



South Florida Water Management District

GOVERNING BOARD MONTHLY MEETING AGENDA

March 13, 2025

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
 - March 2025 Employee of the Month: Jose Esquivel, Procurement Section Leader, Contracts
 - March 2025 Team of the Month: Tamiami Trail Real Estate Team
 - 25-Year Service Award: Daniel Bachand, Environmental Data Analyst
 - 30-Year Service Award: Johanna Labrada, Bureau Chief, Procurement
4. Special Recognition
 - Recognize March as District Procurement Month
 - Awards of Excellence to Palm Beach County Science Fair Participants
5. Agenda Revisions
6. Agenda Item Abstentions by Board Members
7. Big Cypress Basin Board Report - Charlette Roman, Chair
8. Consider Approval of the Minutes for the February 13, 2025 Meeting
9. Executive Director's Report - Drew Bartlett

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

Consent Agenda

15. Land Acquisition, L-14 Right of Way, Palm Beach County (Staff contact, Ray Palmer)

Agenda Item Background:

The District operates and maintains the L-14 right-of-way in Palm Beach County. The District will acquire fee title to real estate interests that includes 0.051 acres of land and a commercial building adjacent to the L-14 right-of-way. The acquisition of the property provides the District a much-needed location adjacent to the State Road 80 bridge for canal maintenance, staging area and debris removal when needed. Acquisition also solves long standing encroachments into the right-of-way from commercial activities. Staff is seeking Governing Board approval to acquire one parcel from a willing seller for a purchase price of \$131,000.

Recommended Action:

Resolution No. 2025-0301 Authorize the acquisition of land interests containing 0.051 acres, more or less, in the total amount of \$131,000, for the L-14 right-of-way in Palm Beach County, for which Ad Valorem funds are budgeted in Fiscal Year 2024-2025.

[Resolution No. 2025-0301](#)

[Exhibit A Map](#)

[Exhibit B Map](#)

16. Access Easement Exchange, Lee County (Staff contact, Ray Palmer)

Agenda Item Background:

The District owns an existing approximately 0.50 acres access easement that provides ingress and egress to its fee-owned lands in a portion of the Corkscrew Regional Ecosystem Watershed (CREW) Project area, south of Corkscrew Road in Lee County. The District will release the approximately 0.50-acre access easement in exchange for a relocated access easement which will be improved and provide better access than the District currently has and is of similar acreage. The exchange accommodates the underlying fee owner's plan to construct a commercial office center. This has been determined to be an even value exchange.

Recommended Action:

Resolution No. 2025-0302 Authorize release of an access easement interest containing approximately 0.50 acres, more or less, in exchange for the

acquisition of a relocated access easement interest comparable and more or less equivalent in size to the approximately 0.50 acres, all located in the CREW Project area south of Corkscrew Road in Lee County.

[Resolution No. 2025-0302](#)

[Exhibit A Map](#)

[Exhibit B Map](#)

17. Release of Reservations (Staff contact, Ray Palmer)

Agenda Item Background:

The District has certain reserved rights to construct canal and road rights of way. Applications requesting release of these reservations are received as they constitute a defect on title which must be resolved prior to a property sale, especially when financing is involved. Applications are reviewed to determine if there is a present or future need for the reservations. If it has been determined there is no present or future need, the reservations may be released for a reasonable and appropriate payment based on the value of the land and may require such other terms and conditions determined by the Board.

Staff evaluated the property's size and location for future flood control and reclamation purposes related to water storage and conveyance. It has been determined that there is no present or apparent future need for the reservations listed below, therefore staff asks the Board to consider approval of the following:

Miami-Dade County

- Release District canal and road reservations for Grove Nassau 2, LLC (File No. 18959) for 0.12+/- acre; subject to release value payment of \$18,300

Recommended Action:

Resolution No. 2025-0303 Authorize release of certain canal and road reservations.

[Memorandum Exhibit A](#)

[Resolution No. 2025-0303](#)

[Maps](#)

18. S-332B Pump Station Power Supply - Right of Way Occupancy Permit and Waiver, Florida Power & Light Company (Staff contact, Rich Virgil, P.E.)

Agenda Item Background:

Florida Power & Light Company (Applicant or FPL) requests a Standard Right of Way Occupancy Permit Number 17071-R (ROW Permit) to install a buried and aerial parallel run, an aerial crossing, and associated down guys within the east right of way of the L-31N Canal across from the District's S-332B Pump Station. The purpose of the proposed work is to relocate the existing power supply to accommodate replacement of the existing S-332B Pump Station. FPL coordinated the relocation of the existing power supply with District Field Operations, which requested the service be relocated to east side of L-31N.

The Applicant has demonstrated a substantial hardship that supports granting of the requested waiver of the 40-foot rule for the existing and proposed poles and down

guys. The hardship results from the location of the existing northernmost pole (Location 1) and the engineering design/constraints required for the relocated power supply requested by the District. Historically, the pole at Location 1 was installed at the District's request to provide power to S-332B and authorized by ROW Permit 11373 in 2000. The District allowed the existing pole to be installed at 36 feet from top of bank, but there is no record of a waiver to the 40-foot rule. The location of the existing non-compliant pole (Location 1) drives the engineering design of the relocated power supply project requested by the District, including the location of the buried parallel run and pole locations to the south. Without granting of the waiver, the proposed power supply would need to be redesigned, causing delay for the S-332B replacement project and potential disruption in service to the S-332B Pump Station.

The application has been reviewed by District Field Operations and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, which has granted Section 408 authorization. Approval of the requested waiver will legitimize the location of the existing pole at Location 1. In addition, granting of the waiver will not adversely impact the District's ability to perform routine or emergency operations, maintenance, or future construction activities.

Recommended Action:

Approve issuance of Standard Right of Way Occupancy Permit 17071-R and the order granting the associated petition for waiver to install a buried and aerial parallel run, an aerial crossing, and associated down guys with 3 utility poles and associated down guys to be located within 40 feet of top of bank (Application No. 240513-43788).

[Backup Presentation](#)

19. Central Everglades Planning Project - North Phase, S-622 Gated Box Culvert Project, Palm Beach and Broward Counties (Staff contact, Lucine Dadrian, P.E.)

Agenda Item Background:

As part of Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan, the Central Everglades Planning Project (CEPP) - North Phase (CEPP North) S-622 Gated Box Culvert Project, located in Palm Beach and Broward Counties, will provide 500 cfs flow through a three-barrel gated culvert to meet CEPP North conveyance capacity requirements. Ancillary components of this project include a dedicated generator and control building, recreational features such as a new boat ramp and information kiosk, and two new stilling wells. The project also includes removal of the existing earthen plug that currently separates the L-5 and L-5 Remnant Canals.

CEPP was authorized by Congress in the Water Resources Development Acts of 2016, 2018, and 2020, and includes four phases: CEPP - Everglades Agricultural Area, CEPP North, CEPP South, and CEPP New Water. The CEPP North Phase will improve conveyance and flow distribution to northern Water Conservation Area (WCA)-3A. The first CEPP North features, the S-620 Gated Culvert and L-6 Improvements, are nearing construction completion, and the L-5 Remnant Canal Improvements and S-8 Pump Station Modifications will be starting construction this year. The S-622 Gated Box culvert will be the next CEPP North feature moving to construction.

The lowest responsive and responsible bidder is recommended for award. In

accordance with District policy and consistent with state law for Request for Bids procurements, this item was competitively bid through a sealed bid process. The bid opening for this project was on February 20, 2025.

Recommended Action:

Resolution No. 2025-0304 Authorize entering into a 697-day contract with Daniel O’Connell’s Sons, Inc., the lowest responsive and responsible bidder, for the Central Everglades Planning Project North S-622 Gated Box Culvert Project, in the amount of \$16,325,000 for which \$3,500,000 in dedicated funds (Everglades Trust Fund, Land Acquisition Trust Fund, and State General Revenue) are budgeted in Fiscal Year 2024-2025, and the remainder is subject to Governing Board approval of future years’ budgets. (Contract No. 4600005183)

[Resolution No. 2025-0304](#)

[Backup Presentation](#)

20. G-150, G-136E and G-151W Replacement and Automation, Hendry County (Staff contact, Lucine Dadrian, P.E.)

Agenda Item Background:

As part of the Operations and Maintenance Critical Flood Control Infrastructure Capital Program, the G-150, G-136E, and G-151W Replacement and Automation Project, located in Hendry County, will replace the corrugated metal pipe culverts at G-150 and G-136 with three-barrel gated concrete box culverts and provide automation for remote operations at G-150, G-136E, and G-151W. The G-150 and G-136E Structure Replacements will provide the same flow capacity and be based on the District’s current standard design for a gated culverts, and all three structures will incorporate remote operations improvements including control and generator buildings, remote telemetry systems, emergency generators and fuel storage.

The structures are located south of Clewiston and play major role in water supply and flood control in this agricultural region. Remote operations will support moving water efficiently and timely to the C-139 Flow Equalization Basin (FEB) and Stormwater Treatment Area (STA) 5/6.

The lowest responsive and responsible bidder is recommended for award. In accordance with District policy and consistent with state law for Request for Bids procurements, this item was competitively bid through a sealed bid process. The bid opening for this project was on February 19, 2025.

Recommended Action:

Resolution No. 2025-0305 Authorize entering into a 900-day contract with Interlaken, Inc., the lowest responsive and responsible bidder, for the G-150, G-136E and G-151W Replacement & Automation Project, in the amount of \$28,777,000, for which \$3,840,000 in dedicated funds (State Appropriations) and Ad Valorem funds are budgeted in Fiscal Year 2024-2025 and the remainder is subject to Governing Board approval of future years’ budgets. (Contract No. 46000005180)

[Resolution No. 2025-0305](#)

[Backup Presentation](#)

21. Temporary Forward Pumps Repowering for S-351, S-352 and S-354 Project, Palm Beach County (Staff contact, Lucine Dadrian, P.E.)

Agenda Item Background:

As part of the Operations and Maintenance Critical Flood Control Infrastructure Capital Program, the Temporary Forward Pumps Repowering for S-351, S-352 and S-354 Project, located in Palm Beach County, will repower 15 portable pumps, which includes one spare pump, to be used at S-351, S-352 and S-354 for temporary Lake Okeechobee water supply operations.

Portable pumps are needed when Lake Okeechobee water levels are too low to be released via gravity for water supply purposes under the Central and Southern Florida Project. The existing 15 portable pumps are at the end of their service life and in need of repowering. The repowering scope includes replacing the electric motor, pump can, internal rotating parts and electrical components of all 15 portable pumps. The existing suction intake and discharge flap gate will be reused. This project will extend the service life, improve reliability as well as increase efficiency of the overall pumping system. The repowered pumps will increase the discharge capacity of each pump from 100 cubic feet per second (cfs) to 125 cfs. Dependence on these pumps is critical to South Florida water supply operations during water shortage conditions.

MWI Corporation is the Original Equipment Manufacturer; therefore, this work will be procured using a special procurement pursuant to Sec.155-6 of the District's Procurement Policy.

Recommended Action:

Resolution No. 2025-0306 Authorize entering into a purchase order with MWI Corporation, the Original Equipment Manufacturer, for the Temporary Forward Pumps Repowering for S-351, S-352 and S-354 Project, in the amount of \$5,703,455, for which Ad Valorem funds and dedicated funds (State Appropriations) are budgeted in Fiscal Year 2024-2025. (Purchase Order No. 4500154277)

[Resolution No. 2025-0306](#)
[Presentation Backup](#)

22. STA-1W Expansion #2, G-780 and G-781 Pump Station Change Order No. 12, and G-782 Pump Station Change Order No. 8, Palm Beach County (Staff contact, Lucine Dadrian, P.E.)

Agenda Item Background:

As part of Restoration Strategies, the STA-1W Expansion #2 G-780, G-781, and G-782 Pump Station Projects, 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 Limits (WQBEL) to achieve compliance with the State of Florida's numeric phosphorus criterion for the Everglades Protection Area outlined in Rule 62-302.540, Florida Administrative Code, enforced by the U.S.

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

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), and the project includes construction of the two 500 cfs inflow pump stations and portions of the canals and levees associated with these pump stations. On November 12, 2020, the Governing Board also 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), and the project includes construction of the 625 cfs STA outflow pump station and portions of the canals and levees associated with pump station.

Both contracts met the Substantial Completion requirements in December 2024. Closeout change orders were negotiated and include all outstanding claims in both projects. Change Order No. 12 for Contract No. 4600004334 G-780 and G-781 Pump Stations is for a total of \$1,761,273.66 and 668 additional days. Change Order No. 8 for Contract No. 4600004335 G-782 Pump Station is for a total of \$1,144,520.70 and 608 additional days.

Recommended Action:

A. Resolution No. 2025-0307 Authorize Change Order No. 12 with Harry Pepper & Associates, Inc., for construction of the STA-1W Expansion #2 G-780 and G-781 Pump Stations Project, for an additional 668 days and amount not to exceed \$1,761,273.66, for which dedicated funds (Land Acquisition Trust Fund and Everglades Trust Fund) are budgeted in Fiscal Year 2024-2025. (Contract No. 4600004334-CO12)

B. Resolution No. 2025-0308 Authorize Change Order No. 8 with Harry Pepper & Associates, Inc., for construction of the STA-1W Expansion #2 G-782 Pump Station Project, for an additional 608 days and amount not to exceed \$1,144,520.70, for which dedicated funds (Land Acquisition Trust Fund and Everglades Trust Fund) are budgeted in Fiscal Year 2024-2025. (Contract No. 4600004335-CO08)

[A. Resolution No. 2025-0307](#)

[B. Resolution No. 2025-0308](#)

[Presentation Backup](#)

23. Bull Hammock Ranch, Ltd., Northern Everglades Payment for Environmental Services Project Contract Amendment, Martin County (Staff contact, Jennifer Reynolds)

Agenda Item Background:

The Northern Everglades and Estuaries Protection Program (373.4595 Florida Statutes) has established the St. Lucie River Watershed Protection Plan to improve the hydrology, water quality, and aquatic habitat within these watersheds. Public-private partnership projects have been proven as a cost-effective and expeditious approach to provide regional water storage and water quality improvements. As part of the Northern Everglades and Estuaries Protection Program, the Bull Hammock Ranch Water Management Project, located in Martin County, is a public-private partnership supporting the St. Lucie Estuary Basin Management Action Plan. Originally only 160 acres, the expanded ~1,600-acre project captures rainfall and retains regional runoff in

three basins and is uniquely situated to reduce discharges to the C-23 Canal and moderate flows to the St. Lucie Estuary. Approved by the Governing Board on October 9, 2014, the Bull Hammock Water Management Area Project is uniquely located with existing connections to the C-23 Canal and has a proven record of performance since operations began in March 2015. The project has stored an average 764 acre-feet of water annually and removed approximately 0.3 metric tons of phosphorus and 1.4 metric tons of nitrogen per year. The expanded project is expected to store ~3,300 acre-feet and retain 2 metric tons of Total Phosphorus and 8 metric tons of Total Nitrogen.

Staff requests Governing Board approval to amend the existing Service Agreement with Bull Hammock Ranch, Ltd., to extend project operations for an additional ten years at a total cost not to exceed \$4,004,101.65. The amended contract includes the expansion of the project footprint from 160 acres to 1,600 acres, minor construction costs, ten years of additional operation, and removes variability and uncertainty of Consumer Price Index cost increases. Annual payments over the ten-year operational term of the contract are fixed at \$370,000 for operations and maintenance as well as a one-time payment of \$6,000 for replacement of an existing project culvert.

Recommended Action:

Resolution No. 2025-0309 Authorize an amendment to the Northern Everglades Payment for Environmental Services Agreement with Bull Hammock Ranch, Ltd., for the Bull Hammock Water Management Area Project, to expand the service area and extend the term by ten years, in the amount of \$3,706,000 for a revised contract total of \$4,004,101.65, of which \$376,000 in dedicated funds (Land Acquisition Trust Fund) is budgeted in Fiscal Year 2024-2025, and the remainder is subject to Governing Board approval of future years' budgets. (Contract No. 4600002880-A02)

[Resolution No. 2025-0309](#)

24. Publish a Notice of Proposed Rule in the Florida Administrative Register and Adopt Amendments to Rules 40E-7.668 through 40E-7.678, Florida Administrative Code (Staff contact, Candida Heater)

Agenda Item Background:

In 2006, the District implemented Chapter 40E-7, Florida Administrative Code, the "Small Business Enterprise Contracting Rule" (SBE Rule). The SBE Rule was created to implement the provisions of Section 373.1135, Florida Statutes, which authorizes each water management district to establish a small business program to encourage small businesses, to participate in district procurement and contract activities. The purpose of the program is to support economic development and small businesses, including women-owned and minority-owned businesses to successfully expand in the marketplace.

The SBE Rule was amended in August 2007, August 2013, December 2020, and is now in the rulemaking process. The District is proposing changes to augment definitions, refine solicitation preferences, enhance certification eligibility requirements for increased participation, combine the certification and recertification review procedures for simplicity and to eliminate duplicative information, amend the recertification and decertification clauses for clarity, extend SBE status throughout the

term of an existing contract, and update program forms. Proposed changes to eligibility requirements includes, but is not limited to, increasing the threshold of three-year average gross receipts, including affiliates, from a not-to-exceed amount of \$13 Million to \$21 Million if the business provides construction, \$6 Million to \$10 Million if the business provides services, and \$5 Million to \$8 Million if the business provides commodities. Threshold increases were determined by comparing 2006 District not-to-exceed amounts to similarly sized Florida agencies with SBE programs using the Consumer Price Index Inflation Calculator (CPI), U.S. Inflation Calculator (USIC), and Engineering News Record's Construction Price Index (ENR). The proposed revisions to the SBE Rule and Forms 0956, 0957, 1231, and 1373 are located at SFWMD.gov/Procurement.

District staff provided notice to registered vendors of the District, as well as GovDelivery Procurement Opportunities subscribers, of the draft rule language and updated program forms which are located on the Procurement website at SFWMD.gov/Procurement. The public was provided 14 days to submit comments. Upon Governing Board approval of the proposed rule language, District staff will publish a Notice of Proposed Rule in the Florida Administrative Register, and the public will have an additional 21 days to submit comments. After the time period to comment on the proposed rule concludes, if no one requests a hearing and no substantive changes are made, District staff will file the proposed rule for adoption with the Department of State.

Recommended Action:

Resolution No. 2025-0310 Authorize publishing a Notice of Proposed Rule in the Florida Administrative Register and Adopting Amendments to Rules 40E-7.668 through 40E-7.678, Florida Administrative Code, for the purpose of increasing the eligibility criteria for Small Business Enterprise (SBE) Certification, extending SBE status throughout the term of an existing contract, augmenting definitions, modifying solicitation preferences, enhancing certification eligibility requirements, amending the decertification clause, and updating program forms.

[Resolution No. 2025-0310](#)

[Backup - Proposed Revisions](#)

[SBE Notice of Proposed Rule](#)

Discussion Agenda

25. Caloosahatchee River Watershed Projects (Staff contact, Jennifer Reynolds)

A. Caloosahatchee Water Quality Improvement Projects, Lee County

Agenda Item Background:

Three water quality improvement projects in Lee County have been awarded grant funding through the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Caloosahatchee Watershed Grant Program. The 627-acre Frank Mann Preserve Project will be implemented at a cost of \$15.5 Million by the Lehigh Acres Municipal Services Improvement District. The project has two phases and includes design, permitting, and construction, with completion expected in August 2028, and a contract end-date of December 31, 2028. Lee County will implement both the 8-acre Palm

Creek Lower Filter Marsh Project and the 47.14-acre Bob Janes Preserve Restoration Project, at a cost of \$1.5 Million and \$2.5 Million, respectively. These projects are being funded for construction, with completion expected by July 2027, and a contract end-date of October 31, 2027. Due to the costs involved, Governing Board approval is needed for entering into grant agreements for the identified projects.

Recommended Action:

Resolution No. 2025-0311 Authorize entering into agreements with grant-eligible entities for the Caloosahatchee River Water Quality Improvement Projects in an approximate amount of \$19,500,000, for which \$6,000,000 in dedicated funds (State Grants) is budgeted in Fiscal Year 2024-2025, and the remainder is subject to Governing Board approval of future years' budgets.

- **\$15,500,000 Agreement with Lehigh Acres Municipal Services Improvement District for the Frank Mann Preserve Project (Contract No. 4600005172, through 12/31/28)**
- **\$1,500,000 Agreement with Lee County Board of County Commissioners for the Palm Creek Lower Filter Marsh Project (Contract No. 4600005173, through 10/31/27)**
- **\$2,500,000 Agreement with Lee County Board of County Commissioners for the Bob Janes Preserve Project (Contract No. 4600005174, through 10/31/27)**

[Resolution No. 2025-0311](#)

[Map](#)

B. Lake Hicpochee Hydrologic Enhancement - Phase 2 Expansion Project, Glades County

Agenda Item Background:

As part of the Northern Everglades and Estuaries Protection Program, the Lake Hicpochee Hydrologic Enhancement - Phase 2 Expansion Project, located in Glades County, will expand the Phase 1 670-acre Flow Equalization Basin (FEB) with its current storage capacity of 1,279 acre-feet by 2,200 acres and increase storage capacity by 8,058 acre-feet. The original FEB project was designed to redirect runoff from the C-19 basin through the FEB and into Lake Hicpochee. The expansion project aims to capture and store excess stormwater runoff from the Caloosahatchee Watershed and gradually release it back into the Caloosahatchee River through Lake Hicpochee to enhance the historic lakebed's hydrology.

The project includes a 2,200-acre impoundment, 225 cfs inflow pump station, 1.75-mile-long inflow canal, two control structures, two bridges, and public access features. This project provides ecological and hydrological benefits, including improved water quality, enhanced wetland restoration, increased water storage capacity, and support for minimum flows and levels compliance, while also offering expanded public recreational opportunities.

The lowest responsive and responsible bidder is recommended for award. In accordance with District policy and consistent with state law for Request for Bids procurements, this item was competitively bid through a sealed bid process. The bid opening for this project was on March 5, 2025.

Recommended Action:

Resolution No. 2025-0312 Authorize entering into a 1,075-day contract with Phillips & Jordan, Inc., the lowest responsive and responsible bidder, for the Lake Hicpochee Hydrologic Enhancement - Phase 2 Expansion Project in the amount of \$126,074,200, for which \$18,000,000 in dedicated funds (Land Acquisition Trust Fund and State Grant) are budgeted in Fiscal Year 2024-2025 and the remainder is subject to Governing Board approval of future years' budgets. (Contract No. 4600005185)

[Resolution No. 2025-0312](#)

26. Okeechobee Field Station Expansion (Staff contact, Rich Virgil, P.E.)

Design/Build of the Okeechobee Field Station Expansion and Relocation Project Amendment No. 2, Phase Two Construction Services, Okeechobee County

Agenda Item Background:

As part of the Everglades Restoration Program, the Okeechobee Field Station Expansion and Relocation Project is located in Okeechobee County. The facility will support restoration projects such as the C-44 Reservoir and STA, the C-23/24 North and South Reservoirs and STA, the C-25 Reservoir and STA, the North of Lake Okeechobee Storage Reservoir, and Aquifer Storage and Recovery facilities as well as critical flood control works. The project consists of the design and construction of a new facility that combines the Okeechobee Field Station, Okeechobee Service Center, Water Quality Lab, SCADA, alternate Emergency Operations Center, and offices for Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commissions South Region Statewide Nuisance Alligator Program. The new facility will be relocated to a District-owned parcel in Okeechobee County. The existing field station has reached the end of its useful life and requires replacement with facilities that meet present code requirements and expanded facility needs. The existing Service Center is operated in a leased facility and inclusion of the Service Center will allow the services to be provided from a District-owned facility.

