it is not released into the basin via the C-25 Extension Canal (see map). This large-scale water storage and treatment project was designed to provide an average water quantity benefit of ~29,000 acre-feet per year and an estimated annual average water quality benefit of 3.3 metric tons of total phosphorus (TP) and 13.7 metric tons of total nitrogen (TN). Since full operations began in November 2021, project benefits have exceeded expectations, with total storage of 70,877 acre-feet and nutrient retention of 21.98 metric tons of TP and 140.53 metric tons of TN for the complete two-year operational period (preliminary results as of November 5, 2023).

### INTERAGENCY SPOTLIGHT

The peer review comment period for the **Draft 2024 South Florida Environmental Report (SFER) – Volume I** closed on November 8, 2023. This includes specific comments received on the Coordinating Agencies' NEEPP Annual Progress Report (Chapter 8A) and the Watershed Protection Plan annual reviews for the Lake Okeechobee, St. Lucie River, and Caloosahatchee River Watersheds (Chapters 8B-8C-8D), posted on the [SFER WebBoard](#).

Written public comments on Chapter 8C were also received during the open review period through November 27, 2023. Our agencies' responses to panel and public comments are being prepared and revisions to the draft will be incorporated into the final report. The complete three-volume, final report will be published on March 1, 2024 [SFWMD.gov/SFER](#).





## FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION (DEP) PROGRESS UPDATE

DEP has started collecting updated project information from stakeholders through December 31, 2023, in support of the 2023 *Statewide Annual Report on Total Maximum Daily Loads, Basin Management Action Plans, Minimum Flows or Minimum Water Levels, and Recovery or Prevention Strategies (STAR)*, which will be published by July 1, 2024. This comprehensive annual report provides updates on 6,000+ water quality restoration projects being implemented in over 30 active BMAPs across the state. The most current STAR is presented via an interactive Story Map and includes a database on the progress of all BMAP projects during the 2022 reporting period that can be downloaded into an Excel spreadsheet via the DEP website at [floridadep.gov/STAR](http://floridadep.gov/STAR).

DEP is working on developing a Hot Spot Analysis to look for more specific areas of concern for TP and TN within the Northern Everglades BMAPs. An index has been developed based on a compilation of TP and TN average concentrations, 90th percentile distribution, concentration variations, and frequency of concentrations exceeding desired thresholds. Data is considered from any monitoring station with at least two years of samples and four samples per year, so that more available data can be analyzed compared to more stringent analyses (i.e., the TRA and trend analyses). It is anticipated that the results of this Hot Spot Analysis will be included in the next 2025 BMAP updates, to be published by July 1, 2025.

## FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND CONSUMER SERVICES (FDACS) PROGRESS UPDATE

As of November 1, 2023, FDACS has enrolled 84% of the agricultural acres and has completed 81% of required implementation verifications (IVs) for agricultural operations within the NEEPP boundary (in accordance with IV deferrals). FDACS continues to collect and retain required nutrient application records as IVs are conducted.

The annual reports for the eight-hybrid wetland treatment technology (HWTT) and four floating aquatic vegetation treatment (FAVT) projects are finalized. Notably, the systems removed a combined total of 15.96 t (35,191 lbs) of TP and 57.2 t (126,115 lbs) of TN during the most recent reporting period from July 1, 2022–June 30, 2023.

FDACS executed projects to fund the engineering and design of two new projects to increase storage and improve water quality in the Northern Everglades:

- Lykes Bros. Harney Pond Project (\$998,175). This is a proposed treatment and storage facility in Glades County, known as Harney Pond, capable of storing water at a depth of approximately 1 to 3 feet across approximately 4,500 acres.
- Four Corners Rapid Infiltration Project – Phase 2 (\$360,000). This project will connect a 150 cubic feet per second pump station at C-43 via 20,000 feet of pipeline to the Four Corners Rapid Infiltration Project constructed during Phase 1.

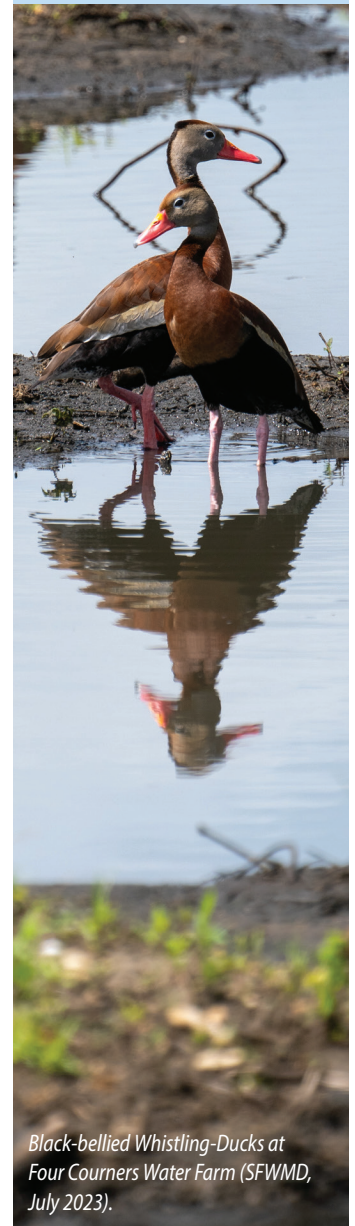
## A LOOK AHEAD

**January 9 –  
March 8, 2024**

2024 Regular Session of the Florida Legislature.

**March 1, 2024**

Final 2024 SFER publication on SFWMD website ([SFWMD.gov/SFER](http://SFWMD.gov/SFER)).



*Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks at Four Corners Water Farm (SFWMD, July 2023).*