The new facility will include additional office space, fleet, structure maintenance, canal maintenance, electrical and SCADA service bays, water quality lab, emergency generator, alternate Emergency Operations Center and back up control center, fueling facility, vehicle wash area, microwave tower and shelter, parking areas, and associated utilities. This facility will consolidate and centrally locate the works and services provided in support of the District's mission through the combined efforts of planning, operations and maintenance, community and government relations, land management, regulation and in-house construction.

The use of the design-build procurement method allows the District to work in collaboration with a Design-Builder from the conceptual phase through construction of the new facility. In October 2023, the Board approved for State Contracting and Engineering Corporation (SCEC) to provide design services for 90% and 100% deliverables. In February 2024, the Board approved for SCEC to construct the Microwave Communication Tower, Offsite Water and Sewer Utilities, and Roadway Improvements. This item will support the balance of the construction for the Okeechobee Field Station buildings and ancillary features of the facility.

Recommended Action:

Resolution No. 2025-0313 Authorize an amendment to the Design/Build contract with State Contracting and Engineering Corporation for the Okeechobee Field Station Relocation Project, authorizing Phase II for the construction of a new Okeechobee Field Station complex, adding 247 days and the stipulated price proposal in an amount not to exceed \$80,693,127, for which \$20,000,000 in dedicated funds (Land Acquisition Trust Fund and State General Revenue) are budgeted in Fiscal Year 2024-2025 and the remainder is subject to Governing Board approval of future years' budgets. (Contract No. 4600004857-A2)

[Resolution No. 2025-0313](#)

Technical Reports

- 27. Water and Ecological Conditions Report - John P. Mitnik, P.E., and Lawrence Glenn

Staff Reports

- 28. Monthly Financial Report - Candida Heater, Division Director - Administrative Services
- 29. General Public Comment
- 30. Board Comment
- 31. Adjourn

Final Presentations, CERP Report, and NEEPP Report

Agenda Item Background:

- [25 Reynolds Caloosahatchee River Watershed Projects](#)
- [26 Virgil Okeechobee Field Station Expansion](#)
- [27 Mitnik Glenn Water and Ecological Report](#)
- [CERP Report](#)
- [NEEPP Report](#)

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: Ray Palmer, Real Estate
DATE: March 13, 2025
SUBJECT: Land Acquisition, L-14 Right of Way, Palm Beach County

Agenda Item Background:

The District operates and maintains the L-14 right-of-way in Palm Beach County. The District will acquire fee title to real estate interests that includes 0.051 acres of land and a commercial building adjacent to the L-14 right-of-way. The acquisition of the property provides the District a much-needed location adjacent to the State Road 80 bridge for canal maintenance, staging area and debris removal when needed. Acquisition also solves long standing encroachments into the right-of-way from commercial activities. Staff is seeking Governing Board approval to acquire one parcel from a willing seller for a purchase price of \$131,000.

Additional Item Background:

Core Mission and Strategic Priorities:

The L-14 right-of-way is operated and maintained as part of the District's flood control mission. The additional acquired area will enhance the District's ability to properly operate and maintain the right-of-way and to serve as a staging area for debris removal.

Funding Source:

The \$131,000 purchase price for the parcel exceeds the \$100,000 appraised value by 31%. All costs, including acquisition, associated costs, and closing costs were or will be funded from the District's Ad Valorem funds.

Staff Contact and/or Presenter:

Ray Palmer, tpalmer@sfwmd.gov; 561-682-2246

ATTACHMENTS:

[Resolution No. 2025-0301](#)

[Exhibit A Map](#)

[Exhibit B Map](#)

SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

Resolution No. 2025 - 03XX

A Resolution of the Governing Board of the South Florida Water Management District to authorize the acquisition of land interests containing 0.051 acres, more or less, in the total amount of \$131,000, for the L-14 right-of-way in Palm Beach County, for which Ad Valorem funds are budgeted in Fiscal Year 2024-2025; providing an effective date.

WHEREAS, the South Florida Water Management District operates and maintains the L-14 in Palm Beach County; and

WHEREAS, the District desires to purchase land interests containing 0.051 acres, more or less, in the total amount of \$131,000, located directly adjacent to the District's L-14 right-of-way in Palm Beach County, as shown on the location map Exhibit "A" and Exhibit "B," attached hereto and made a part hereof, and declare surplus, disposal of, and removal from the asset records, any such structures and improvements deemed unnecessary for the stated purpose for the original land acquisition; and

WHEREAS, all costs are to be funded from the District's Ad Valorem funds for the acquisition and associated costs; and

WHEREAS, the South Florida Water Management District is authorized to acquire land, or interests or rights in land, pursuant to Section 373.139, Florida Statutes; and

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 acquisition of land interests containing 0.051 acres, more or less, in the amount of \$131,000, for the L-14 right-of-way in Palm Beach County, together with associated costs, for which allocated funds have been budgeted as follows:

Owner	Tract No.	Interest	Acres	Appraised Value	Purchase Price
Leo Moadab	CC100-004	Fee	0.051	\$100,000	\$131,000

Amount	Fund	Fund Center	Functional Area	GL Account #	Account Description
\$131,000	402000	3510144000	AC07	580020	Acquisition

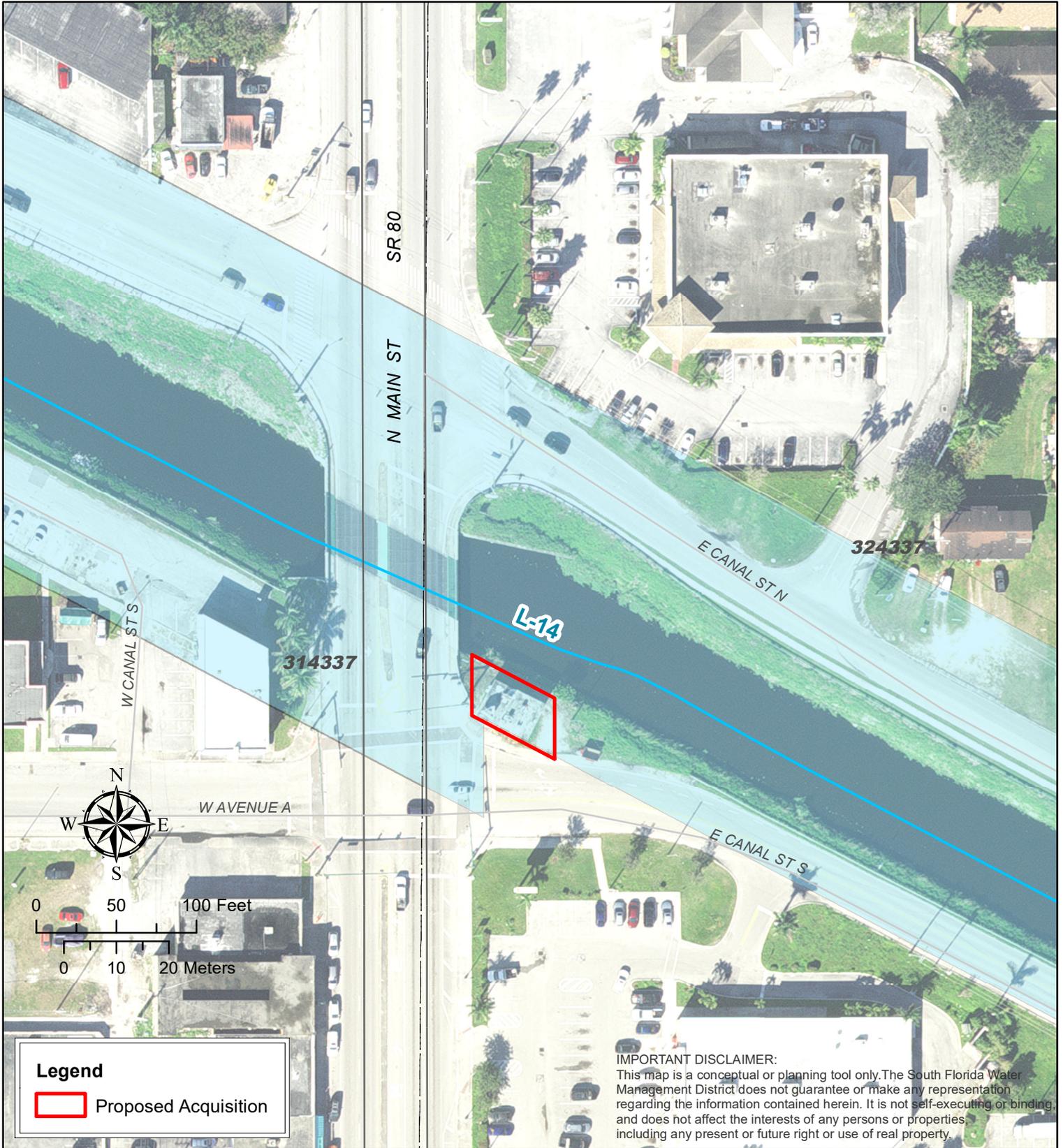
Section 2. The Governing Board of the South Florida Water Management District hereby further approves declaring surplus, disposal of, and removal from the asset records, any such structures and improvements deemed unnecessary for the stated purpose of the original land acquisition.

Section 3. The Governing Board of the South Florida Water Management District hereby authorizes the Chairman or Vice Chairman to execute the Agreement for Sale and Purchase instrument. The Governing Board of the South Florida Water Management District hereby authorizes the Executive Director or the Executive Director's designee to make any determinations in connection with the transaction and execute all other documents necessary to consummate this transaction.

Section 4. This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

PASSED and **ADOPTED** this 13th day of March, 2025.

Exhibit "A"





L-14 Right of Way
 Tract No. CC100-004
 Palm Beach County



Exhibit "B"



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 of use of real property.



L-14 Right of Way

Tract No. CC100-004

Palm Beach County



MEMORANDUM

TO: Governing Board Members
FROM: Ray Palmer, Real Estate
DATE: March 13, 2025
SUBJECT: Access Easement Exchange, Lee County

Agenda Item Background:

The District owns an existing approximately 0.50 acres access easement that provides ingress and egress to its fee-owned lands in a portion of the Corkscrew Regional Ecosystem Watershed (CREW) Project area, south of Corkscrew Road in Lee County. The District will release the approximately 0.50-acre access easement in exchange for a relocated access easement which will be improved and provide better access than the District currently has and is of similar acreage. The exchange accommodates the underlying fee owner's plan to construct a commercial office center. This has been determined to be an even value exchange.

Additional Item Background:

The District's CREW Management area is operated and maintained in both Lee and Collier counties and provides natural flood protection, water purification, and critical aquifer recharge. The area also serves as important habitat for animal species such as the endangered Florida panther, snail kite, and wood stork. This access easement exchange has no adverse effect or impact with respect to the operation and maintenance of the CREW Management area.

Funding Source:

There is no expenditure of funds by the District. All costs associated with the transaction, including all closing and recording costs, will be paid by the owner of the underlying fee parcel.

Staff Contact and/or Presenter:

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

ATTACHMENTS:

[Resolution No. 2025-0302](#)

[Exhibit A Map](#)

[Exhibit B Map](#)

SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

Resolution No. 2025 - 03XX

A Resolution of the Governing Board of the South Florida Water Management District authorizing release of an access easement interest containing approximately 0.50 acres, more or less, in exchange for acquisition of a relocated access easement interest comparable and more or less equivalent in size to the approximately 0.50 acres, all located in the Corkscrew Regional Ecosystem Watershed (CREW) Project area south of Corkscrew Road in Lee County; providing an effective date.

WHEREAS, the South Florida Water Management District has an existing approximately 0.50 acres access easement (“Existing Access Easement”) providing ingress and egress to its fee owned lands in Sections 22 and 27, Township 46 South, Range 26 East located in the CREW Project area south of Corkscrew Road in Lee County; and

WHEREAS, the District desires to release the Existing Access Easement, in exchange for the acquisition of a relocated access easement interest comparable and more or less equivalent to approximately 0.50 acres (the “Replacement Access Easement”), all located in the CREW Project area adjacent to and south of Corkscrew Road in Lee County, as shown on Exhibit “A” and Exhibit “B”; and

WHEREAS, District staff has concluded that there is no difference in value between the Existing Access Easement and the Replacement Access Easement; and

WHEREAS, the District is authorized to exchange lands, or interests or rights in lands, pursuant to Section 373.089, Florida Statutes and is authorized, pursuant to Section 373.096, Florida Statutes, to release any easement or right of way interest for which the District has no present or apparent future use, all under terms and conditions determined by the Board.

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 release of an existing approximately 0.50 acres access easement interest, in exchange for the acquisition of a relocated access easement interest comparable and more or less equivalent to approximately 0.50 acres, and determines that, with the exchange, the District has no present or apparent future use for the existing approximately 0.50 acres access easement interest.

Section 2: The Governing Board of the South Florida Water Management District hereby authorizes the Chairman or Vice Chairman to execute the amendment to access easement instrument and the release of easement instrument required to consummate the transaction contemplated therein. No release instrument shall be delivered to the underlying fee owner of the Existing Access Easement area, or shall be effective, until:

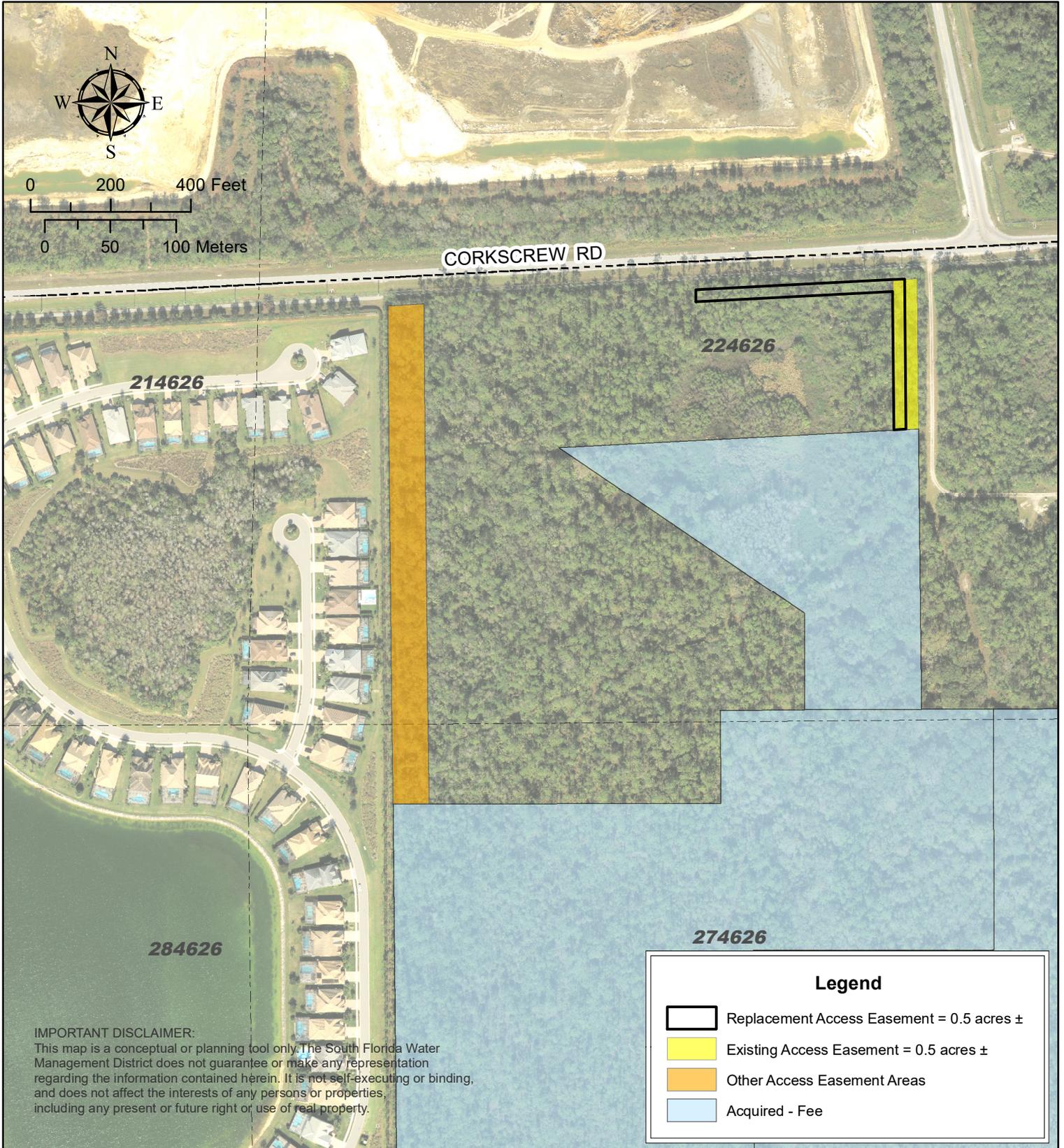
- a. all of the terms, conditions, and requirements of the amendment to access easement instrument have been fully completed and fulfilled to the District's satisfaction, and
- b. such release has been recorded in the Public Records of Lee County.

The Governing Board hereby authorizes the Executive Director or the Executive Director's designee to make any determination in connection with the transaction and execute all other documents necessary to consummate this transaction.

Section 3: This resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

PASSED and **ADOPTED** this 13th day of March, 2025.

Exhibit "A"

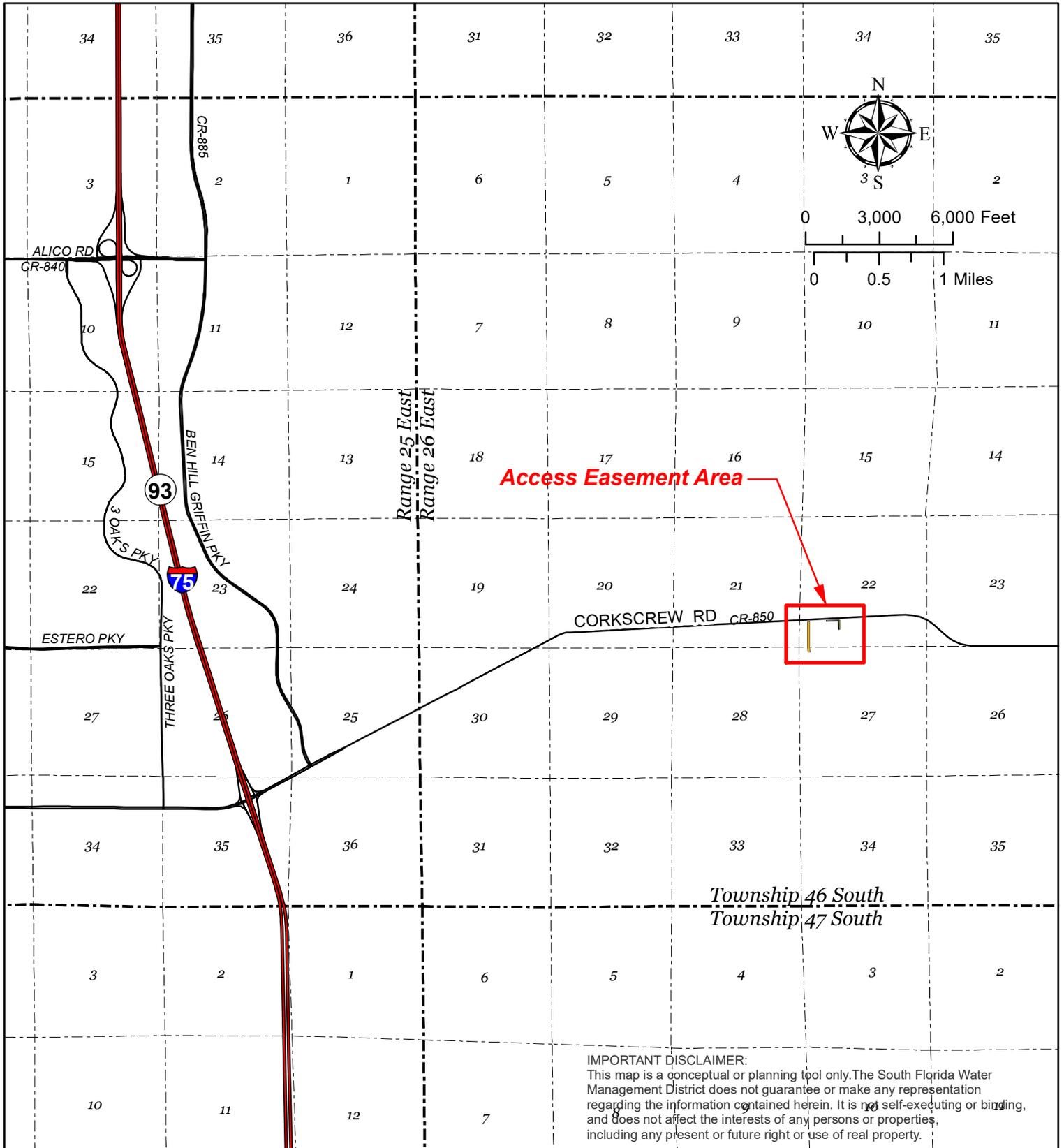


sfwmd.gov

CREW Access Easement Exchange Lee County, Florida



Exhibit "B"





CREW

Access Easement Exchange

Lee County, Florida



MEMORANDUM

TO: Governing Board Members
FROM: Ray Palmer, Real Estate
DATE: March 13, 2025
SUBJECT: Release of Reservations

Agenda Item Background:

The District has certain reserved rights to construct canal and road rights of way. Applications requesting release of these reservations are received as they constitute a defect on title which must be resolved prior to a property sale, especially when financing is involved. Applications are reviewed to determine if there is a present or future need for the reservations. If it has been determined there is no present or future need, the reservations may be released for a reasonable and appropriate payment based on the value of the land and may require such other terms and conditions determined by the Board.

Staff evaluated the property's size and location for future flood control and reclamation purposes related to water storage and conveyance. It has been determined that there is no present or apparent future need for the reservations listed below, therefore staff asks the Board to consider approval of the following:

Miami-Dade County

- Release District canal and road reservations for Grove Nassau 2, LLC (File No. 18959) for 0.12+/- acre; subject to release value payment of \$18,300

Additional Item Background:

See Memorandum Exhibit "A" and maps attached hereto and made a part hereof, which contain the details and location of the release to be issued.

Pursuant to Section 373.096 of the Florida Statutes, the Governing Board of the District may issue a release for any reservation for which it has no present or apparent use under terms and conditions determined by the Board.

Staff Contact and/or Presenter:

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

ATTACHMENTS:

[Memorandum Exhibit A](#)

[Resolution No. 2025-0303](#)

[Maps](#)

MEMORANDUM – EXHIBIT “A”

Miami-Dade County

File No: 18959
Applicant: Grove Nassau 2, LLC, a Florida limited liability company
Reserving Deed: E-2663 (Deed Book 2502, page 523, dated March 12, 1945)
Application Fee: \$250.00
Release Value: \$18,300.00
Action: Release District canal and road reservations; subject to release value payment of \$18,300.00
Acres: 0.12 acre, more or less
Legal Description: Lot 9, Block 23, AMENDED PLAT OF THE FROW HOMESTEAD, PB B-106, Section 21, Township 54 South, Range 41 East
Location: 3472 Florida Avenue, City of Miami, Miami-Dade County
Reviewed By: BBSEER Project Manager and Real Estate Bureau; no additional routing due to size, location and land use

SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

Resolution No. 2025 - 03XX

A Resolution of the Governing Board of the South Florida Water Management District to authorize release of certain canal and road reservations; providing an effective date.

WHEREAS, the applicant has requested that the South Florida Water Management District release certain District canal and road reservations; and

WHEREAS, the District is empowered to grant such release pursuant to Section 373.096, Florida Statutes, under terms and conditions determined by the Governing Board.

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 release of certain canal and road reservations for the property described in Resolution Exhibit "A" attached hereto and made a part hereof.

Section 2. The Governing Board of the South Florida Water Management District hereby authorizes the Chairman to execute the release document.

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

PASSED and ADOPTED this 13th day of March, 2025.

RESOLUTION – EXHIBIT “A”

Miami-Dade County

File No: 18959
Applicant: Grove Nassau 2, LLC, a Florida limited liability company
Reserving Deed: E-2663 (Deed Book 2502, page 523, dated March 12, 1945)
Release Value: \$18,300.00
Action: Release District canal and road reservations; subject to release value payment of \$18,300.00
Acres: 0.12 acre, more or less
Legal Description: Lot 9, Block 23, AMENDED PLAT OF THE FROW HOMESTEAD, PB B-106, Section 21, Township 54 South, Range 41 East
Location: 3472 Florida Avenue, City of Miami, Miami-Dade County

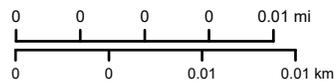


FLORIDA-AVE

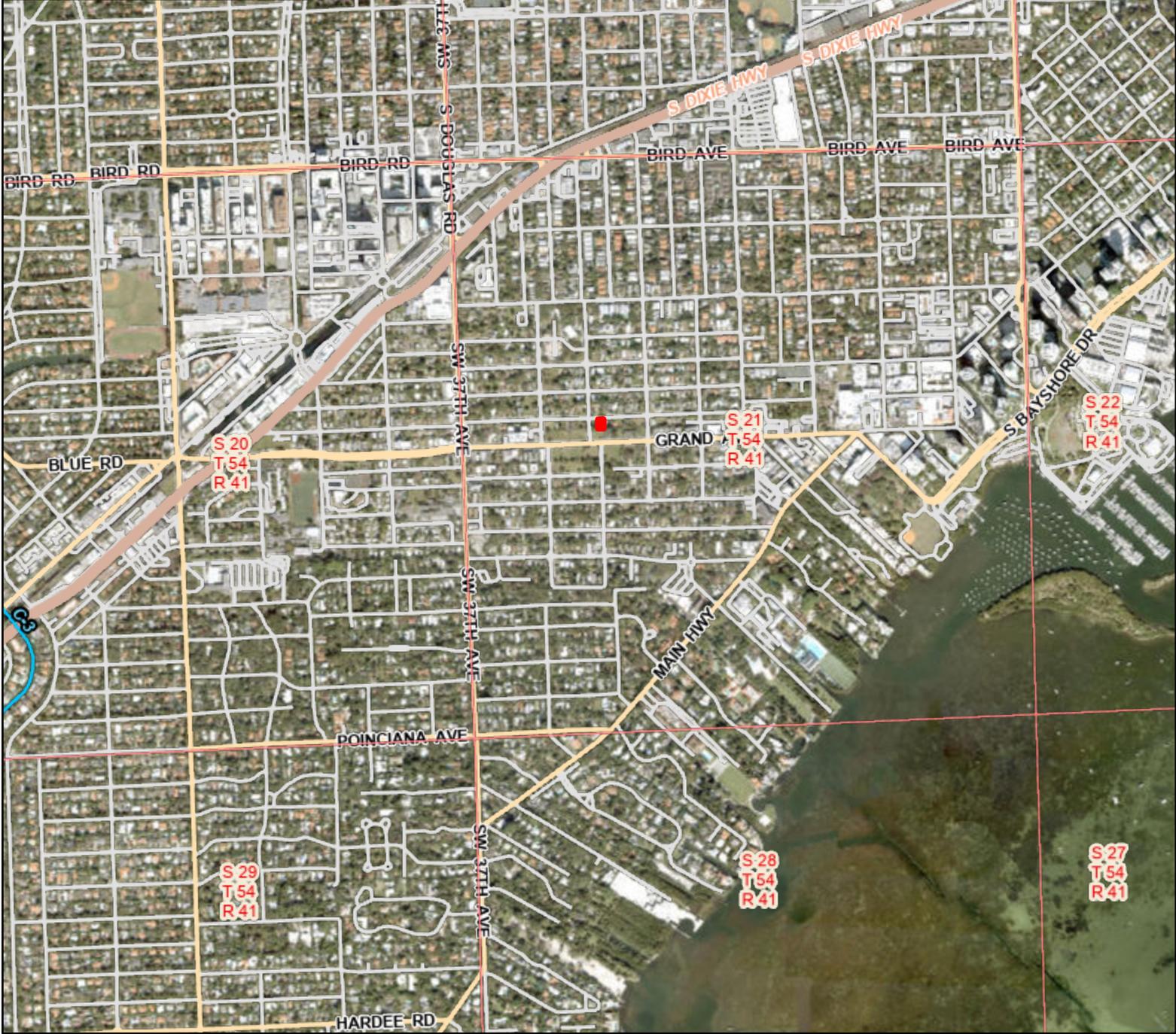
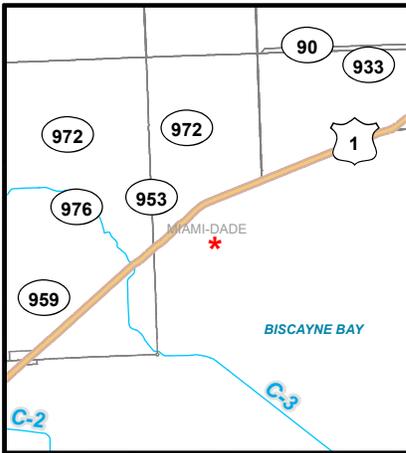
18959 - 0.12 acre



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



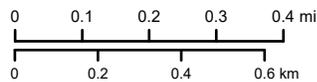
DISCLAIMER:
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18959 - 0.12 acre



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



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MEMORANDUM

TO: Governing Board Members

FROM: Rich Virgil, P.E., Field Operations Division

DATE: March 13, 2025

SUBJECT: S-332B Pump Station Power Supply - Right of Way Occupancy Permit and Waiver, Florida Power & Light Company

Agenda Item Background:

Florida Power & Light Company (Applicant or FPL) requests a Standard Right of Way Occupancy Permit Number 17071-R (ROW Permit) to install a buried and aerial parallel run, an aerial crossing, and associated down guys within the east right of way of the L-31N Canal across from the District's S-332B Pump Station. The purpose of the proposed work is to relocate the existing power supply to accommodate replacement of the existing S-332B Pump Station. FPL coordinated the relocation of the existing power supply with District Field Operations, which requested the service be relocated to east side of L-31N.

The Applicant has demonstrated a substantial hardship that supports granting of the requested waiver of the 40-foot rule for the existing and proposed poles and down guys. The hardship results from the location of the existing northernmost pole (Location 1) and the engineering design/constraints required for the relocated power supply requested by the District. Historically, the pole at Location 1 was installed at the District's request to provide power to S-332B and authorized by ROW Permit 11373 in 2000. The District allowed the existing pole to be installed at 36 feet from top of bank, but there is no record of a waiver to the 40-foot rule. The location of the existing non-compliant pole (Location 1) drives the engineering design of the relocated power supply project requested by the District, including the location of the buried parallel run and pole locations to the south. Without granting of the waiver, the proposed power supply would need to be redesigned, causing delay for the S-332B replacement project and potential disruption in service to the S-332B Pump Station.

The application has been reviewed by District Field Operations and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, which has granted Section 408 authorization. Approval of the requested waiver will legitimize the location of the existing pole at Location 1. In addition, granting of the waiver will not adversely impact the District's ability to perform routine or emergency operations, maintenance, or future construction activities.

Staff Contact and/or Presenter:

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

ATTACHMENTS:

[Backup Presentation](#)

**S-332B Pump Station Power Supply
Buried and Aerial Parallel Run and an Aerial Crossing with Waiver of Criteria
Florida Power & Light, Applicant
L-31N Canal – Miami-Dade County**

Right of Way Occupancy Permit No. 17071-R

**John R. Hixenbaugh, J.D, AICP
Right of Way Section Administrator
South Florida Water Management District
Governing Board Meeting
March 13, 2025**

RIGHT OF WAY OCCUPANCY PERMIT (ROW PERMIT) REQUEST

Applicant	Florida Power & Light Company
Application Number	240513-43788
Canal	L-31N
Location	East Right of Way across from District Pump Station S-332B
Proposed Improvements to be Authorized by ROW Permit 16653-R	Buried and Aerial Parallel Run, an Aerial Crossing, and Associated Down Guys
Required Waiver(s)	Waiver to Allow 3 Utility Poles and Associated Down Guys Within 40 Feet of Top of Bank
Purpose	The proposed work will relocate existing power supply to accommodate replacement of the existing S-332B Pump Station.
ROW Permit Number (proposed)	17071-R

SUMMARY

Florida Power & Light Company (Applicant or FPL) requests a Standard Right of Way Occupancy Permit Number 17071-R (ROW Permit) to install a buried and aerial parallel run, an aerial crossing, and associated down guys within the east right of way of the L-31N Canal across from the District’s S-332B Pump Station. The purpose of the proposed work is to relocate the existing power supply to accommodate replacement of the existing S-332B Pump Station. FPL coordinated the relocation of the existing power supply with District Field Operations, which requested the service be relocated to east side of L-31N.

DISCUSSION/JUSTIFICATION FOR WAIVERS

The Applicant has demonstrated a substantial hardship that supports granting of the requested waiver of the 40-foot rule for the existing and proposed poles and down guys. The hardship results from the location of the existing northernmost pole (Location 1) and the engineering design/constraints required for the relocated power supply requested by the District. Historically, the pole at Location 1 was installed at the District’s request to provide power to S-332B and authorized by ROW Permit 11373 in 2000. The District allowed the existing pole to be installed at 36 feet from top of bank, but there is no record of a waiver to the 40-foot rule. The location of the existing non-compliant pole (Location 1) drives the engineering design of the relocated power supply project requested by the District, including the location of the buried parallel run and pole locations to the south. Without granting of the waiver, the proposed power supply would need to be redesigned, causing delay for the S-332B replacement project and potential disruption in service to the S-332B Pump Station.

The application has been reviewed by District Field Operations and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, which has granted Section 408 authorization. Approval of the requested waiver will legitimize the location of the existing pole at Location 1. In addition, granting of the waiver will not adversely impact the District’s ability to perform routine or emergency operations, maintenance, or future construction activities.

LEGAL NOTICE

The petition for waiver was reviewed by the Office of Counsel for compliance with applicable legal requirements. Pursuant to Section 120.542(6), Florida Statutes, notice of the petition was provided to the Department of State and published in Volume 50, Number 101 of the Florida Administrative Register on May 22, 2024. No public comments were received.

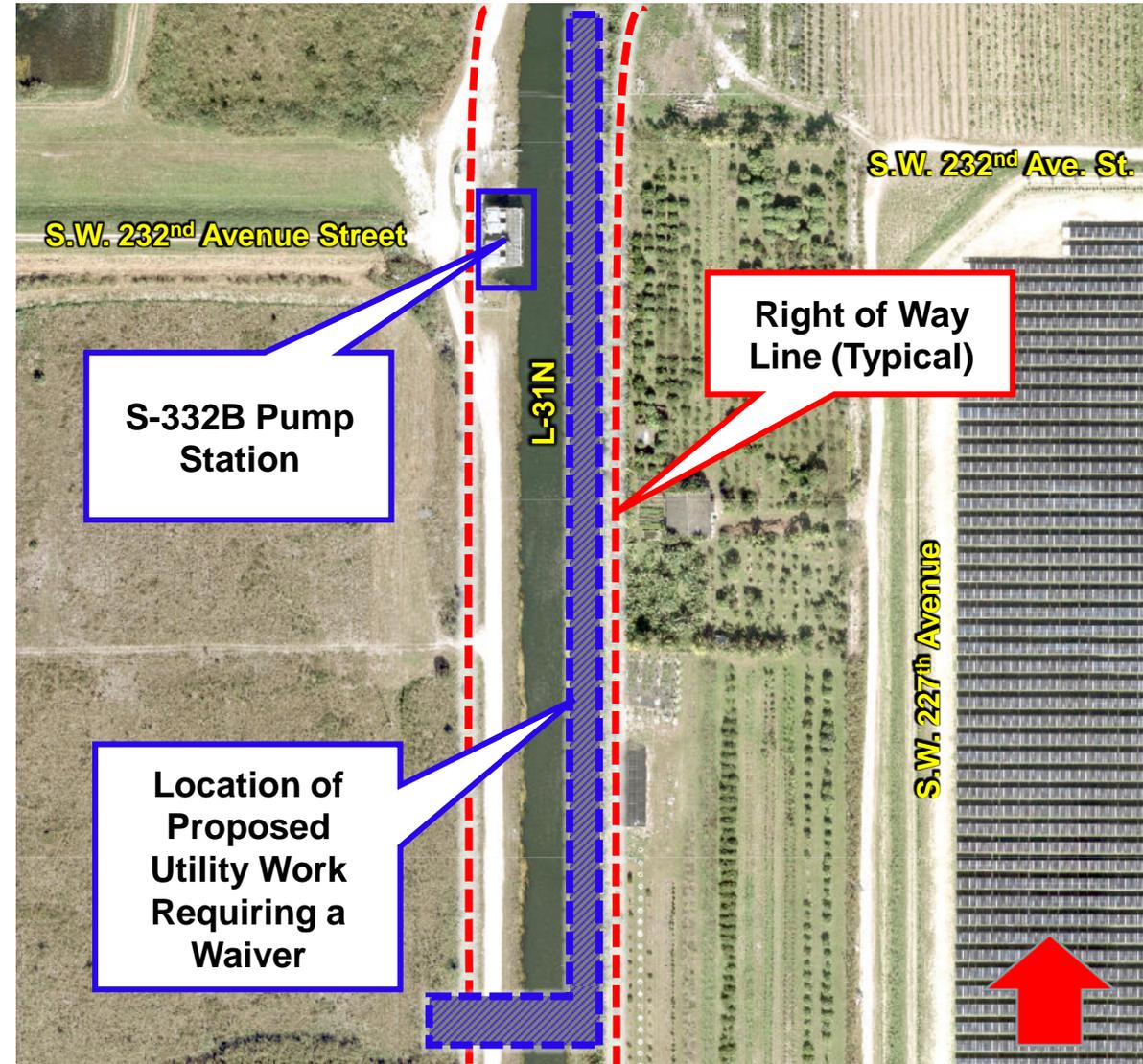
RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends **approval** of issuance of Standard Right of Way Occupancy Permit 17071-R and **approval** to issue an order granting the associated petition for waiver to install a buried and aerial parallel run, an aerial crossing, and associated down guys with 3 utility poles and associated down guys to be located within 40 feet of top of bank (Application No. 240513-43788).

(Fee)

Application Information and Location Map

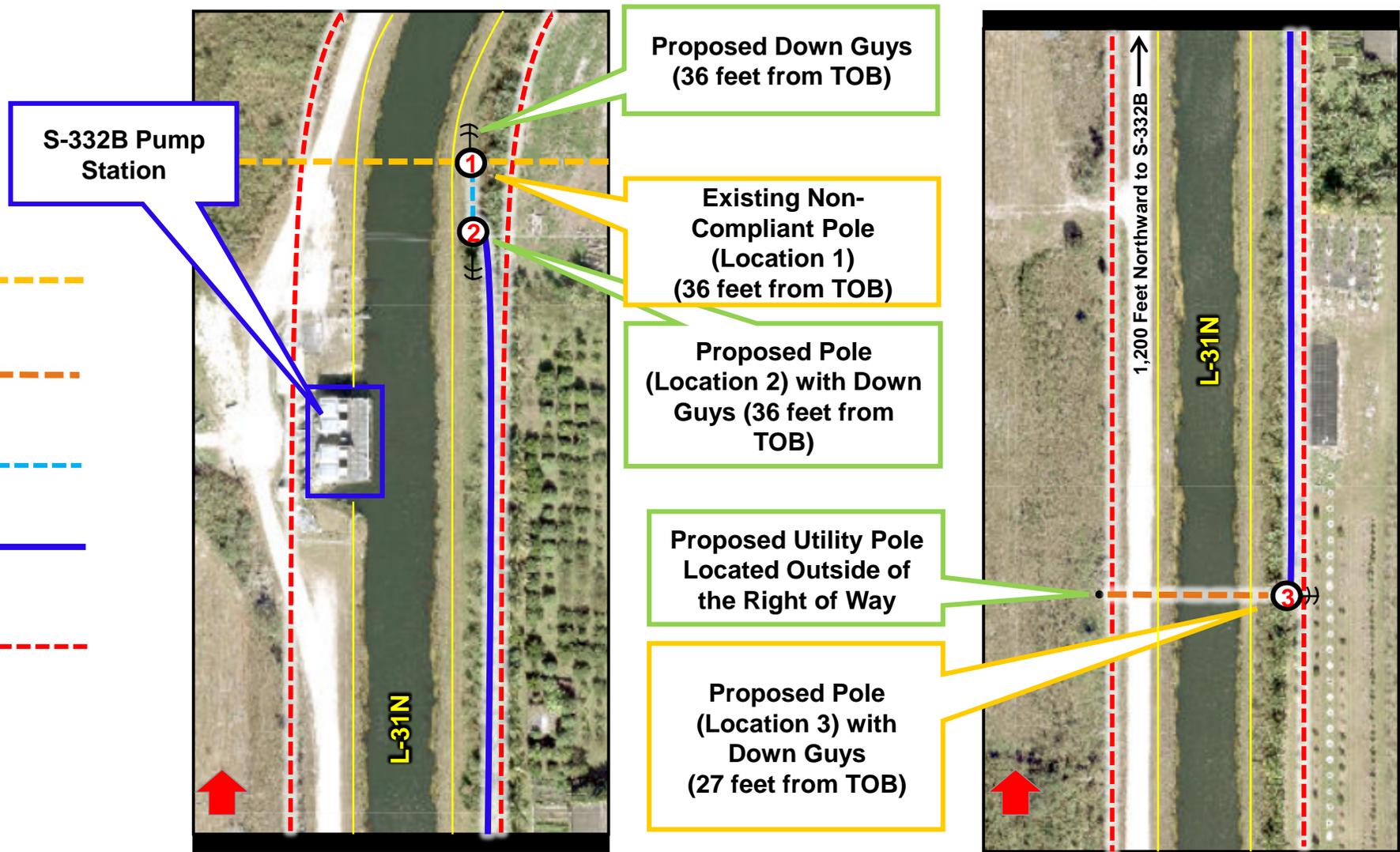
- **Applicant:** Florida Power & Light Company
- **Application Number:** 240513-43788
- **Canal:** L-31N
- **Location:** East Right of Way across from District Pump Station S-332B
- **Request:** To install a buried and aerial parallel run and an aerial crossing with a waiver to allow 3 utility poles (1 existing and 2 proposed) and associated down guys to be located within 40 feet of top of bank.
- **Purpose:** The proposed work will relocate existing power supply to accommodate replacement of the existing S-332B Pump Station.



Proposed Utility Improvements

LEGEND

- Existing Aerial Crossing - - - - -
- Proposed Aerial Crossing - - - - -
- Proposed Aerial Parallel Run - - - - -
- Proposed Buried Parallel Run —————
- Right of Way Line - - - - -
- TOB - (Top of Bank)



MATCH LINE A-A

Justification for Waiver to District Criteria

- FPL coordinated the relocation of the existing power supply with District Field Operations which requested the service be relocated to east side of L-31N.
- The Applicant has demonstrated a substantial hardship that supports granting of the requested waiver of the 40-foot rule for the existing and proposed poles and down guys.
- The hardship results from the location of the existing northernmost pole (Location 1) and the engineering design/constraints required for the relocated power supply requested by the District.
- Historically, the pole at Location 1 was installed at the District's request to provide power to S-332B and authorized by ROW Permit 11373 in 2000. The District allowed the existing pole to be installed at 36 feet from top of bank, but there is no record of a waiver to the 40-foot rule.

Justification for Waiver to District Criteria

- The location of the existing non-compliant pole (Location 1) drives the engineering design of the relocated power supply project requested by the District, including the location of the buried parallel run and pole locations to the south. Without granting of the waiver, the proposed power supply would need to be redesigned, causing delay for the S-332B replacement project and potential disruption in service to the S-332B Pump Station.
- Approval of the requested waiver will legitimize the location of the existing pole at Location 1. In addition, granting of the waiver required for the project to proceed as designed will not adversely impact the District's ability to perform routine or emergency operations, maintenance, or future construction activities.

Discussion

MEMORANDUM

TO: Governing Board Members

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

DATE: March 13, 2025

SUBJECT: Central Everglades Planning Project - North Phase, S-622 Gated Box Culvert Project, Palm Beach and Broward Counties

Agenda Item Background:

As part of Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan, the Central Everglades Planning Project (CEPP) - North Phase (CEPP North) S-622 Gated Box Culvert Project, located in Palm Beach and Broward Counties, will provide 500 cfs flow through a three-barrel gated culvert to meet CEPP North conveyance capacity requirements. Ancillary components of this project include a dedicated generator and control building, recreational features such as a new boat ramp and information kiosk, and two new stilling wells. The project also includes removal of the existing earthen plug that currently separates the L-5 and L-5 Remnant Canals.

CEPP was authorized by Congress in the Water Resources Development Acts of 2016, 2018, and 2020, and includes four phases: CEPP - Everglades Agricultural Area, CEPP North, CEPP South, and CEPP New Water. The CEPP North Phase will improve conveyance and flow distribution to northern Water Conservation Area (WCA)-3A. The first CEPP North features, the S-620 Gated Culvert and L-6 Improvements, are nearing construction completion, and the L-5 Remnant Canal Improvements and S-8 Pump Station Modifications will be starting construction this year. The S-622 Gated Box culvert will be the next CEPP North feature moving to construction.

The lowest responsive and responsible bidder is recommended for award. In accordance with District policy and consistent with state law for Request for Bids procurements, this item was competitively bid through a sealed bid process. The bid opening for this project was on February 20, 2025.

Additional Item Background:

Core Mission and Strategic Priorities:

CEPP North S-622 Gated Box Culvert Project supports the District's core mission of ecosystem restoration.

Funding Source:

CEPP North S-622 Gated Box Culvert Project will be funded through dedicated funds (Everglades Trust Fund, Land Acquisition Trust Fund and State General Revenue).

Staff Contact and/or Presenter:

Lucine Dadrian, P.E., ldadrian@sfwmd.gov, 561-682-2685

ATTACHMENTS:

Resolution No. 2025-0304

Backup Presentation

SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

Resolution No. 2025 -

A Resolution of the Governing Board of the South Florida Water Management District to authorize entering into a 697-day contract with Daniel O’Connell’s Sons, Inc., the lowest responsive and responsible bidder, for the Central Everglades Planning Project North S-622 Gated Box Culvert Project, in the amount of \$16,325,000 for which \$3,500,000 in dedicated funds (Everglades Trust Fund, Land Acquisition Trust Fund, and State General Revenue) are budgeted in Fiscal Year 2024-2025, and the remainder is subject to Governing Board approval of future years’ budgets; providing an effective date. (Contract No. 4600005183)

WHEREAS, the Governing Board of the South Florida Water Management District deems it necessary, appropriate, and in the public interest to enter into a contract with Daniel O’Connell’s Sons, Inc., for the Central Everglades Planning Project North S-622 Gated Box Culvert Project, in the amount of \$16,325,000.

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

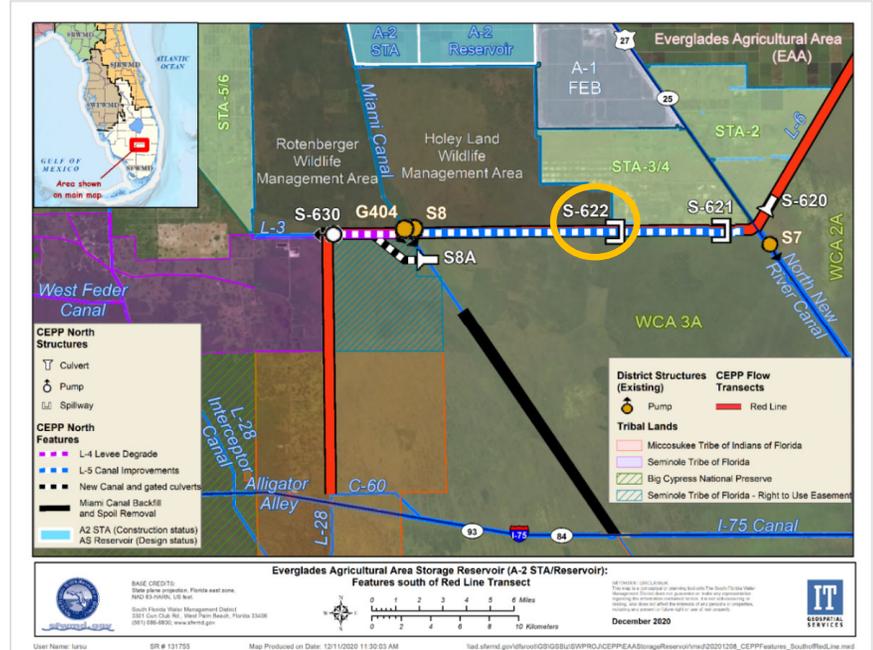
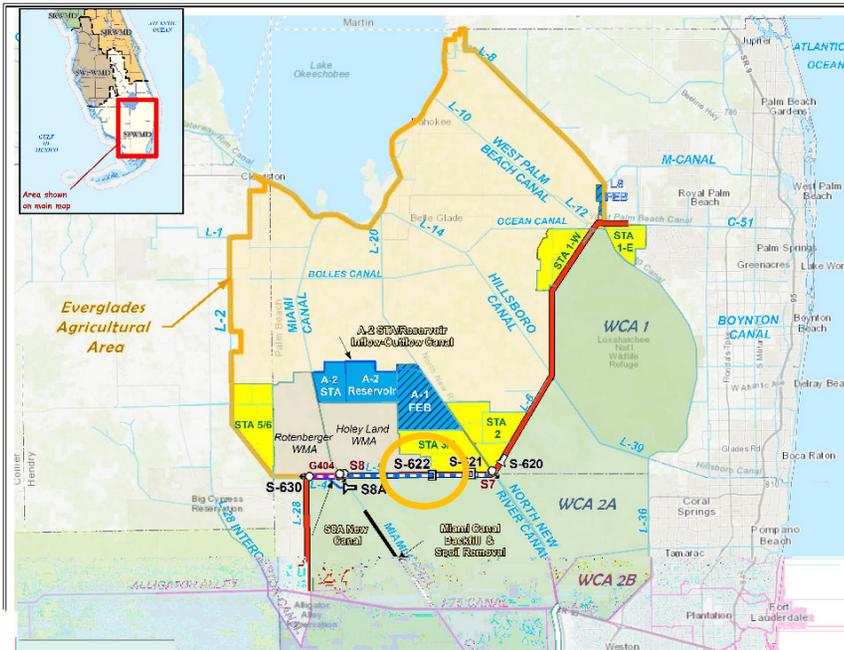
Section 1. The Governing Board of the South Florida Water Management District hereby authorizes entering a 697-day contract with Daniel O’Connell’s Sons, Inc., for the Central Everglades Planning Project North S-622 Gated Box Culvert project, in the amount of \$16,325,000, for which \$3,500,000 in dedicated funds (Everglades Trust Fund, Land Acquisition Trust Fund and State General Revenue) are budgeted in Fiscal Year 2024-2025 and the remainder is subject to Governing Board approval of future years’ budgets. (Contract No. 4600005183)

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

PASSED and ADOPTED this 13th day of March, 2025.

Location Map

Central Everglades Planning Project – North Phase (CEPP N)



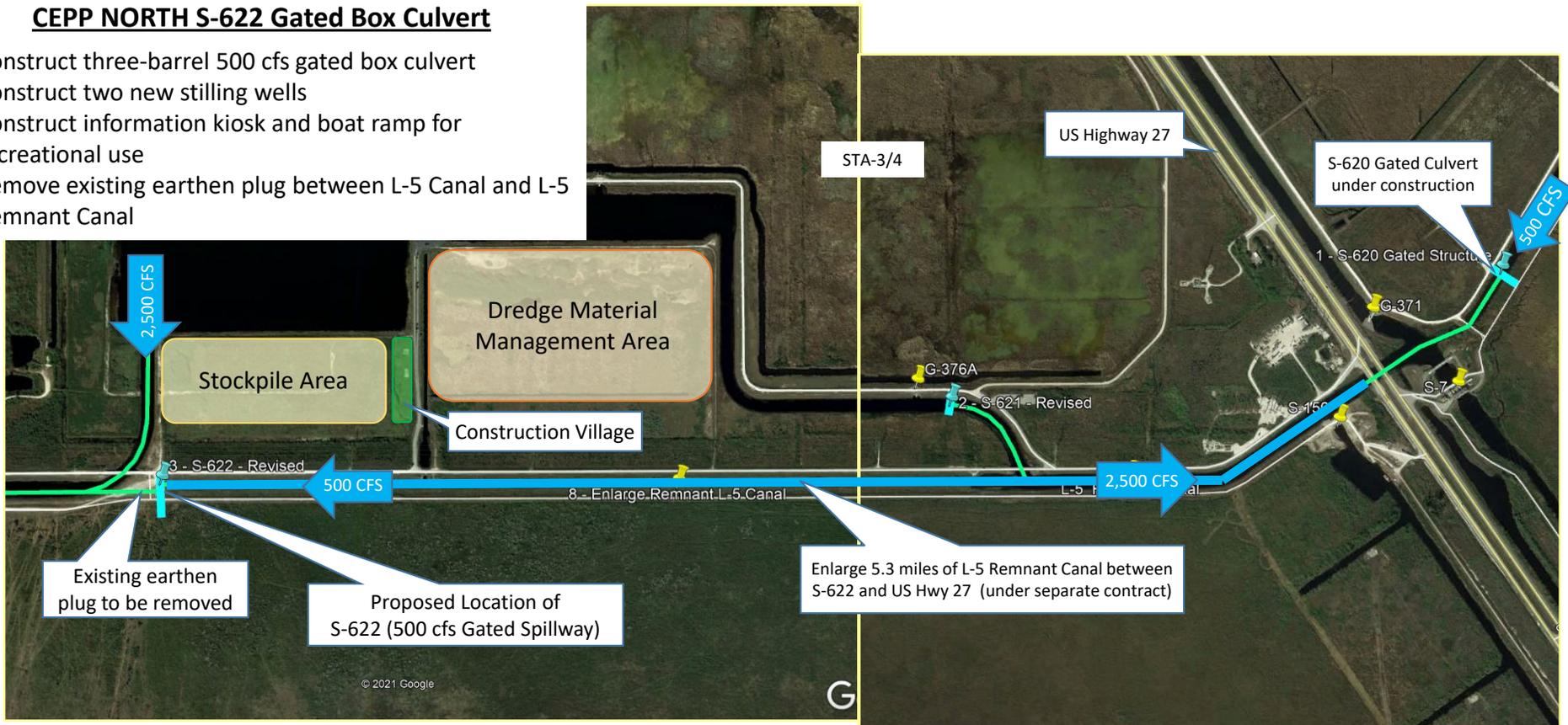
Background

- The Central Everglades Planning Projects (CEPP) is part of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP)
- CEPP was included in Water Resources Development Acts (WRDA) 2016, 2018 and 2020
- CEPP consists of four (4) Phases: CEPP EAA, CEPP North, CEPP South, and CEPP New Water
- CEPP North will improve conveyance and flow distribution to northern Water Conservation Area - 3A (WCA-3A)
- CEPP North S-622 Gated Box Culvert consists of a three-barrel gated box culvert which will convey 500 cubic feet per second (cfs) from the L-5 Remnant Canal to the L-5 Canal
- The existing earthen plug dividing the L-5 canal will be removed as part of this project

Scope

CEPP NORTH S-622 Gated Box Culvert

- Construct three-barrel 500 cfs gated box culvert
- Construct two new stilling wells
- Construct information kiosk and boat ramp for recreational use
- Remove existing earthen plug between L-5 Canal and L-5 Remnant Canal



Presenter: Lucine Dadrion 4

MEMORANDUM

TO: Governing Board Members

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

DATE: March 13, 2025

SUBJECT: G-150, G-136E and G-151W Replacement and Automation, Hendry County

Agenda Item Background:

As part of the Operations and Maintenance Critical Flood Control Infrastructure Capital Program, the G-150, G-136E, and G-151W Replacement and Automation Project, located in Hendry County, will replace the corrugated metal pipe culverts at G-150 and G-136 with three-barrel gated concrete box culverts and provide automation for remote operations at G-150, G-136E, and G-151W. The G-150 and G-136E Structure Replacements will provide the same flow capacity and be based on the District's current standard design for a gated culverts, and all three structures will incorporate remote operations improvements including control and generator buildings, remote telemetry systems, emergency generators and fuel storage.

The structures are located south of Clewiston and play major role in water supply and flood control in this agricultural region. Remote operations will support moving water efficiently and timely to the C-139 Flow Equalization Basin (FEB) and Stormwater Treatment Area (STA) 5/6.

The lowest responsive and responsible bidder is recommended for award. In accordance with District policy and consistent with state law for Request for Bids procurements, this item was competitively bid through a sealed bid process. The bid opening for this project was on February 19, 2025.

Additional Item Background:

Core Mission and Strategic Priorities:

The G-150, G-136E and G-151W Replacement and Automation Project supports the District's missions of flood control, water supply, water quality and ecosystem restoration.

Funding Source:

The G-150, G-136E and G-151W Replacement and Automation Project will be funded through dedicated funds (State Appropriations) and Ad Valorem funds.

Staff Contact and/or Presenter:

Lucine Dadrian, P.E., ldadrian@sfwmd.gov, 561-682-2685

ATTACHMENTS:

[Resolution No. 2025-0305](#)

[Backup Presentation](#)

SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

Resolution No. 2025 - XXXX

A Resolution of the Governing Board of the South Florida Water Management District to authorize entering into a 900-day contract with Interlaken, Inc., the lowest responsive and responsible bidder, for the G-150, G-136E and G-151W Replacement & Automation Project, in the amount of \$28,777,000, for which \$3,840,000 in dedicated funds (State Appropriations) and Ad Valorem funds are budgeted in Fiscal Year 2024-2025 and the remainder is subject to Governing Board approval of future years' budgets; providing an effective date. (Contract No. 4600005180)

WHEREAS, the Governing Board of the South Florida Water Management District deems it necessary, appropriate, and in the public interest to enter into a contract with Interlaken, Inc., for the G150, G136E and G151W Replacement & Automation, in the amount of \$28,777,000.

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 900-day contract with Interlaken, Inc, the lowest responsive and responsible bidder for the G150, G136E and G151W Replacement & Automation Project, in the amount of \$28,777,000, for which \$3,840,000 in dedicated funds (State Appropriations) and Ad Valorem funds are budgeted in Fiscal Year 2024-2025 and the remainder is subject to Governing Board approval of future years budgets. (Contract No. 4600005180)

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

PASSED and ADOPTED this 13th day of March, 2025.

Location Map



Background

- G136E and G150 are gated three-barrel corrugated metal pipe (CMP) culverts that were constructed in 1982 and 1987.
- G151W is a gated three-barrel, concrete box culvert structure built by the District in 2014.
- All are currently operated manually

Scope

- G150 and G136E Structure Replacement – The new structure will provide the same flow capacity and be based on the District's current standard design for a gated culverts.
- Control and Generator Buildings will be constructed to provide internal space to house the remote operation equipment at all three locations.
- New RTU systems /Emergency generators/LP Fuel Storage

MEMORANDUM

TO: Governing Board Members

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

DATE: March 13, 2025

SUBJECT: Temporary Forward Pumps Repowering for S-351, S-352 and S-354 Project, Palm Beach County

Agenda Item Background:

As part of the Operations and Maintenance Critical Flood Control Infrastructure Capital Program, the Temporary Forward Pumps Repowering for S-351, S-352 and S-354 Project, located in Palm Beach County, will repower 15 portable pumps, which includes one spare pump, to be used at S-351, S-352 and S-354 for temporary Lake Okeechobee water supply operations.

Portable pumps are needed when Lake Okeechobee water levels are too low to be released via gravity for water supply purposes under the Central and Southern Florida Project. The existing 15 portable pumps are at the end of their service life and in need of repowering. The repowering scope includes replacing the electric motor, pump can, internal rotating parts and electrical components of all 15 portable pumps. The existing suction intake and discharge flap gate will be reused. This project will extend the service life, improve reliability as well as increase efficiency of the overall pumping system. The repowered pumps will increase the discharge capacity of each pump from 100 cubic feet per second (cfs) to 125 cfs. Dependence on these pumps is critical to South Florida water supply operations during water shortage conditions.

MWI Corporation is the Original Equipment Manufacturer; therefore, this work will be procured using a special procurement pursuant to Sec.155-6 of the District's Procurement Policy.

Additional Item Background:

Core Mission and Strategic Priorities:

Temporary Forward Pumps Repowering for S-351, S-352 and S-354 Project supports the District's core mission of water supply.

Funding Source:

Temporary Forward Pumps Repowering for S-351, S-352 and S-354 Project will be funded through Ad Valorem funds and dedicated funds (State Appropriations).

Staff Contact and/or Presenter:

Lucine Dadrian, P.E., ldadrian@sfwmd.gov, 561-682-2685

ATTACHMENTS:

[Resolution No. 2025-0306](#)

Presentation Backup

SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

Resolution No. 2025 - XXXX

A Resolution of the Governing Board of the South Florida Water Management District to authorize entering into a purchase order with MWI Corporation, the Original Equipment Manufacturer, for the Temporary Forward Pumps Repowering for S-351, S-352 and S-354 Project, in the amount of \$5,703,455.00, for which Ad Valorem funds and dedicated funds (State Appropriations) are budgeted in Fiscal Year 2024-2025, providing an effective date. (Purchase Order No. 4500154277)

WHEREAS, the Governing Board of the South Florida Water Management District deems it necessary, appropriate, and in the public interest to enter into a purchase order with MWI Corporation, the Original Equipment Manufacturer, for the Temporary Forward Pumps Repowering for S-351, S-352 and S-354 Project, in the amount of \$5,703,455.00.

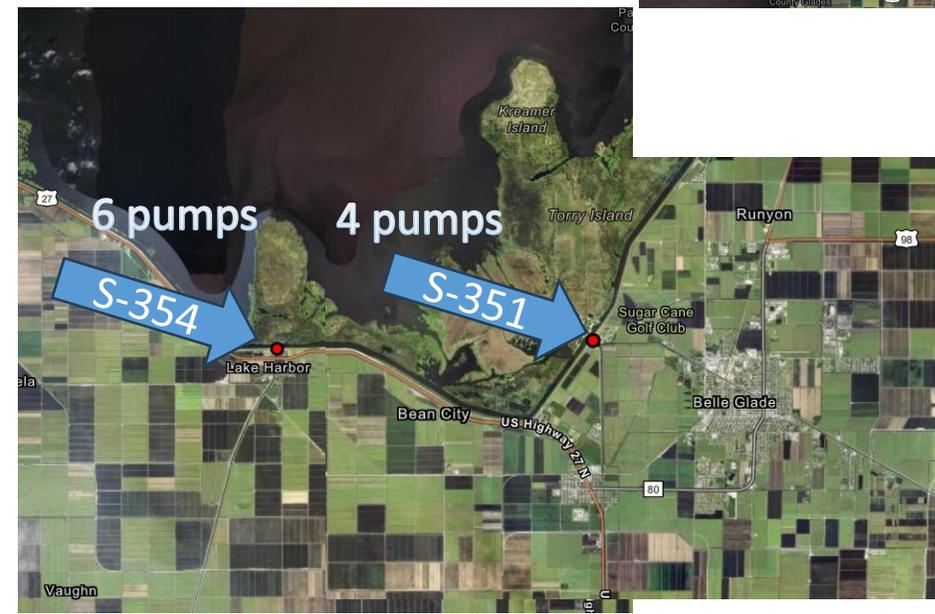
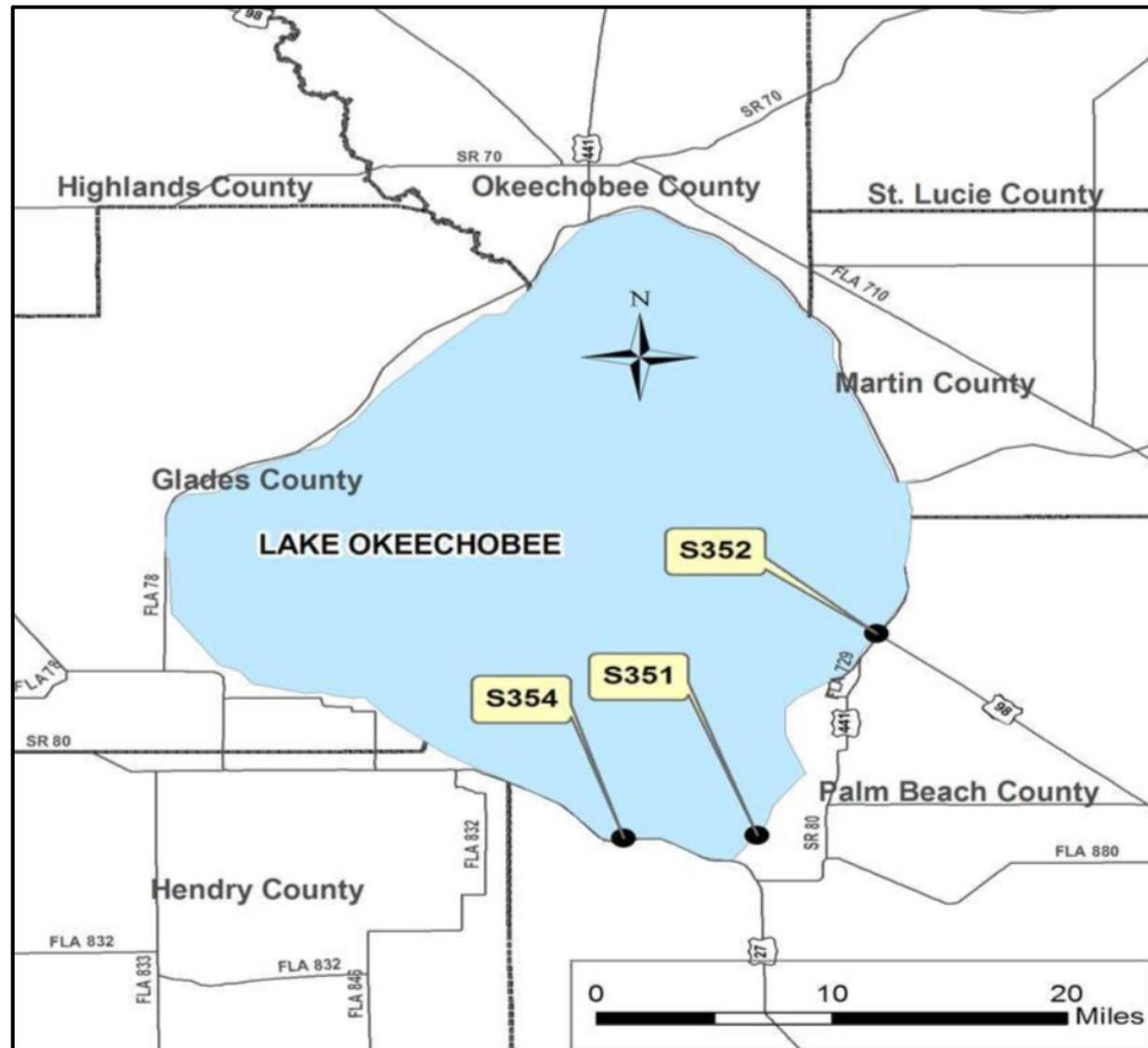
NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BOARD OF THE SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT:

Section 1. The Governing Board of the South Florida Water Management District hereby authorizes entering into a purchase order with MWI Corporation, the Original Equipment Manufacturer, for the Temporary Forward Pumps Repowering for S-351, S-352 and S-354 Project, in the amount of \$5,703,455.00 for which Ad Valorem funds and dedicated funds (State Appropriations) are budgeted in Fiscal Year 2024-2025. (Purchase Order No. 4500154277)

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

PASSED and ADOPTED this 13th day of March, 2025.

Location Map



Background

- S-351, S-352 and S-354 are spillway structures located at the east & south side of Lake Okeechobee
- Portable Pumps are needed when Lake Okeechobee water level is too low for water supply releases via gravity
- S-351, S-352, and S-354 can receive a total of 4, 4, and 6 pumps, respectively
- The pumps are transported from the District's field station to each site and installed by crane into the existing spillway structure bays
- Pumps were required for water supply shortages in 2001, 2007, 2008, 2009, and 2011
- 10 of the existing pumps were purchased in 2000/2001 and 4 in 2008/2009
- All pumps require repowering to continue performing

Scope

- Repowering these 14 Portable Pumps plus one spare unit (total 15 units) will extend service life, improve reliability as well as increase efficiency
- Repowered pumps will increase the discharge capacity of each pump from 100 cubic feet per second (cfs) to 125 cfs
- Repowering will be completed by the Original Equipment Manufacturer rather than purchasing all new pumps
- Electric motor, pump can, internal rotating assembly and electrical components of all 15 portable pumps will be replaced
- Existing suction intake, diffuser, and flap gate will be reused
- Delivery of the new pumps is expected in FY2026



MEMORANDUM

TO: Governing Board Members

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

DATE: March 13, 2025

SUBJECT: STA-1W Expansion #2, G-780 and G-781 Pump Station Change Order No. 12, and G-782 Pump Station Change Order No. 8, Palm Beach County

Agenda Item Background:

As part of Restoration Strategies, the STA-1W Expansion #2 G-780, G-781, and G-782 Pump Station Projects, 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 Limits (WQBEL) to achieve compliance with the State of Florida's numeric phosphorus criterion for the Everglades Protection Area outlined in Rule 62-302.540, Florida Administrative Code, enforced by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

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), and the project includes construction of the two 500 cfs inflow pump stations and portions of the canals and levees associated with these pump stations. On November 12, 2020, the Governing Board also 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), and the project includes construction of the 625 cfs STA outflow pump station and portions of the canals and levees associated with pump station.

Both contracts met the Substantial Completion requirements in December 2024. Closeout change orders were negotiated and include all outstanding claims in both projects. Change Order No. 12 for Contract No. 4600004334 G-780 and G-781 Pump Stations is for a total of \$1,761,273.66 and 668 additional days. Change Order No. 8 for Contract No. 4600004335 G-782 Pump Station is for a total of \$1,144,520.70 and 608 additional days.

Additional Item Background:

Core Mission and Strategic Priorities:

These project support 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) are budgeted in Fiscal Year 2024-2025.

Staff Contact and/or Presenter:

Lucine Dadrian, P.E., ldadrian@sfwmd.gov, 561-682-2685

ATTACHMENTS:

[A. Resolution No. 2025-0307](#)

[B. Resolution No. 2025-0308](#)

[Presentation Backup](#)

SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

Resolution No. 2025 -

A Resolution of the Governing Board of the South Florida Water Management District to authorize Change Order No. 12 with Harry Pepper & Associates, Inc. for construction of the STA-1W Expansion #2 G-780 and G-781 Pump Stations Project, for an additional 668 days and amount not to exceed \$1,761,273.66, for which dedicated funds (Land Acquisition Trust Fund and Everglades Trust Fund) are budgeted in Fiscal Year 2024-2025; providing an effective date. (Contract No. 4600004334-CO12)

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.12 with Harry Pepper & Associates, Inc., for construction of the STA-1W Expansion #2 G-780 and 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. 12 with Harry Pepper & Associates, Inc. for an additional 668 days and amount not to exceed \$1,761,273.66, for which dedicated funds (Land Acquisition Trust Fund and Everglades Trust Fund) are budgeted in Fiscal Year 2024-2025. (Contract No. 4600004334-CO12).

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

PASSED and ADOPTED this 13th day of March, 2025.

SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

Resolution No. 2025 -

A Resolution of the Governing Board of the South Florida Water Management District to authorize Change Order No. 8 with Harry Pepper & Associates, Inc. for construction of the STA-1W Expansion #2 G-782 Pump Station Project, for an additional 608 days and amount not to exceed \$1,144,520.70, for which dedicated funds (Land Acquisition Trust Fund and Everglades Trust Fund) are budgeted in Fiscal Year 2024-2025; providing an effective date. (Contract No. 4600004335-CO08)

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.8 with Harry Pepper & Associates, Inc., for construction of the STA-1W Expansion #2 G-782 Pump Station Project.

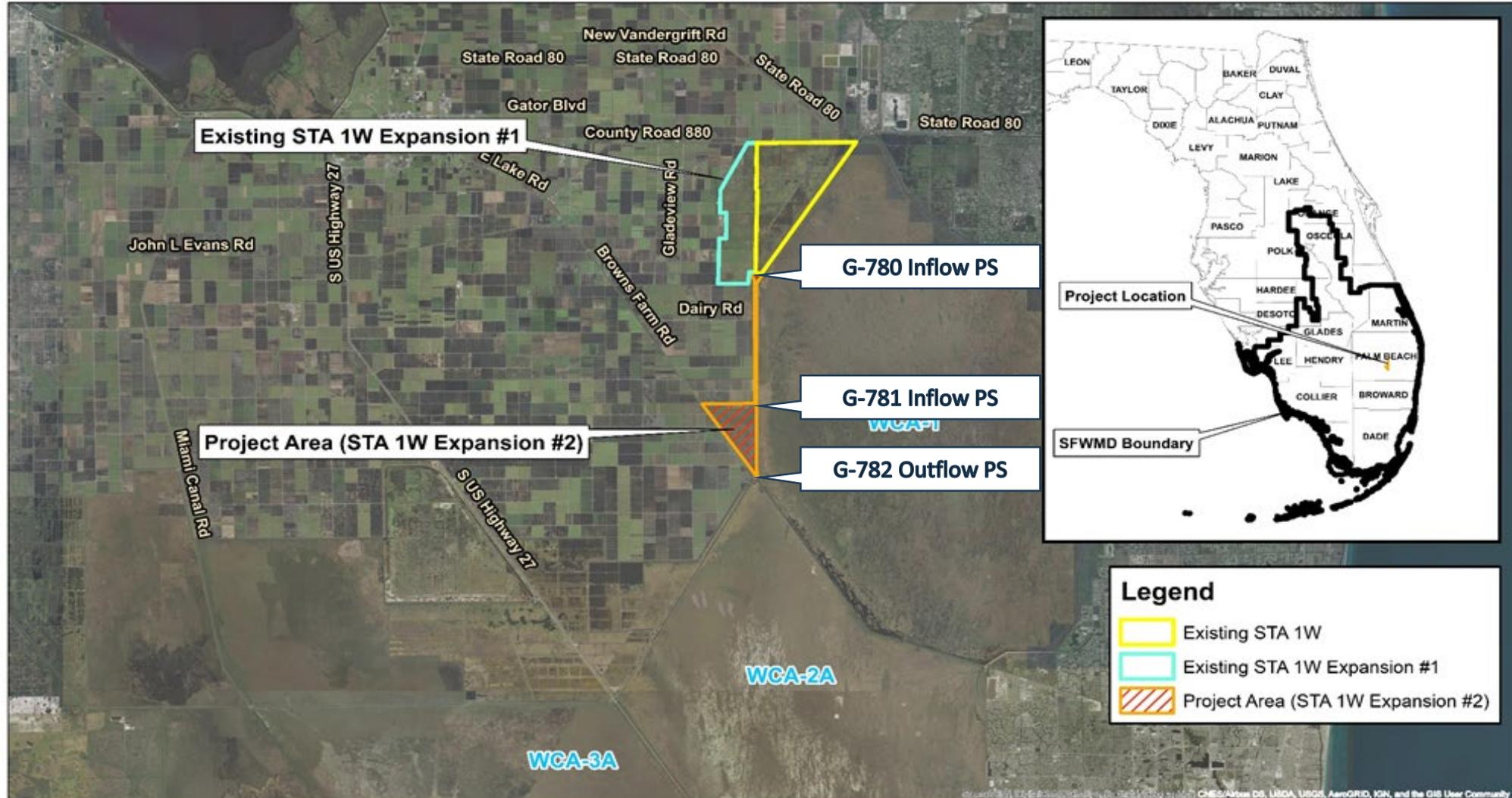
NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BOARD OF THE SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT:

Section 1. The Governing Board of the South Florida Water Management District hereby authorizes Change Order No. 8 with Harry Pepper & Associates, Inc. for an additional 608 days and amount not to exceed \$1,144,520.70, for which dedicated funds ((Land Acquisition Trust Fund and Everglades Trust Fund) are budgeted in Fiscal Year 2024-2025. (Contract No. 4600004335-CO08).

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

PASSED and ADOPTED this 13th day of March, 2025.

Location Map



G-780 Pump Station



G-781 Pump Station



STA 1W Exp #2
Cell 9

G-784

STA 1W Exp #2
Inflow Canal

G-781 Inflow PS

Concrete
Lined Canal

N

G-782 Pump Station



WCA-1

S-6 PS

L7 Levee

G-782 Outflow PS

STA 1W Exp #2
Outflow Canal

Background

- STA-1W Expansion #2 G-780, G-781, and G-782 Pump Stations are part of Restoration Strategies providing inflow and outflow for the Stormwater Treatment Area 1 West Expansion #2
- The project includes construction of the two 500 cfs inflow pump stations, a 625 cfs outflow pump station, and includes portions of the canals and levees associated with these pump stations
- Awarded at November 2020 Governing Board to Harry Pepper & Associates (HPA) for \$76,122,514 (G-780 & G-781) and \$37,418,195 (G-782)
- The Project reached Substantial Completion on December 5, 2024

Scope

- Closeout change orders were negotiated and include all outstanding claims in both contracts
- Change Order No. 12 for G-780 and G-781 Pump Stations is for a total of \$1,761,273.66 and 668 days
- Change Order No. 8 for G-782 Pump Station is for a total of \$1,144,520.70 and 608 days

MEMORANDUM

TO: Governing Board Members

FROM: Jennifer Reynolds, Ecosystem Restoration

DATE: March 13, 2025

SUBJECT: Bull Hammock Ranch, Ltd., Northern Everglades Payment for Environmental Services Project Contract Amendment, Martin County

Agenda Item Background:

The Northern Everglades and Estuaries Protection Program (373.4595 Florida Statutes) has established the St. Lucie River Watershed Protection Plan to improve the hydrology, water quality, and aquatic habitat within these watersheds. Public-private partnership projects have been proven as a cost-effective and expeditious approach to provide regional water storage and water quality improvements. As part of the Northern Everglades and Estuaries Protection Program, the Bull Hammock Ranch Water Management Project, located in Martin County, is a public-private partnership supporting the St. Lucie Estuary Basin Management Action Plan. Originally only 160 acres, the expanded ~1,600-acre project captures rainfall and retains regional runoff in three basins and is uniquely situated to reduce discharges to the C-23 Canal and moderate flows to the St. Lucie Estuary. Approved by the Governing Board on October 9, 2014, the Bull Hammock Water Management Area Project is uniquely located with existing connections to the C-23 Canal and has a proven record of performance since operations began in March 2015. The project has stored an average 764 acre-feet of water annually and removed approximately 0.3 metric tons of phosphorus and 1.4 metric tons of nitrogen per year. The expanded project is expected to store ~3,300 acre-feet and retain 2 metric tons of Total Phosphorus and 8 metric tons of Total Nitrogen.

Staff requests Governing Board approval to amend the existing Service Agreement with Bull Hammock Ranch, Ltd., to extend project operations for an additional ten years at a total cost not to exceed \$4,004,101.65. The amended contract includes the expansion of the project footprint from 160 acres to 1,600 acres, minor construction costs, ten years of additional operation, and removes variability and uncertainty of Consumer Price Index cost increases. Annual payments over the ten-year operational term of the contract are fixed at \$370,000 for operations and maintenance as well as a one-time payment of \$6,000 for replacement of an existing project culvert.

Funding Source:

State Appropriated Funds in the amount of \$376,000 is budgeted in Fiscal Year 2025. The remainder is subject to future legislative funding and Governing Board approval of future years' budgets.

Staff Contact and/or Presenter:

Megan Jacoby, mjacoby@sfwmd.gov, 561-682-6517

ATTACHMENTS:

Resolution No. 2025-0309

SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

Resolution No. 2025 - 03XX

A Resolution of the Governing Board of the South Florida Water Management District authorizing an amendment to the Northern Everglades Payment for Environmental Services Agreement with Bull Hammock Ranch, Ltd., for the Bull Hammock Water Management Area Project, to expand the service area and extend the term by ten years, in the amount of \$3,706,000 for a revised contract total of \$4,004,101.65, of which \$376,000 in dedicated funds (Land Acquisition Trust Fund) is budgeted in Fiscal Year 2024-2025, and the remainder is subject to Governing Board approval of future years' budgets; providing an effective date. (Contract No. 4600002880-A02)

WHEREAS the Governing Board of the South Florida Water Management District deems it necessary, appropriate, and in the public interest to extend the Bull Hammock Water Management Area Project agreement for an additional ten years of continued operations and maintenance.

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 the Northern Everglades Payment for Environmental Services Agreement with Bull Hammock Ranch, Ltd., for the Bull Hammock Water Management Area Project, to expand the service area and extend the term by ten years, in the amount of \$3,706,000, for a revised contract total of \$4,004,101.65. (Contract No. 4600002880-A02)

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

PASSED and ADOPTED this 13th day of March, 2025.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Governing Board Members

FROM: Candida Heater, Administrative Services, Procurement Bureau

DATE: March 13, 2025

SUBJECT: Publish a Notice of Proposed Rule in the Florida Administrative Register and Adopt Amendments to Rules 40E-7.668 through 40E-7.678, Florida Administrative Code

Agenda Item Background:

In 2006, the District implemented Chapter 40E-7, Florida Administrative Code, the "Small Business Enterprise Contracting Rule" (SBE Rule). The SBE Rule was created to implement the provisions of Section 373.1135, Florida Statutes, which authorizes each water management district to establish a small business program to encourage small businesses, to participate in district procurement and contract activities. The purpose of the program is to support economic development and small businesses, including women-owned and minority-owned businesses to successfully expand in the marketplace.

The SBE Rule was amended in August 2007, August 2013, December 2020, and is now in the rulemaking process. The District is proposing changes to augment definitions, refine solicitation preferences, enhance certification eligibility requirements for increased participation, combine the certification and recertification review procedures for simplicity and to eliminate duplicative information, amend the recertification and decertification clauses for clarity, extend SBE status throughout the term of an existing contract, and update program forms. Proposed changes to eligibility requirements includes, but is not limited to, increasing the threshold of three-year average gross receipts, including affiliates, from a not-to-exceed amount of \$13 Million to \$21 Million if the business provides construction, \$6 Million to \$10 Million if the business provides services, and \$5 Million to \$8 Million if the business provides commodities. Threshold increases were determined by comparing 2006 District not-to-exceed amounts to similarly sized Florida agencies with SBE programs using the Consumer Price Index Inflation Calculator (CPI), U.S. Inflation Calculator (USIC), and Engineering News Record's Construction Price Index (ENR). The proposed revisions to the SBE Rule and Forms 0956, 0957, 1231, and 1373 are located at [SFWMD.gov/Procurement](https://www.sfwmd.gov/Procurement).

District staff provided notice to registered vendors of the District, as well as GovDelivery Procurement Opportunities subscribers, of the draft rule language and updated program forms which are located on the Procurement website at [SFWMD.gov/Procurement](https://www.sfwmd.gov/Procurement). The public was provided 14 days to submit comments. Upon Governing Board approval of the proposed rule language, District staff will publish a Notice of Proposed Rule in the Florida Administrative Register, and the public will have an additional 21 days to submit comments. After the time period to comment on the proposed rule concludes, if no one requests a hearing and no substantive changes are made, District staff will file the proposed rule for adoption with the Department of State.

Additional Item Background:

Core Mission and Strategic Priorities:

The Small Business Enterprise Contracting Program is designed to help small businesses, including those owned by women and minorities, to participate in District procurement and contract activities in support of the District's mission.

Staff Contact and/or Presenter:

Candida Heater, cheater@sfwmd.gov, 561-682-6486

ATTACHMENTS:

[Resolution No. 2025-0310](#)

[Backup - Proposed Revisions](#)

[SBE Notice of Proposed Rule](#)

SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

Resolution No. 2025 - 03XX

A Resolution of the Governing Board of the South Florida Water Management District to authorize publishing a Notice of Proposed Rule in the Florida Administrative Register and Adopting Amendments to Rules 40E-7.668 through 40E-7.678, Florida Administrative Code, for the purpose of increasing the eligibility criteria for Small Business Enterprise (“SBE”) Certification, extending SBE status throughout the term of an existing contract, augmenting definitions, modifying solicitation preferences, enhancing certification eligibility requirements, amending the decertification clause, and updating program forms; providing an effective date.

WHEREAS, the District proposes to increase the eligibility criteria for SBE Certification, extend SBE status throughout the term of an existing contract, augment definitions, modify solicitation preferences, enhance certification eligibility requirements, amend the decertification clause, and update program forms; and

WHEREAS, District staff provided notice to Registered Vendors, as well as GovDelivery Procurement Opportunities subscribers, of the draft rule language and updated program forms, and provided 14 days to submit comments. District staff will also publish a Notice of Proposed Rule with the proposed rule language, which provides an additional time period for comment. After the time period concludes, if no request for a public hearing is received and no substantive changes are made, District staff will file the proposed rule for adoption with the Department of State.

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 publishing a Notice of Proposed Rule in the Florida Administrative Register.

Section 2. The Governing Board of the South Florida Water Management District hereby adopts amendments to Rules 40E-7.668 through 40E-7.678, Florida Administrative Code, provided no request for a public hearing is received and no substantive changes are made to the proposed rule.

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

PASSED and ADOPTED this 13th day of March, 2025.

40E-7.668 Policy.

(1) The rules under this Small Business Enterprise ~~Contracting~~ (“SBE”) Program ~~(the “Program”)~~ establish policies and procedures designed to help small businesses, ~~including those owned by women and minorities, to~~ participate in the South Florida Water Management District’s (“District”) procurement and contract activities.

(2) It is the purpose of the Program to spur economic development and support small businesses, ~~including woman owned and minority owned businesses,~~ to successfully expand in the marketplace.

 (3) The District shall annually evaluate the progress of this Program and determine whether the specific provisions require any modification, expansion, and curtailment.

Rulemaking Authority 373.044, 373.113 FS. Law Implemented 373.1135 FS. History—New 8-3-06, Amended 12-9-20, _____.

40E-7.669 Definitions.

~~(1) “Affiliate Business” means a business that is a Subsidiary of or owned in part by another business concern. Entities are affiliates of each other when one impacts the other by sharing resources, officers, or directors that have any percentages of ownership, or controls or has the power to control the other, or a third party or parties controls or has the power to control both. It does not matter whether control is exercised, so long as the power to control exists.~~

(1) “Affiliate Business” is defined as an entity or entities that the Applicant controls or has the power to control, whether or not control is exercised; or an entity or entities that controls, or has the power to control the Applicant, whether or not control is exercised. “Control” means the power to direct or cause the direction of management or policies. In determining whether an affiliation exists, it is necessary to consider whether one entity impacts another by examining several factors including, but not limited to, sharing resources, common ownership (direct or indirect), management, officers, directors, trustees, employees, and contract employees; common use of facilities, equipment, licenses, and contractual obligations; family interest in the Business; or a business entity organized by a debarred entity, individual, or affiliate following the debarment of a contractor that has the same or similar management, ownership, or principal employees as the contractor that was debarred or suspended. Affiliated entities shall be considered together in terms of Gross Receipts in determining whether a Business meets the Program’s eligibility criteria.

(2) “Applicant” is defined as the ~~business~~Business that is seeking District Certification or Recertification.

(3) “Business” is defined as any entity which complies with all statutes and regulations; specifically, any corporation, limited liability company, ~~partnerships~~partnership, general ~~partnerships~~partnership, limited ~~partnerships~~partnership, sole proprietor, or other for-profit

~~entities~~entity, engaging in commerce, including, but not limited to ~~manufacturing, construction, commodities,~~ or ~~a service with a federal tax identification number.~~ services.

(4) “Certification” or “Recertification” ~~means~~is the process by which the District determines that a ~~business~~Business meets the ~~District’s Program’s~~ criteria ~~for of~~ a ~~Small Business Enterprise~~ ~~(District SBE).~~

(5) “Commodity Code” ~~Ais a~~ is a numeric system ~~or identifier~~ designed to list commodities ~~or services by classes and sub-classes. A numeric identifier of supplies, materials, goods, merchandise, equipment or other,~~ tangible personal property (purchase or lease), ~~including the contractual~~ or services by class and sub-class.

(6) “Decertification” is the process ~~inby~~ in which the District shall determine that ~~ana~~ a ~~District~~ District SBE no longer complies with the ~~District Program’s~~ Certification criteria.

~~(7) “District SmallSBE” is defined as a small Business Enterprise” means a business~~ certified by the District in either construction, commodities, services, or a combination thereof whose ~~3-~~ three year average ~~gross receipts~~ Gross Receipts, including Affiliate Businesses, shall not exceed ~~\$1321~~ million if the ~~business~~ Business provides construction, ~~\$58~~ million if the ~~business~~ Business provides commodities, and ~~\$610~~ million if the ~~business~~ Business provides services. A District SBE ~~is~~ shall be registered ~~to do business and in good standing~~ with the ~~State of Florida through the Department of State~~ Division of Corporations and ~~hold~~ hold the appropriate license(s) ~~or certification(s)~~ required by law to do business ~~and perform work~~ in the state of Florida.

(8) “Government Agency” ~~means is defined as~~ any state, county, regional, or local government in Florida, ~~including Water Management Districts.~~

(9) “Gross Receipts” ~~means is defined as~~ the total sales for the Applicant ~~as specified in and~~ its ~~Federal tax return or if it is a new company which has not filed a Federal tax return, in~~ Affiliate Businesses from all sources during its ~~audited financial statement~~ annual accounting period before deductions for ~~costs, expenses,~~ returned items, allowances, and discounts ~~as reflected in federal income tax returns or financial statements as set forth in paragraph 40E-7.673(2)(a).~~

(10) “Industry ~~Categories” means~~ is defined as construction, commodities, and services.

(11) “Non-~~Responsive” with respect to bidders, bids, or proposals is defined as a Business’s bid or proposal that does not conform in material respects to the invitation to bid or request for proposal including all SBE goals set forth.~~

(12) “Non-SBE Prime” ~~means is defined as~~ a ~~business~~ Business not currently certified ~~by the as~~ a District ~~as a Small Business Enterprise~~ SBE-which submits a bid or proposal for the purpose of being awarded a legally-binding agreement as a Prime Contractor for the performance of work at a mutually agreed-upon price in accordance with agreed-upon terms and conditions with the District.

~~(1213)~~ “Prime Contractor” ~~means is defined as~~ any individual or contracting entity with whom

the District has entered into a legally-binding agreement for performance of work at a mutually agreed-upon price in accordance with agreed-upon terms and conditions.

~~(13) “(14) “Program Graduate” is defined as a District SBE that has exceeded the Program’s Gross Receipts eligibility requirement. Does not include District SBEs decertified for cause.~~

~~(15) “Reciprocal Certification” means the SBE is defined as District Certification by the District of an Applicant who is actively certified by another Florida government Government Agency, provided that the agency has a small business program.~~

~~(14) “Responsible” means a business that is capable in all respects of fully performing the contract requirements and which has the integrity and reliability that will assure good faith performance.~~

~~(15) “Responsive” with respect to bidders, bids, or proposals means a business’s bid or proposal conforms in all material respects to the invitation to bid or request for proposal including all SBE goals set forth.~~

(16) “SBE Prime” ~~means~~ is defined as a ~~business certified by the District as a small business~~ SBE that submits a bid or proposal for the purpose of being awarded a legally-binding agreement as ~~an SBE~~ a Prime Contractor for the performance of work at a mutually agreed-upon price in accordance with agreed-upon terms and conditions with the District.

(17) “SBE Subcontractor” ~~means a business certified by the~~ is defined as a District SBE having a direct contract with a ~~contractor or with any other Subcontractor~~ Prime Contractor for the performance of a portion of the work.

~~(18) “SBE Utilization Plan” means details the type and percentage of work that will be performed for the specified project. The SBE Utilization Plan consists of Form No. 0956, “Small Business Enterprise Subcontractor Participation Schedule” effective (insert date) (insert URL), which identifies all Businesses which will be utilized as subcontractors, and Form No. 0957, “Statement of Intent to Perform as a Small Business Enterprise Subcontractor, both forms are” effective (insert date) (insert URL), which is completed by all SBE Subcontractors detailed on Form No. 0956, and reflects the intent of the parties’ to establish a formal agreement conditioned upon the Non-SBE Prime’s execution of a contract with the District for said project. The SBE Utilization Plan is incorporated by reference in paragraph (2)(a) of Rule 40E-7.670 F.A.C. herein and is available at no cost by contacting the District’s SBE Office, South Florida Water Management District, 3301 Gun Club Road, West Palm Beach, FL 33406, (800) 432-2045, ext. 6446, or (561) 682-6446, or via email sbep@sfwmd.gov.~~

~~(19) “Subsidiary” is defined as a Business that another company has any ownership interest in.~~

Rulemaking Authority 373.044, 373.113 FS. Law Implemented 373.1135 FS. History—New 8-3-06, Amended 8-29-07, 8-29-13, 12-9-20;_____.

40E-7.670 Competitive Solicitation Preferences.

The ~~Small Business Enterprise Contracting~~SBE Rule ~~in this part~~ provides for ~~2~~Competitive Solicitation Preference~~two competitive solicitation preferences~~ designed to assist ~~small businesses~~District SBEs. Sheltered Market and Subcontracting Requirements are outlined below.

(1) Sheltered Market ~~Program~~. The District may provide for sheltered markets to allow only ~~SBE's~~District SBEs to bid on designated solicitations. In order to designate a sheltered market, the District must identify at least ~~3~~SBE's~~three District SBEs~~ available to perform work within the ~~industry~~Industry identified in the solicitation.

(2) Subcontracting Requirements.

~~(a) Bids~~— The District shall set ~~subcontracting~~SBE goals for all ~~bids~~solicitations, unless otherwise provided in paragraph (2)(e). SBE goals are based on the availability of District SBEs in relation to all vendors registered with the District, ~~including SBE firms~~ able to perform work within specific Commodity Codes. ~~The SBE goals~~

(a) Bids – For solicitations where a contract is awarded based on price as the primary selection criteria, and where the scope is clearly defined, SBE goals shall be applied as a percentage of the total contract value to be assigned to SBE firms. District SBEs as provided in this subsection. The maximum SBE goal that will be applied to any solicitation will be 25%. When an SBE goal is set bidders shall provide work to one or more ~~SBE's in order~~District SBEs to meet the SBE goal. At the time of submittal of its bid, the bidder shall ~~identify all SBE firms which will be utilized as subcontractors, by using Form No. 0956, "Small Business Enterprise Subcontractor Participation Schedule" effective (August 29, 2013) (<http://www.flrules.org/Gateway/reference.asp?No=Ref-12410>).~~ All bids submitted where SBE participation is required, shall include Form No. 0957, "Statement of Intent to Perform as a Small Business Enterprise Subcontractor" effective (August 29, 2013) (<http://www.flrules.org/Gateway/reference.asp?No=Ref-12422>). Form No. 0957 shall be signed by the SBE subcontractor, Form Nos. 0956 and 0957, together called the SBE Subcontractor submit an SBE Utilization Plan, must reflect the parties' intent. The SBE Utilization Plan is incorporated by reference in subsection 40E-7.669(18), F.A.C. If the prime bidder is an SBE Prime, an SBE Utilization Plan is not required to establish a business relationship as well as the type of work and percentage of work that the SBE subcontractor will perform. be submitted with its bid. Failure to submit any of the information as required on Form Nos. 0956 and 0957 ~~shall~~ the SBE Utilization Plan or to meet the established SBE goal shall lead to the bid bidder being deemed ~~non~~Non-Responsive. ~~Form Nos. 0956 and 0957 are incorporated by reference herein and are available at no cost by contacting the South Florida Water Management District Clerk's Office, South Florida Water Management District, 3301 Gun Club Road, West Palm Beach, FL 33406, (800)432-2045, ext. 6805, or (561)682-6805.~~

~~Any bidder failing to meet the established goal shall be deemed non Responsive. If the prime bidder is an SBE Prime, only Form 0956 must be submitted with its bid.~~

(b) Standard Proposals – For solicitations where a contract is awarded based on an evaluation

criteria, and where the scope of work is clearly defined, the District shall determine ~~subcontracting~~SBE goals for each solicitation based on availability of ~~SBE firms~~District SBEs as ~~stated above~~provided in ~~paragraph (2)(a)-this subsection~~. The maximum SBE goal that will be applied to any solicitation will be 25%. ~~The goals shall be applied as a percentage of the total contract value to be assigned to SBE firms. Any proposer failing to meet the established goal shall be deemed non-Responsive.~~ At the time the proposal is submitted, the proposer shall ~~identify all SBE firms (if any) which will be utilized as subcontractors, by using Form No. 0956, "Small Business Enterprise Subcontractor Participation Schedule,"~~submit an SBE Utilization Plan. The SBE Utilization Plan is incorporated by reference in ~~paragraph (2)(a) herein. All proposals with SBE subcontractor participation shall include Form No. 0957, "Statement of Intent to Perform as an Small Business Enterprise Subcontractor," also incorporated by reference in paragraph (2)(a) herein. Form 0957 shall be signed by the SBE subcontractor. The SBE Subcontractor Utilization Plan must reflect the parties' intent to establish a business relationship as well as the type of work and percentage of work that the SBE subcontractor will perform~~subsection 40E-7.669(18), F.A.C. If the prime proposer is an SBE Prime ~~only Form No. 0956 must be submitted with its bid, an SBE Utilization Plan is not required to be submitted with its proposal. Failure to submit any of the information as required on the SBE Utilization Plan or to meet the established SBE goal shall lead to the proposer being deemed Non-Responsive.~~

(c) Work Order Proposals – For solicitations where a contract is awarded based on evaluation criteria, and where the scope of work is not clearly defined resulting in work order contracts, such solicitations shall require proposers to commit to SBE goals assigned to individual work orders issued throughout the term of the contract. ~~The~~At the time the proposal is submitted, the proposer shall submit an SBE Utilization Plan. The SBE Utilization Plan is incorporated by reference in subsection 40E-7.669(18), F.A.C. If the prime proposer is an SBE Prime, an SBE Utilization Plan is not required to be submitted with its proposal. Failure to submit any of the information as required on the SBE Utilization Plan shall lead to the proposer being deemed Non-Responsive.

(d) Work Orders Issued – The SBE goal for individual work orders will be based on availability of ~~SBE firms~~District SBEs as provided in ~~paragraph (2)(a)-this subsection~~. The maximum SBE goal that will be applied to any work order will be 25% unless the Prime Contractor has failed to meet prior SBE goals, in which case the maximum ~~goal may exceed 25%.~~ At the time the proposal is submitted, the proposer shall identify all proposed SBE firms that will be utilized as subcontractorsSBE goal may exceed 25%. When a work order with an SBE goal is assigned, the Prime Contractor shall submit a cost proposal and an SBE Utilization Plan. The SBE Utilization Plan is incorporated by reference in subsection 40E-7.669(18), F.A.C. If the Prime Contractor is a District SBE, an SBE Utilization Plan is not required to be submitted with its cost proposal. A work order will not be executed with a Prime Contractor whose cost proposal does not meet the established SBE goal for that work order. Failure to meet the SBE goal set by the District for an executed work order will result in a breach of contract by the Prime Contractor.

~~At the time a work order with an SBE goal is assigned, the Prime Contractor shall submit a cost proposal, and identify all SBE subcontractors and the percentage of work that the SBE subcontractor(s) will perform by using Form No. 0956, "Small Business Enterprise Subcontractor Participation Schedule," incorporated by reference in paragraph (2)(a) herein. All cost proposals shall also include Form No. 0957, "Statement of Intent to Perform as a Small~~

~~Business Enterprise Subcontractor,” also incorporated by reference in paragraph (2)(a) herein. Form No. 0957 shall be signed by the SBE subcontractor. A work order will not be executed with a Prime contractor whose cost proposal does not meet the established goal for that work order. The District will set the SBE goal in any particular work order based on the availability of SBE firms. In addition, failure to meet the goal set by the District for an executed work order will result in a breach of contract by the Prime Contractor.~~

(e) The Procurement Bureau Chief or designee has the ability to grant a partial or complete waiver of any SBE goal whenever it is determined that such modification or waiver would be in the best interest of the District.

Rulemaking Authority 373.044, 373.113 FS. Law Implemented 373.1135 FS. History—New 8-3-06, Amended 8-29-07, 8-29-13, 12-9-20; _____.

40E-7.671 District Implementation.

The District shall ensure all small businesses have the maximum opportunity to participate in the District’s contracting and procurement processes. The following are examples of efforts to be taken by the District:

 (1) Establish ~~a Small Business Enterprise program~~ an SBE Program to implement the rules established ~~under this Part~~ herein.

 (2) Identify all competitive contracting opportunities within the District budget for District SBE participation.

 (3) Analyze District SBE availability to provide the products or services identified for contracting at either the prime contract or subcontract levels.

 (4) Maintain a database of all District SBEs.

 (5) Monitor and maintain records of steps taken and results achieved to maximize District SBE participation.

 (6) Monitor the District’s efforts to achieve SBE Program objectives.

 (7) Provide training to District staff on the District’s SBE Rule.

Rulemaking Authority 373.044, 373.113 FS. Law Implemented 373.1135 FS. History—New 8-3-06, Amended 8-29-13; _____.

40E-7.672 Compliance.

The District shall monitor and evaluate Program performance and compliance as follows:

 (1) Each District contract shall contain a provision requiring the ~~contractor~~ Prime Contractor, during the term of the contract, to comply with, as to tasks and proportionate dollar amounts

throughout the term of the contract, all commitments made in their bids or proposals for use of District SBEs.

(2) Each District contract shall contain a provision requiring the Prime Contractor and any of its Subcontractor's maintenance of records, and information necessary to document compliance with the rules ~~under this Par~~herein and shall include the right of the District to inspect such records.

(3) Each District contract shall contain a provision prohibiting any agreements between a ~~contractor~~Prime Contractor and ~~aan~~ SBE in which the SBE promises not to provide subcontracting quotations to other respondents or potential respondents.

(4) Prime Contractors must notify the District when the need to add or replace an SBE ~~subcontractor~~Subcontractor arises and shall provide a completed Form No. 1373, "Small Business Enterprise Subcontractor Revised Participation Schedule²", effective (~~August 29, 2013~~)insert date), (~~<http://www.flrules.org/Gateway/reference.asp?No=Ref-03067>~~)insert url), which contains an explanation of the addition or replacement of the SBE ~~subcontractor~~Subcontractor. Form ~~No.~~ 1373 is incorporated by reference herein and a copy can be obtained at no cost by contacting the ~~South Florida Water Management District Clerk's~~District's SBE Office, South Florida Water Management District, 3301 Gun Club Road, West Palm Beach, FL 33406, (800)432-2045, ext. ~~68056446~~, or (561)682-6805-6446, or via email sbep@sfwmd.gov. In addition, a completed Form No. 0957, "Statement of Intent to Perform as a Small Business Enterprise Subcontractor²", incorporated by reference in ~~paragraph~~subsection 40E-7.~~670(2)(a669(18))~~, F.A.C., must be submitted if applicable.

 (5) Failure of the Prime Contractor to meet its SBE requirements in a District contract will be a factor considered by the District when ~~the District makes~~making its responsibility determinations for future ~~District~~ contract awards and when ~~the District considers~~considering whether to place a ~~contractor~~Prime Contractor on the Temporary or Permanent Suspension List under Rule 40E-7.218, F.A.C.

(6) Each District contract awarded with an SBE ~~participation~~goal shall contain a provision incorporating the rules ~~under this par~~herein by reference and a statement that failure to comply with the requirements of the bid or proposal submitted ~~to~~by the ~~District by a contractor~~Prime Contractor shall be considered a material breach of contract which may result in suspension or debarment of the ~~firms~~Businesses or individuals involved pursuant to Chapter 40E-7, F.A.C.

 (7) If ~~ana District~~ SBE ~~Prime contractor~~ is in material breach of its contract with the District, as defined in subsection 40E-7.215(5), F.A.C., the District SBE ~~Prime contractor~~ shall be decertified.

 (8) If an SBE ~~subcontractor~~Subcontractor causes a Prime Contractor to be in material breach of its contract with the District, as defined in subsection 40E-7.215(5), F.A.C., including, but not limited to, performance delay, the SBE ~~subcontractor~~Subcontractor shall be decertified.

Rulemaking Authority 373.044, 373.113 FS. Law Implemented 373.1135 FS. History—New 8-3-06, Amended 8-29-13, 12-9-20, _____.

40E-7.673 Certification/Recertification Eligibility – Small Business Enterprise.

District staff shall have the authority to accept, review, approve, certify, decertify and deny applications for ~~SBE~~ Certification/Recertification, as defined herein. Applicants must be registered with the District as a vendor prior to submitting an application for Certification.

___(1) Applicants shall submit applications for ~~SBE~~ Certification/Recertification using Form No. 1231, “~~SBE~~Small Business Enterprise Certification/Recertification Application”, (<http://www.flrules.org/Gateway/reference.asp?No=Ref-12424>)” (“Application”), effective ~~August 3, 2006~~, (insert date), (insert url), which is incorporated by reference herein and is available at no cost by contacting the ~~South Florida Water Management District Clerk’s~~District’s SBE Office, South Florida Water Management District, 3301 Gun Club Road, West Palm Beach, FL 33406, (800) 432-2045, ext. ~~68056446~~, or (561) ~~682-68056446~~, or via email sbep@sfwmd.gov. The Application must be signed by the individual with the authority to bind the Applicant.

___(2) To establish SBEProgram eligibility, the Applicant shall:

(a) Provide documentation to demonstrate that the ~~3-three~~ year average ~~gross receipts~~Gross Receipts of the Applicant, together with its Affiliate ~~Business~~Businesses, does not exceed ~~\$1321~~ million ~~for if the business provides~~ Construction, ~~\$58~~ million ~~for if the business provides~~ Commodities, and ~~\$610~~ million ~~for if the business provides~~ Services. In determining the ~~gross receipts~~Gross Receipts of the ~~business~~Business and its Affiliate ~~Business~~Businesses, the District shall consider the ~~3three~~ federal income tax returns filed by the Applicant and its Affiliate Businesses for the ~~3three~~ years immediately preceding applicationApplication submittal. If ~~3three~~ federal income tax returns have not been filed for the ~~3three~~ years immediately preceding applicationApplication submittal, then the Applicant must submit ~~a~~ financial statements (balance sheet and income statement) for any of the ~~3three~~ years immediately preceding the applicationApplication submittal in which the Applicant or its Affiliate Businesses did not file a federal income tax return(s). ~~The Applicants or its Affiliate Businesses in business less than one year shall submit~~ financial statementstatements for the months in which it was in business. Financial statements must be prepared by a Certified Public Accountant as defined by Section 473.301, F.S., not employed by the Applicant or its Affiliate Businesses, but retained for the purpose of preparing financial statements for the Applicant. ~~Applicants in business less than 1 year shall submit an opening balance sheet and income statement for the months in which it was in business. The opening balance sheet and income statement or its Affiliate Businesses.~~ Financial statements must be submitted on letterhead from the Applicant’s or its Affiliate Businesses’ Certified Public Accountant.

(b) The Applicant must ~~demonstrate that the business is licensed as~~ hold and provide the appropriate license(s) or certification(s) required by law to do business and perform work in the State of Florida. Licenses and certifications must be valid at the time of submittal and remain active throughout the Certification period.

(c) Applicants must have the authority to conduct business in the State of Florida if the business requires a license in accordance with the Florida Department of State Division of Corporations, including the use of Fictitious Names, if applicable. Applicants must remain in good standing throughout the Certification period.

(ed) An Applicant shall have only 1 business one Business, including its Affiliate Businesses, certified with the South Florida Water Management District.

(3) An Applicant that has been debarred or suspended, or organized by an entity, individual, or Affiliate Business that has been debarred or suspended, is ineligible to be a District SBE.

Rulemaking Authority 373.044, 373.113 FS. Law Implemented 373.1135 FS. History—New 8-3-06, Amended 12-9-20.

40E-7.674 Certification/Recertification Review Procedures.

(1) Upon receipt by the District, all applications for SBE Certification Applications shall be screened given an initial screening to ensure appropriate signature and completeness. The application must be signed by If an Application for Recertification is timely submitted, the individual with District SBE shall remain certified until the authority to bind the Applicant District has made a determination concerning eligibility.

(2) Within 60 days following receipt of the application Application, the District will request that the Applicant furnish omitted items or additional information, if any. All requested information must be received by the District within 60 days from the date of the request or the Applicant Application will be deemed ineligible for Certification incomplete. Applicants may however, re-apply by submitting a new Application meeting Certification requirements detailed in Rule 40E-7.673 F.A.C.

(3) Applicants determined deemed eligible for Certification/Recertification shall receive Certification a letter via email certifying them as an SBE from a District staff. Once certified, SBE. The Applicant shall remain certified for a period of 3 three years, unless decertified. If the Applicant does not adhere to the District's SBE Program they will be subject to decertification. Decertification. The District retains the right to re-evaluate the Certification of any business District SBE at any time.

(4) Applicants determined deemed ineligible shall receive notification from the District. Ineligible Applicants shall not submit a new application for 180 days after District notification.

~~Rulemaking Authority 373.044, 373.113 FS. Law Implemented 373.1135 FS. History New 8-3-06, Amended 8-29-07, 8-29-13, 12-9-20.~~

~~40E-7.675 Recertification Review Procedures.~~

(1) Applications for Recertification shall be submitted using Form No., 1232 "SBE Application for Recertification", effective August 3, 2006,

~~(<http://www.flrules.org/Gateway/reference.asp?No=Ref-12423>), which is incorporated by reference herein and is available at no cost by contacting the South Florida Water Management District Clerk's Office, South Florida Water Management District, 3301 Gun Club Road, West Palm Beach, FL 33406, (800)432-2045, ext. 6805, or (561)682-6805.~~

~~(2) The District may notify SBEs no later than 60 days before the end of the Certification period that the SBE's Certification is about to expire. Regardless of notification, SBE is responsible to timely apply for Recertification. If the Recertification application document is no longer applicable because of changes to the Applicant SBE's business, the SBE shall notify the District in writing of the changes to its company before their existing certificate expires. The District shall determine if the company still complies with the Certification criteria set forth in Rule 40E-7.673, F.A.C. Recertification requests must be filed with the District no later than the last effective date of the current Certification period.~~

~~(3) Upon receipt, all Recertification requests shall be given an initial screening to ensure appropriate signature and completeness. Within 60 days following initial receipt of the Applicant's Recertification request, the District will request the applicant to furnish omitted or additional information. If the requested information or items are not received by the District within 60 days from the date of the request, the District will deny the application for Recertification.~~

~~(4) Recertification shall be granted when the Applicant has complied with recertification and review procedures and substantiates continued eligibility for SBE status.~~

~~(5) Applicants deemed eligible shall receive a Recertification letter. The Applicant shall remain certified for a period of 3 years unless the SBE is decertified. The District retains the right to reevaluate the Certification of any SBE business at any time.~~

~~(6) Applicants determined ineligible for Recertification shall receive a letter via email citing which specific criteria of Rule 40E-7.673, F.A.C., that they failed to meet and advising that they shall not be eligible to submit a new applicationsApplication until 180 days after the date of the noticeletter or the District's final agency order denying Certification/Recertification.~~

~~(7) If an application for Recertification is timely submitted, an SBE shall remain certified until the District has made a determination concerning eligibility.~~

~~Rulemaking Authority 373.044, 373.113 FS. Law Implemented 373.1135 FS. History—New 8-3-06, Amended 8-29-07, 8-29-13, 12-9-20, _____.~~

40E-7.675 Recertification Review Procedures.

~~Rulemaking Authority 373.044, 373.113 FS. Law Implemented 373.1135 FS. History—New 8-3-06, Amended 8-29-13, 12-9-20, Repealed, _____.~~

40E-7.676 Decertification.

~~The~~(1) Decertification of ~~an~~ District SBE shall occur when ~~the~~:

(a) ~~The~~ District determines that ~~an~~the District SBE no longer complies with the District's Program's Certification criteria, including, but not limited to, Program graduation. Program Graduates may complete their work under all current District projects under their previous Certification status provided that the bid or proposal submission date of those projects occurred prior to the date of Program graduation; or,

(b) The District ~~will also Decertify an SBE if the District~~ learns that the District SBE submitted false information ~~in order~~ to obtain ~~SBE Certification.~~Recertification; or,

(c) The District ~~may also decertify an SBE if the SBE materially breaches~~SBE Prime is in material breach of its contract with the District as defined in subsection 40E-7.215(5), F.A.C. ~~Further, an SBE subcontractor will be decertified if it.;~~ or,

(d) ~~The SBE Subcontractor~~ causes a Prime Contractor to ~~materially be in material~~ breach of its contract with the District as defined in subsection 40E-7.215(5), F.A.C., including, but not limited to, performance delay.

(~~1~~2) District staff shall inform the District SBE in writing ~~by certified mail, return receipt requested, via email~~ of the facts or conduct which formed the basis for Decertification.

(~~2~~) The Decertification ~~notice~~letter issued by the District shall contain:

(a) The statutory ~~provisions~~provision(s) or ~~rules~~rule(s) of the Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.) which the District alleges that the District SBE violated; and

(b) The specific facts or conduct relied upon to justify the Decertification; and,

(c) A statement that the ~~firm~~Business has the right to file a request for an administrative hearing pursuant to Sections 120.569 and 120.57, F.S., within 21 days of receipt of the Decertification ~~notice~~letter; and,

(d) A statement that the Decertification shall become conclusive and final agency action if no request for a hearing is filed with the District Clerk's ~~office~~Office, South Florida Water Management District, 3301 Gun Club Road, West Palm Beach, FL 33406, (800) 432-2045, ext. 6805, or (561) 682-6805 within 21 days from receipt of the Decertification ~~notice~~letter.

(3) If the District SBE fails to file a request for a hearing within 21 days after receipt of the ~~notice~~Decertification letter, the Decertification shall become final agency action.

(4) If the District SBE files a request for an administrative hearing, ~~the SBE~~they shall remain certified unless and until a Final Order is issued by the District ~~Decertifying~~decertifying the District SBE after an administrative hearing.

Rulemaking Authority 373.044, 373.113 FS. Law Implemented 373.1135 FS. History—New 8-3-06, Amended 12-9-20; _____.

40E-7.677 Reciprocity.

Reciprocal Certification shall be granted to an Applicant that is certified by another Florida ~~government agency~~Government Agency, provided that the ~~agency~~Government Agency has a small business program, ~~including those owned by women and minorities.~~ The Applicant shall provide the District with official documentation from the other ~~governmental agencies~~Governmental Agencies stating the Certification and expiration dates. Once certified, ~~the~~ Applicant shall remain certified with the District for a period of ~~3~~three years. The District reserves the right to request any additional documentation to verify or clarify the authentication of the information provided.

Rulemaking Authority 373.044, 373.113 FS. Law Implemented 373.1135 FS. History—New 8-3-06, Amended 8-29-13, 12-9-20; _____.

40E-7.678 Administrative Hearings.

If an Applicant believes it has been wrongly denied Certification ~~or~~/Recertification, or that it has been inappropriately ~~Decertified~~decertified as ~~ana~~ a District SBE, it may file a request for hearing pursuant to Sections 120.569 and 120.57, F.S., by submitting a petition in accordance with Chapter 28-106, F.A.C., within 21 days of receipt of ~~Notice of Denial of Certification~~the denial or ~~Recertification or Notice of~~ Decertification ~~as a District SBE~~letter.

Rulemaking Authority 373.044, 373.113 FS. Law Implemented 373.1135 FS. History—New 8-3-06, Amended 12-9-20; _____.

NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULE

NAME OF AGENCY

SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

RULE NO.: RULE TITLE:

40E-7.668	Policy
40E-7.669	Definitions
40E-7.670	Competitive Solicitation Preferences
40E-7.671	District Implementation
40E-7.672	Compliance
40E-7.673	Certification Eligibility – Small Business Enterprise
40E-7.674	Certification Review Procedures
40E-7.675	Recertification Review Procedures
40E-7.676	Decertification
40E-7.677	Reciprocity
40E-7.678	Administrative Hearing

PURPOSE AND EFFECT: The Small Business Enterprise Program is designed to help small businesses participate in District procurement and contract activities in support of the South Florida Water Management District’s (District) mission. The purpose of the program is to spur economic development and support small businesses successfully expand in the marketplace. The purpose of the rule amendments is to further clarify and define the intent of the Small Business Enterprise Program.

SUMMARY: The District is proposing changes to augment definitions, refine solicitation preferences, enhance the eligibility requirements for increased participation, combine the certification and recertification review procedures for simplicity and to eliminate duplicative information, amend the decertification clause for clarity, and update program forms. The proposed revisions to Forms 0956, 0957, 1231, and 1373 are located at <https://www.sfwmd.gov/doing-business-with-us/procurement>.

SUMMARY OF STATEMENT OF ESTIMATED REGULATORY COSTS AND LEGISLATIVE RATIFICATION:

The agency has determined that this rule will not have an adverse impact on small business or likely increase directly or indirectly regulatory costs in excess of \$200,000 in the aggregate within one year after the implementation of the rule. A SERC has not been prepared by the agency.

The Agency has determined that the proposed rule is not expected to require legislative ratification based on the statement of estimated regulatory costs or if no SERC is required, the information expressly relied upon and described herein: The District completed the Governor’s Office of Fiscal Accountability and Regulatory Reform (OFARR) form “Is a SERC Required?” and prepared a summary of the proposed rule amendments, both of which are available upon request. Based on the completed “Is a SERC Required?” form and the District’s summary and analysis performed to prepare and complete said documents, the proposed rule amendment does not require legislative ratification pursuant to subsection 120.541(3), F.S

Any person who wishes to provide information regarding the statement of estimated regulatory costs, or to provide a proposal for a lower cost regulatory alternative must do so in writing within 21 days of this notice.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY (formerly “Specific Authority”): *373.044, 373.113 FS. Law*

LAW IMPLEMENTED: *373.1135 FS*

IF REQUESTED WITHIN 21 DAYS OF THE DATE OF THIS NOTICE, A HEARING WILL BE SCHEDULED AND ANNOUNCED IN THE FAR.

THE PERSON TO BE CONTACTED REGARDING THE PROPOSED RULE IS: Jennifer Kilian, Section Leader-Master Data, jkilian@sfwmd.gov, (561) 682-6018.

THE FULL TEXT OF THE PROPOSED RULE IS:

40E-7.668 Policy.

(1) The rules under this Small Business Enterprise (“SBE”) ~~Contracting~~ Program (the “Program”) establish policies and procedures designed to help small businesses, ~~including those owned by women and minorities,~~ to participate in the South Florida Water Management District’s (“District”) procurement and contract activities.

(2) It is the purpose of the Program to spur economic development and support small businesses, ~~including woman owned and minority owned businesses,~~ to successfully expand in the marketplace.

(3) No Change

Rulemaking Authority 373.044, 373.113 FS. Law Implemented 373.1135 FS. History—New 8-3-06, Amended 12-9-20, _____.

40E-7.669 Definitions.

(1) “Affiliate Business” ~~is defined as~~ means an entity or entities that the Applicant controls or has the power to control, whether or not control is exercised; or an entity or entities that controls, or has the power to control the Applicant, whether or not control is exercised. “Control” means the power to direct or cause the direction of management or policies. In determining whether an affiliation exists, it is necessary to consider whether one entity impacts another by examining several factors, including, but not limited to, sharing resources, common ownership (direct or indirect), management, officers, directors, trustees, employees, and contract employees; common use of facilities, equipment, licenses, and contractual obligations; family interest in the Business; or a business entity organized by a debarred entity, individual, or affiliate following the debarment of a contractor that has the same or similar management, ownership, or principal employees as the contractor that was debarred or suspended. Affiliated entities shall be considered together in terms of Gross Receipts in determining whether a Business meets the Program’s eligibility criteria. a business that is a Subsidiary of or owned in part by another business concern. Entities are affiliates of each other when one impacts the other by sharing resources, officers, or directors that have any percentages of ownership, or controls or has the power to control the other, or a third party or parties controls or has the power to control both. It does not matter whether control is exercised, so long as the power to control exists.

(2) “Applicant” is defined as the Business that is seeking District Certification or Recertification.

(3) “Business” is defined as any entity which complies with all statutes and regulations; specifically, any corporation, limited liability company, partnership ~~partnerships~~, general ~~partnership~~ partnerships, limited ~~partnership~~ partnerships, sole proprietor, or other for-profit entity ~~entities~~, engaging in commerce, including, but not limited to, construction, commodities, manufacturing or services ~~a service with a federal tax identification number.~~

(4) “Certification” or “Recertification” ~~is means~~ the process by which the District determines that a ~~B~~business meets the Program’s District’s criteria of a District for a Small Business Enterprise (SBE).

(5) “Commodity Code” ~~is a A-numeric system or identifier designed to list commodities, or services by classes and sub classes. A numeric identifier of supplies, materials, goods, merchandise, equipment, or other tangible personal property (purchase or lease), or including the contractual services by class and sub-class.~~

(6) “Decertification” is the process ~~by in~~ which the District shall determine that a ~~an~~ District SBE no longer complies with the Program’s District Certification criteria.

(7) “District ~~SBE Small Business Enterprise~~” ~~is defined as means~~ a small Bbusiness certified by the District in either construction, commodities, services, or a combination thereof whose ~~three- 3-~~year average Gross Rceipts, including Affiliate Businesses, shall not exceed ~~\$21 \$13~~ million if the ~~B~~business provides construction, ~~\$8 \$5~~ million if the ~~B~~business provides commodities, and ~~\$10 \$6~~ million if the ~~B~~business provides services. A District SBE ~~shall be is~~ registered and in good standing to do business with the State of Florida through the Department of State Division of Corporations and holds the appropriate license(s) or certification(s) required by law to do business and perform work in the state of Florida.

(8) “Government Agency” ~~is defined as means~~ any state, county, regional, or local government in Florida, including Water Management Districts.

(9) “Gross Receipts” ~~is defined as means~~ the total sales for the Applicant and its Affiliate Businesses from all sources during its annual accounting period as specified in its Federal tax return or if it is a new company which has not filed a Federal tax return, in its audited financial statement before deductions for costs, expenses, returned items, allowances, and discounts as reflected in federal income tax returns or financial statements as set forth in paragraph 40E-7.673(2)(a), F.A.C.

(10) “Industry ~~Categories~~” ~~is defined as means~~ construction, commodities, and services.

(11) “Non-Responsive” with respect to bidders, bids, or proposals ~~is defined as a Business’s bid or proposal that does not conform in material respects to the invitation to bid or request for proposal including all SBE goals set forth.~~

(12) ~~(11)~~ “Non-SBE Prime” ~~is defined as means~~ a ~~B~~business not currently certified as a ~~by the~~ District ~~as a SBE Small Business Enterprise~~ which submits a bid or proposal for the purpose of being awarded a legally ~~-~~binding agreement as a Prime Contractor for the performance of work at a mutually agreed-upon price in accordance with agreed-upon terms and conditions with the District.

(13) ~~(12)~~ “Prime Contractor” ~~is defined as means~~ any individual or contracting entity with whom the District has entered into a legally ~~-~~binding agreement for performance of work at a mutually agreed-upon price in accordance with agreed-upon terms and conditions.

(14) “Program Graduate” ~~is defined as a District SBE that has exceeded the Program’s Gross Receipts eligibility requirement. Does not include District SBEs decertified for cause.~~

(15) ~~(13)~~ “Reciprocal Certification” ~~is defined as means~~ ~~District the SBE Certification by the District~~ of an Applicant who is actively certified by another Florida Government Agency, provided that the agency has a small business program.

~~(14) “Responsible” means a business that is capable in all respects of fully performing the contract requirements and which has the integrity and reliability that will assure good faith performance.~~

~~(15) “Responsive” with respect to bidders, bids, or proposals means a business’s bid or proposal~~

conforms in all material respects to the invitation to bid or request for proposal including all SBE goals set forth.

(16) “SBE Prime” ~~is defined as means a business certified by the District as a SBE small business~~ that submits a bid or proposal for the purpose of being awarded a legally-binding agreement as a ~~an SBE Prime Contractor~~ for the performance of work at a mutually agreed-upon price in accordance with agreed-upon terms and conditions with the District.

(17) “SBE Subcontractor” ~~is defined as means a business certified by the District~~ SBE having a direct contract with a Prime Contractor ~~or with any other Subcontractor~~ for the performance of a portion part of the work.

(18) “SBE Utilization Plan” details the type and percentage of work that will be performed for the specified project. The SBE Utilization Plan consists of means Form No. 0956, “Small Business Enterprise Subcontractor Participation Schedule”, (effective effective date) (insert URL), which identifies all Businesses which will be utilized as subcontractors, and Form No. 0957, “Statement of Intent to Perform as a Small Business Enterprise Subcontractor”, (effective effective date) (insert URL), which is completed by all SBE Subcontractors detailed on Form No. 0956, and reflects the intent of the parties’ to establish a formal agreement conditioned upon the Non-SBE Prime’s execution of a contract with the District for said project. The SBE Utilization Plan is both forms are incorporated by reference herein in paragraph (2)(a) of Rule 40E-7.670(2)(a), F.A.C. and is available at no cost by contacting the District’s SBE Office, South Florida Water Management District, 3301 Gun Club Road, West Palm Beach, FL 33406, (800) 432-2045, ext. 6446, or (561) 682-6446, or via email sbep@sfwmd.gov.

(19) “Subsidiary” ~~is defined as a Business that another company has any ownership interest in.~~

Rulemaking Authority 373.044, 373.113 FS. Law Implemented 373.1135 FS. History—New 8-3-06, Amended 8-29-07, 8-29-13, 12-9-20, _____.

40E-7.670 Competitive Solicitation Preferences.

The ~~SBE Small Business Enterprise Contracting Rule in this part provides~~ for two 2 c Competitive sSolicitation pPreferences designed to assist District SBEs small businesses. Sheltered Market and Subcontracting Requirements are outlined below.

(1) Sheltered Market ~~Program~~. The District may provide for sheltered markets to allow only District SBEs to bid on designated solicitations. In order to designate a sheltered market, the District must identify at least three 3 District SBEs available to perform work within the Industry identified in the solicitation.

(2) Subcontracting Requirements. The District shall set SBE goals for all solicitations, unless otherwise provided in paragraph (2)(e). SBE goals are based on the availability of District SBEs in relation to all vendors registered with the District able to perform work within specific Commodity Codes.

(a) Bids – For solicitations where a contract is awarded based on price as the primary selection criteria, and where the scope is clearly defined, The District shall set subcontracting goals for all bids based on availability of vendors registered with the District, including SBE firms able to perform work within specific Commodity Codes. The SBE goals shall be applied as a percentage of the total contract value to be assigned to District SBEs as provided in this subsection SBE firms. The maximum SBE goal that will be applied to any solicitation will be 25%. When an SBE goal is set, bidders shall provide work to one or more District SBEs in order to meet the SBE goal. At the time of submittal of its bid, the bidder shall ~~identify all SBE firms which will be utilized as~~

~~SBE Subcontractors, by submit an SBE Utilization Plan using Form No. 0956, “Small Business Enterprise Subcontractor Participation Schedule” effective (August 29, 2013), (<http://www.flrules.org/Gateway/reference.asp?No=Ref 12410>). All bids submitted where SBE participation is required, shall include Form No. 0957, “Statement of Intent to Perform as a Small Business Enterprise Subcontractor” effective August 29, 2013), (<http://www.flrules.org/Gateway/reference.asp?No=Ref 12422>). The SBE Utilization Plan is incorporated by reference in subsection 40E-7.669(18), F.A.C. If the prime bidder is an SBE Prime, an SBE Utilization Plan is not required to be submitted with its bid. shall be signed by the SBE subcontractor, Form Nos. 0956 and 0957, together called the “Small Business Enterprise Subcontractor Utilization Plan”, must reflect the parties’ intent to establish a business relationship as well as the type of work and percentage of work that the SBE subcontractor will perform. Failure to submit any of the information as required on the SBE Utilization Plan or to meet the established SBE goal Form Nos. 0956 and 0957 shall lead to the bidder bid being deemed Non-Responsive. Form Nos. 0956 and 0957 are incorporated by reference herein and are available at no cost by contacting the South Florida Water Management District’s SBE Clerk’s Office, South Florida Water Management District, 3301 Gun Club Road, West Palm Beach, FL 33406, (800) 432-2045, ext. 6805, or (561)682-6805. Any bidder failing to meet the established goal shall be deemed non-Responsive. If the prime bidder is an SBE Prime, only Form 0956 must be submitted with its bid.~~

(b) Standard Proposals – For solicitations where a contract is awarded based on an evaluation criteria, and where the scope of work is clearly defined, the District shall determine SBE subcontracting goals for each solicitation based on availability of District SBEs SBE firms as provided stated above in this subsection paragraph (2)(a). The maximum SBE goal that will be applied to any solicitation will be 25%. ~~The goals shall be applied as a percentage of the total contract value to be assigned to SBE firms. Any proposer failing to meet the established goal shall be deemed non-Responsive.~~ At the time the proposal is submitted, the proposer shall submit an SBE Utilization Plan identify all SBE firms (if any) which will be utilized as subcontractors, by using Form No. 0956, “Small Business Enterprise Subcontractor Participation Schedule,” incorporated by reference in paragraph (2)(a) herein. All proposals where with SBE subcontractor participation shall include Form No. 0957, “Statement of Intent to Perform as an Small Business Enterprise Subcontractor,” also incorporated by reference in paragraph (2)(a) herein. The SBE Utilization Plan is incorporated by reference in subsection 40E-7.669(18), F.A.C. Form No. 0957 shall be signed by the SBE subcontractor. If the prime proposer is an SBE Prime, an SBE Utilization Plan is not required to be submitted with its proposal. The SBE Subcontractor Utilization Plan must reflect the parties’ intent to establish a business relationship as well as the type of work and percentage of work that the SBE subcontractor will perform. If the prime proposer is an SBE Prime only Form No. 0956 must be submitted with its bid. Failure to submit any of the information as required on the SBE Utilization Plan or to meet the established SBE goal shall lead to the proposer being deemed Non-Responsive.

(c) Work Order Proposals – For solicitations where a contract is awarded based on evaluation criteria, and where the scope of work is not clearly defined resulting in work order contracts, such solicitations shall require proposers to commit to SBE goals assigned to individual work orders issued throughout the term of the contract. ~~The goal for individual work orders will be based on availability of SBE firms as provided in paragraph (2)(a). The maximum goal that will be applied to any work order will be 25% unless the Prime Contractor has failed to meet prior SBE goals, in which case the maximum goal may exceed 25%.~~ At the time the proposal is submitted, the proposer shall submit an SBE Utilization Plan identify all proposed SBE firms that will be utilized as

~~subcontractors.~~ The SBE Utilization Plan is incorporated by reference in subsection 40E-7.669(18), F.A.C. If the prime proposer is an SBE Prime, an SBE Utilization Plan is not required to be submitted with its proposal. Failure to submit any of the information as required on the SBE Utilization Plan shall lead to the proposer being deemed Non-Responsive.

(d) Work Orders Issued – The SBE goal for individual work orders will be based on availability of District SBEs as provided in this subsection (2). The maximum SBE goal that will be applied to any work order will be 25% unless the Prime Contractor has failed to meet prior SBE goals, in which case the maximum SBE goal may exceed 25%. When ~~At the time~~ a work order with an SBE goal is assigned, the Prime Contractor shall submit a cost proposal, and an SBE Utilization Plan identify all SBE ~~S~~subcontractors and the percentage of work that the SBE ~~S~~subcontractor(s) will perform by using Form No. 0956, “Small Business Enterprise Subcontractor Participation Schedule,” incorporated by reference in paragraph (2)(a) herein. All cost proposals shall also include Form No. 0957, “Statement of Intent to Perform as a Small Business Enterprise Subcontractor,” also incorporated by reference in paragraph (2)(a) herein. Form No. 0957 shall be signed by the SBE ~~S~~subcontractor. The SBE Utilization Plan is incorporated by reference in subsection 40E-7.669(18), F.A.C. If the Prime Contractor is a District SBE, an SBE Utilization Plan is not required to be submitted with its cost proposal. A work order will not be executed with a Prime ~~C~~contractor whose cost proposal does not meet the established SBE goal for that work order. ~~The District will set the SBE goal in any particular work order based on the availability of SBE firms. In addition, F~~failure to meet the SBE goal set by the District for an executed work order will result in a breach of contract by the Prime Contractor.

(e) The Procurement Bureau Chief or designee has the ability to grant a partial or complete waiver of any SBE goal whenever it is determined that such modification or waiver would be in the best interest of the District.

Rulemaking Authority 373.044, 373.113 FS. Law Implemented 373.1135 FS. History–New 8-3-06, Amended 8-29-07, 8-29-13, 12-9-20,_____.

40E-7.671 District Implementation.

Introductory paragraph - No Change

(1) Establish an SBE ~~a Small Business Enterprise P~~rogram to implement the rules established herein under this Part.

(2) Identify all competitive contracting opportunities within the District budget for District SBE participation.

(3) Analyze District SBE availability to provide the products or services identified for contracting at either the prime contract or subcontract levels.

(4) Maintain a database of all District SBEs.

(5) Monitor and maintain records of steps taken and results achieved to maximize District SBE participation.

(6) Monitor the District’s efforts to achieve Program ~~SBE~~ objectives.

(7) No Change

Rulemaking Authority 373.044, 373.113 FS. Law Implemented 373.1135 FS. History–New 8-3-06, Amended 8-29-13,_____.

40E-7.672 Compliance.

Introductory paragraph - No Change

(1) Each District contract shall contain a provision requiring the Prime ~~C~~contractor, during the

term of the contract, to comply with, as to tasks and proportionate dollar amounts throughout the term of the contract, all commitments made in their bids or proposals for use of District SBEs.

(2) Each District contract shall contain a provision requiring the Prime Contractor and any of its Subcontractor's maintenance of records, and information necessary to document compliance with the rules herein under this Part and shall include the right of the District to inspect such records.

(3) Each District contract shall contain a provision prohibiting any agreements between a Prime Contractor and an SBE in which the SBE promises not to provide subcontracting quotations to other respondents or potential respondents.

(4) Prime Contractors must notify the District when the need to add or replace an SBE Subcontractor arises and shall provide a completed Form No. 1373, "Small Business Enterprise Subcontractor Revised Participation Schedule", (effective ~~effective date~~ (August 29, 2013) (insert URL) <https://www.fl.rules.org/Gateway/reference.asp?No+Ref+03067>), which contains an explanation of the addition or replacement of the SBE Subcontractor. Form No. 1373 is incorporated by reference herein and a copy can be obtained at no cost by contacting the ~~South Florida Water Management District's~~ SBE Clerk's Office, South Florida Water Management District, 3301 Gun Club Road, West Palm Beach, FL 33406, (800) 432-2045, ext. ~~6446 6805~~, or (561) ~~682-6446 6805~~, or via email sbep@sfwmd.gov. In addition, a completed Form No. 0957, "Statement of Intent to Perform as a Small Business Enterprise Subcontractor," incorporated by reference in subsection paragraph 40E-7.669(18) ~~40E-7.670(2)(a)~~, F.A.C., must be submitted if applicable.

(5) Failure of the Prime Contractor to meet its SBE requirements in a District contract will be a factor considered by the District when making the District makes its responsibility determinations for future ~~District~~ contract awards and when considering the District considers whether to place a Prime Contractor on the Temporary or Permanent Suspension List under Rule 40E-7.218, F.A.C.

(6) Each District contract awarded with an SBE goal participation shall contain a provision incorporating the rules herein under this part by reference and a statement that failure to comply with the requirements of the bid or proposal submitted ~~to the District~~ by the a Prime Contractor shall be considered a material breach of contract which may result in suspension or debarment of the Businesses firms or individuals involved pursuant to Chapter 40E-7, F.A.C.

(7) If a District an SBE Prime contractor is in material breach of its contract with the District, as defined in subsection 40E-7.215(5), F.A.C., the District SBE Prime contractor shall be decertified.

(8) If an SBE Subcontractor causes a Prime Contractor to be in material breach of its contract with the District, as defined in subsection 40E-7.215(5), F.A.C., including, but not limited to, performance delay, the SBE Subcontractor shall be decertified.

Rulemaking Authority 373.044, 373.113 FS. Law Implemented 373.1135 FS. History—New 8-3-06, Amended 8-29-13, 12-9-20,_____.

40E-7.673 Certification/Recertification Eligibility – Small Business Enterprise.

District staff shall have the authority to accept, review, approve, certify, decertify and deny applications for SBE Certification/Recertification, as defined herein. Applicants must be registered with the District as a vendor prior to submitting an application for Certification.

(1) Applicants shall submit applications for SBE Certification/Recertification using Form No.

1231, "Small Business Enterprise SBE Certification/Recertification Application" ("Application"), (<http://www.fl.rules.org/Gateway/reference.asp?No-Ref-12424>), (effective ~~effective date August 3, 2006~~), (~~insert URL~~), which is incorporated by reference herein and is available at no cost by contacting the ~~South Florida Water Management District's SBE Clerk's Office~~, South Florida Water Management District, 3301 Gun Club Road, West Palm Beach, FL 33406, (800) 432-2045, ext. ~~6446 6805~~, or (561) 682-~~6446 6805~~, or via email sbep@sfwmd.gov. The Application must be signed by the individual with the authority to bind the Applicant.

(2) To establish Program SBE-eligibility, the Applicant shall:

(a) Provide documentation to demonstrate that the ~~three 3~~-year average Gross Rceipts of the Applicant, together with its Affiliate Businesses ~~Business~~, does not exceed ~~\$21 13~~-million if the business provides for Construction, \$8 5 million if the business provides for Commodities, and \$10 6 million if the business provides for Services. In determining the Gross Rceipts of the Business and its Affiliate Businesses ~~Business~~, the District shall consider the ~~three 3~~ federal income tax returns filed by the Applicant and its Affiliate Businesses for the ~~three 3~~-years immediately preceding Application submittal. If ~~three 3~~ federal income tax returns have not been filed for the ~~three 3~~ years immediately preceding Application submittal, then the Applicant must submit ~~a financial statements statement~~ (balance sheet and income statement) for any of the ~~three 3~~ years immediately preceding the Application submittal in which the Applicant or its Affiliate Businesses did not file a federal income tax return(s). Applicants or its Affiliate Businesses in business less than one year shall submit financial statements for the months in which it was in business. The Financial statements ~~statement~~ must be prepared by a Certified Public Accountant as defined by Section 473.301, F.S., not employed by the Applicant or its Affiliate Businesses, but retained for the purpose of preparing financial statements for the Applicant or its Affiliate Businesses. ~~The opening balance sheet and income Financial statements statement~~ must be submitted on letterhead from the Applicant's or its Affiliate Businesses' Certified Public Accountant.

(b) The Applicant must hold and provide demonstrate that the appropriate license(s) or certification(s) business, is licensed as required by law to do business and perform work in the State of Florida if the business requires a license. Licenses and certifications must be valid at the time of submittal and remain active throughout the Certification period.

(c) Applicants must have the authority to conduct business in the State of Florida in accordance with the Florida Department of State Division of Corporations, including the use of Fictitious Names, if applicable. Applicants must remain in good standing throughout the Certification period.

(d) ~~(e)~~ An Applicant shall have only one 1 Business, including its Affiliate Businesses, certified with the ~~South Florida Water Management District~~.

(3) An Applicant that has been debarred or suspended, or organized by an entity, individual, or Affiliate Business that has been debarred or suspended, is ineligible to be a District SBE. Rulemaking Authority 373.044, 373.113 FS. Law Implemented 373.1135 FS. History—New 8-3-06, Amended 12-9-20,_____.

40E-7.674 Certification/Recertification Review Procedures.

(1) Upon receipt by the District, all Applications for ~~SBE Certification~~ shall be given an initial screening screened to ensure appropriate signature and completeness. If an Application for Recertification is timely submitted, the District SBE shall remain certified until the District has made a determination concerning eligibility. The application must be signed by the individual with the authority to bind the Applicant.

(2) Within 60 days following receipt of the Application, the District will request that the Applicant furnish omitted items or additional information, if any. All requested information must be received by the District within 60 days from the date of the request or the Application Applicant will be deemed incomplete ineligible for Certification. Applicants may ~~however~~, re-apply by submitting a new Application meeting Certification requirements detailed in Rule 40E-7.673 F.A.C.

(3) Applicants ~~deemed determined~~ eligible for Certification/Recertification shall receive a letter via email certifying them ~~Certification as a an-District SBE from District staff. The Once certified,~~ Applicant shall remain certified for a period of three 3 years, unless decertified. If the Applicant does not adhere to the ~~District's SBE Program~~ they will be subject to Decertification. The District retains the right to re-evaluate the Certification of any District SBE business at any time.

(4) Applicants ~~deemed determined~~ ineligible for Certification/Recertification shall receive a letter via email ~~notification from the District. citing which specific criteria of Rule 40E-7.673, F.A.C., that they failed to meet and advising that they Ineligible Applicants shall not be eligible to~~ submit a new Application until for 180 days after the date of the letter or the District's final agency order denying Certification/Recertification District notification.

Rulemaking Authority 373.044, 373.113 FS. Law Implemented 373.1135 FS. History—New 8-3-06, Amended 8-29-07, 8-29-13, 12-9-20,_____.

40E-7.675 Recertification Review Procedures.

Rulemaking Authority 373.044, 373.113 FS. Law Implemented 373.1135 FS. History—New 8-3-06, Amended 8-29-13, 12-9-20, Repealed,_____.

40E-7.676 Decertification.

(1) Decertification of a District SBE shall occur when:

(a) The District determines that the District SBE no longer complies with the Program's Certification criteria, including, but not limited to, Program graduation. Program Graduates may complete their work under all current District projects under their previous Certification status provided that the bid or proposal submission date of those projects occurred prior to the date of Program graduation; or,

(b) The District learns that the District SBE submitted false information to obtain Certification/Recertification; or,

(c) The District SBE Prime is in material breach of its contract with the District as defined in subsection 40E-7.215(5), F.A.C.; or,

(d) The SBE Subcontractor causes a Prime Contractor to be in material breach its contract with the District as defined in subsection 40E-7.215(5), F.A.C., including, but not limited to, performance delay.

~~The Decertification of an SBE shall occur when the District determines that an SBE no longer complies with the District's Certification criteria. The District will also Decertify an SBE if the District learns that the SBE submitted false information in order to obtain SBE Certification. The District may also decertify an SBE if the SBE materially breaches its contract with the District as defined in subsection 40E 7.215(5), F.A.C. Further, an SBE subcontractor will be decertified if it causes a Prime Contractor to materially breach its contract with the District as defined in subsection 40E 7.215(5), F.A.C., including, but not limited to, performance delay.~~

(2) (1) District staff shall inform the District SBE in writing via by email certified mail, return

~~receipt requested~~, of the facts or conduct which formed the basis for Decertification. The Decertification letter issued by the District shall contain:

~~(2)The Decertification notice issued by the District shall contain:~~

(a) The statutory provisions(s) or rules(s) of the Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.) which the District alleges that the District SBE violated; and

(b) No Change

(c) A statement that the Business firm has the right to file a request for an administrative hearing pursuant to Sections 120.569 and 120.57, F.S., within 21 days of receipt of the Decertification letter notice; and,

(d) A statement that the Decertification shall become conclusive and final agency action if no request for a hearing is filed with the District Clerk's Office, South Florida Water Management District, 3301 Gun Club Road, West Palm Beach, FL 33406, (800) 432-2045, ext. 6805, or (561) 682-6805 within 21 days from receipt of the Decertification letter notice.

(3) If the District SBE fails to file a request for a hearing within 21 days after receipt of the Decertification letter notice, the Decertification shall become final agency action.

(4) If the District SBE files a request for an administrative hearing, ~~they the SBE~~ shall remain certified unless and until a Final Order is issued by the District ~~d~~Decertifying the District SBE after an administrative hearing.

Rulemaking Authority 373.044, 373.113 FS. Law Implemented 373.1135 FS. History—New 8-3-06, Amended 12-9-20,_____.

40E-7.677 Reciprocity.

Reciprocal Certification shall be granted to an Applicant that is certified by another Florida ~~G~~Government Agency, provided that the Government Agency has a small business program, ~~including those owned by women and minorities~~. The Applicant shall provide the District with official documentation from the other ~~G~~Governmental Agencies stating the Certification and expiration dates. Once certified, ~~the~~ Applicant shall remain certified with the District for a period of ~~three~~ 3 years. The District reserves the right to request any additional documentation to verify or clarify the authentication of the information provided.

Rulemaking Authority 373.044, 373.113 FS. Law Implemented 373.1135 FS. History—New 8-3-06, Amended 8-29-13, 12-9-20,_____.

40E-7.678 Administrative Hearings.

If an Applicant believes it has been wrongly denied Certification/~~or~~ Recertification, or that it has been inappropriately ~~d~~Decertified as a ~~an~~ District SBE, it may file a request for hearing pursuant to Sections 120.569 and 120.57, F.S., by submitting a petition in accordance with Chapter 28-106, F.A.C., within 21 days of receipt of ~~the denial or Decertification letter Notice of Denial of Certification or Recertification or Notice of Decertification as a District SBE~~.

Rulemaking Authority 373.044, 373.113 FS. Law Implemented 373.1135 FS. History—New 8-3-06, Amended 12-9-20,_____.

NAME OF PERSON ORIGINATING PROPOSED RULE: Candida Heater, Director, Administrator Services

NAME OF AGENCY HEAD WHO APPROVED THE PROPOSED RULE: South Florida Water Management District Governing Board

DATE PROPOSED RULE APPROVED BY AGENCY HEAD: March 13, 2025

DATE NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULE DEVELOPMENT PUBLISHED IN FAR: November 14,
2024

MEMORANDUM

TO: Governing Board Members

FROM: , Ecosystem Restoration

DATE: March 13, 2025

SUBJECT: A. Caloosahatchee Water Quality Improvement Projects, Lee County

Agenda Item Background:

Three water quality improvement projects in Lee County have been awarded grant funding through the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Caloosahatchee Watershed Grant Program. The 627-acre Frank Mann Preserve Project will be implemented at a cost of \$15.5 Million by the Lehigh Acres Municipal Services Improvement District. The project has two phases and includes design, permitting, and construction, with completion expected in August 2028, and a contract end-date of December 31, 2028. Lee County will implement both the 8-acre Palm Creek Lower Filter Marsh Project and the 47.14-acre Bob Janes Preserve Restoration Project, at a cost of \$1.5 Million and \$2.5 Million, respectively. These projects are being funded for construction, with completion expected by July 2027, and a contract end-date of October 31, 2027. Due to the costs involved, Governing Board approval is needed for entering into grant agreements for the identified projects.

Additional Item Background:

Core Mission and Strategic Priorities:

These projects provide water storage and treatment, flood protection, aquifer recharge and water quality benefits for the Caloosahatchee River, and will assist in meeting the Caloosahatchee River and Estuary BMAP (Basin Management Action Plan) TMDL (Total Maximum Daily Load) targets for Total Nitrogen. The grant agreements for these projects will be managed through the Everglades and Estuaries Protection Bureau.

Funding Source:

State appropriations totaling \$19,500,000, for which \$6,000,000 in dedicated funds (State Grants) is budgeted in Fiscal Year 2024-2025, and the remainder is subject to Governing Board approval of future years' budgets.

Staff Contact and/or Presenter:

Jennifer Reynolds, jreynolds@sfwmd.gov, 561-682-6672
Megan Jacoby, mjacoby@sfwmd.gov, 561-682-6517

ATTACHMENTS:

[Resolution No. 2025-0311](#)

[Map](#)

SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

Resolution No. 2025 - 03XX

A Resolution of the Governing Board of the South Florida Water Management District authorizing entering into agreements with grant-eligible entities for the Caloosahatchee River Water Quality Improvement projects in an approximate amount of \$19,500,000, for which \$6,000,000 in dedicated funds (State Grants) is budgeted in Fiscal Year 2024-2025, and the remainder is subject to Governing Board approval of future years' budgets; providing an effective date.

- **\$15,500,000 Agreement with Lehigh Acres Municipal Services Improvement District for the Frank Mann Preserve Project (Contract No. 4600005172, through 12/31/28)**
- **\$1,500,000 Agreement with Lee County Board of County Commissioners for the Palm Creek Lower Filter Marsh Project (Contract No. 4600005173, through 10/31/27)**
- **\$2,500,000 Agreement with Lee County Board of County Commissioners for the Bob Janes Preserve Project (Contract No. 4600005174, through 10/31/27)**

WHEREAS, in January 2024 Governor Ron Desantis and the Florida Legislature approved over \$30 Million for water quality improvement projects that benefit the Caloosahatchee River.

WHEREAS, the water quality improvement projects will supplement other existing and planned projects and programs to achieve the South Florida Water Management District core 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.

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 agreements with grant eligible entities (Lee County and Lehigh Acres Municipal Services Improvement District) for the Caloosahatchee River Water Quality Improvement projects totaling approximately \$19,500,00. The grant funding awarded is \$15,000,000 for the Frank Mann Preserve Project, \$1,500,000 for the Palm Creek Lower Filter Marsh Project, and \$2,500,000 for the Bob Janes Preserve Project. (Contract Nos. 4600005172, 4600005173, and 4600005174)

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

PASSED and **ADOPTED** this 13th day of March, 2025.



Legend

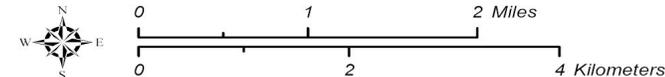
 Project Boundary



BASE CREDITS:
State plane projection, Florida east zone, NAD 83-HARN, US feet.

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

Caloosahatchee Watershed Grant Projects



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: February 2025



MEMORANDUM

TO: Governing Board Members

FROM: , Ecosystem Restoration

DATE: March 13, 2025

SUBJECT: B. Lake Hicpochee Hydrologic Enhancement - Phase 2 Expansion Project, Glades County

Agenda Item Background:

As part of the Northern Everglades and Estuaries Protection Program, the Lake Hicpochee Hydrologic Enhancement - Phase 2 Expansion Project, located in Glades County, will expand the Phase 1 670-acre Flow Equalization Basin (FEB) with its current storage capacity of 1,279 acre-feet by 2,200 acres and increase storage capacity by 8,058 acre-feet. The original FEB project was designed to redirect runoff from the C-19 basin through the FEB and into Lake Hicpochee. The expansion project aims to capture and store excess stormwater runoff from the Caloosahatchee Watershed and gradually release it back into the Caloosahatchee River through Lake Hicpochee to enhance the historic lakebed's hydrology.

The project includes a 2,200-acre impoundment, 225 cfs inflow pump station, 1.75-mile-long inflow canal, two control structures, two bridges, and public access features. This project provides ecological and hydrological benefits, including improved water quality, enhanced wetland restoration, increased water storage capacity, and support for minimum flows and levels compliance, while also offering expanded public recreational opportunities.

The lowest responsive and responsible bidder is recommended for award. In accordance with District policy and consistent with state law for Request for Bids procurements, this item was competitively bid through a sealed bid process. The bid opening for this project was on March 5, 2025.

Additional Item Background:

Core Mission and Strategic Priorities:

Lake Hicpochee Hydrologic Enhancement - Phase 2 Expansion Project supports the District's core missions of water quality, water supply, flood control, and ecosystem restoration.

Funding Source:

Lake Hicpochee Hydrologic Enhancement – Phase 2 Expansion Project will be funded through dedicated funds (Land Acquisition Trust Fund and State Grant).

Staff Contact and/or Presenter:

Jennifer Reynolds, jreynolds@sfwmd.gov, 561-682-6672
Lucine Dadrian, P.E., ldadrian@sfwmd.gov, 561-682-2685

ATTACHMENTS:

Resolution No. 2025-0312

SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

Resolution No. 2025 - XXXX

A Resolution of the Governing Board of the South Florida Water Management District to authorize entering into a 1,075-day contract with Phillips & Jordan, Inc., the lowest responsive and responsible bidder, for the Lake Hicpochee Hydrologic Enhancement - Phase 2 Expansion Project in the amount of \$126,074,200, for which \$18,000,000 in dedicated funds (Land Acquisition Trust Fund and State Grant) are budgeted in Fiscal Year 2024-2025 and the remainder is subject to Governing Board approval of future years' budgets; providing an effective date. (Contract No. 4600005185)

WHEREAS, the Governing Board of the South Florida Water Management District deems it necessary, appropriate, and in the public interest to enter into a 1,075-day contract with Phillips & Jordan, Inc, for the Lake Hicpochee Hydrologic Enhancement – Phase 2 Expansion Project, in the amount of \$126,074,200.

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 1,075-day contract with Phillips & Jordan, Inc , the lowest responsive and responsible bidder, for the Lake Hicpochee Hydrologic Enhancement - Phase 2 Expansion Project, in the amount of \$126,074,200, for which \$18,000,000 in dedicated funds (Land Acquisition Trust Fund and State Grant) are budgeted in Fiscal Year 2024-2025 and the remainder is subject to Governing Board approval of future years' budgets. (Contract No. 4600005185)

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

PASSED and ADOPTED this 13th day of March, 2025.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Governing Board Members

FROM: , Field Operations Division

DATE: March 13, 2025

SUBJECT: Design/Build of the Okeechobee Field Station Expansion and Relocation Project Amendment No. 2, Phase Two Construction Services, Okeechobee County

Agenda Item Background:

As part of the Everglades Restoration Program, the Okeechobee Field Station Expansion and Relocation Project is located in Okeechobee County. The facility will support restoration projects such as the C-44 Reservoir and STA, the C-23/24 North and South Reservoirs and STA, the C-25 Reservoir and STA, the North of Lake Okeechobee Storage Reservoir, and Aquifer Storage and Recovery facilities as well as critical flood control works. The project consists of the design and construction of a new facility that combines the Okeechobee Field Station, Okeechobee Service Center, Water Quality Lab, SCADA, alternate Emergency Operations Center, and offices for Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commissions South Region Statewide Nuisance Alligator Program. The new facility will be relocated to a District-owned parcel in Okeechobee County. The existing field station has reached the end of its useful life and requires replacement with facilities that meet present code requirements and expanded facility needs. The existing Service Center is operated in a leased facility and inclusion of the Service Center will allow the services to be provided from a District-owned facility.

The new facility will include additional office space, fleet, structure maintenance, canal maintenance, electrical and SCADA service bays, water quality lab, emergency generator, alternate Emergency Operations Center and back up control center, fueling facility, vehicle wash area, microwave tower and shelter, parking areas, and associated utilities. This facility will consolidate and centrally locate the works and services provided in support of the District's mission through the combined efforts of planning, operations and maintenance, community and government relations, land management, regulation and in-house construction.

The use of the design-build procurement method allows the District to work in collaboration with a Design-Builder from the conceptual phase through construction of the new facility. In October 2023, the Board approved for State Contracting and Engineering Corporation (SCEC) to provide design services for 90% and 100% deliverables. In February 2024, the Board approved for SCEC to construct the Microwave Communication Tower, Offsite Water and Sewer Utilities, and Roadway Improvements. This item will support the balance of the construction for the Okeechobee Field Station buildings and ancillary features of the facility.

Additional Item Background:

Core Mission and Strategic Priorities:

Okeechobee Field Station Relocation Project supports the District's core missions of flood control, water supply, water quality, ecosystem restoration and emergency management.

Funding Source:

The Okeechobee Field Station Relocation Project will be funded through dedicated funds (Land Acquisition Trust Fund and State General Revenue).

Staff Contact and/or Presenter:

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

Lucine Dadrian, P.E. ldadrian@sfwmd.gov 561-682-2685

ATTACHMENTS:

[Resolution No. 2025-0313](#)

SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

Resolution No. 2025 - XXXX

A Resolution of the Governing Board of the South Florida Water Management District to authorize an amendment to the Design/Build contract with State Contracting and Engineering Corporation for the Okeechobee Field Station Relocation Project, authorizing Phase II for the construction of a new Okeechobee Field Station complex, adding 247 days and the stipulated price proposal in an amount not to exceed \$80,693,127.00, for which \$20,000,000.00 in dedicated funds (Land Acquisition Trust Fund and State General Revenue) are budgeted in Fiscal Year 2024-2025 and the remainder is subject to Governing Board approval of future years' budgets, providing an effective date. (Contract No. 4600004857-A2)

WHEREAS, the Governing Board of the South Florida Water Management District deems it necessary, appropriate, and in the public interest to amend the contract with State Contracting and Engineering Corporation authorizing Phase II of the construction of a new Okeechobee Field Station, Okeechobee Service Center, and offices for Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commissions South Region Statewide Nuisance Alligator Program.

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 Amendment No. 2 to the Design/Build contract with State Contracting and Engineering Corporation for the Okeechobee Field Station Relocation Project, authorizing Phase II for the construction of a new Okeechobee Field Station complex, adding 247 days and the stipulated price proposal in an amount not to exceed \$80,693,127.00, for which \$20,000,000.00 in dedicated funds (Land Acquisition Trust Fund and State General Revenue) are budgeted in Fiscal Year 2024-2025 and the remainder is subject to Governing Board approval of future years' budgets, providing an effective date. (Contract No.4600004857-A2)

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PASSED and ADOPTED this 13th day of March, 2025.

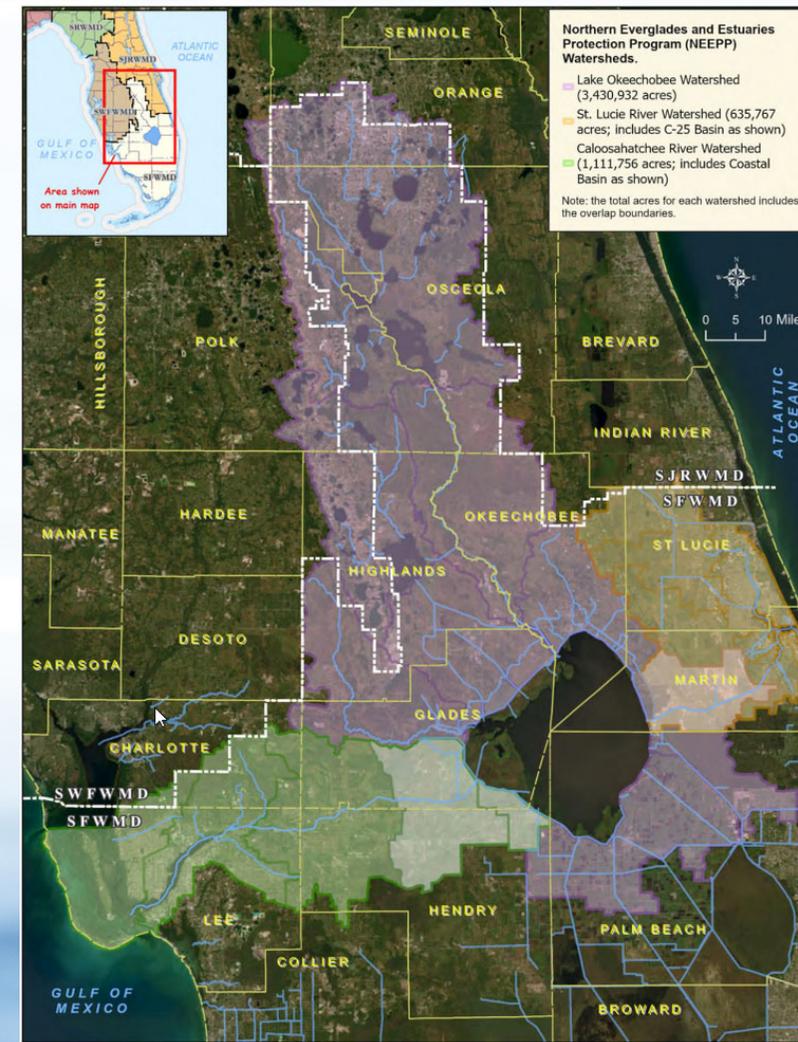
Caloosahatchee River Watershed Projects

Jennifer Reynolds
Division Director, Ecosystem Restoration
South Florida Water Management District
Governing Board Meeting
March 13, 2025



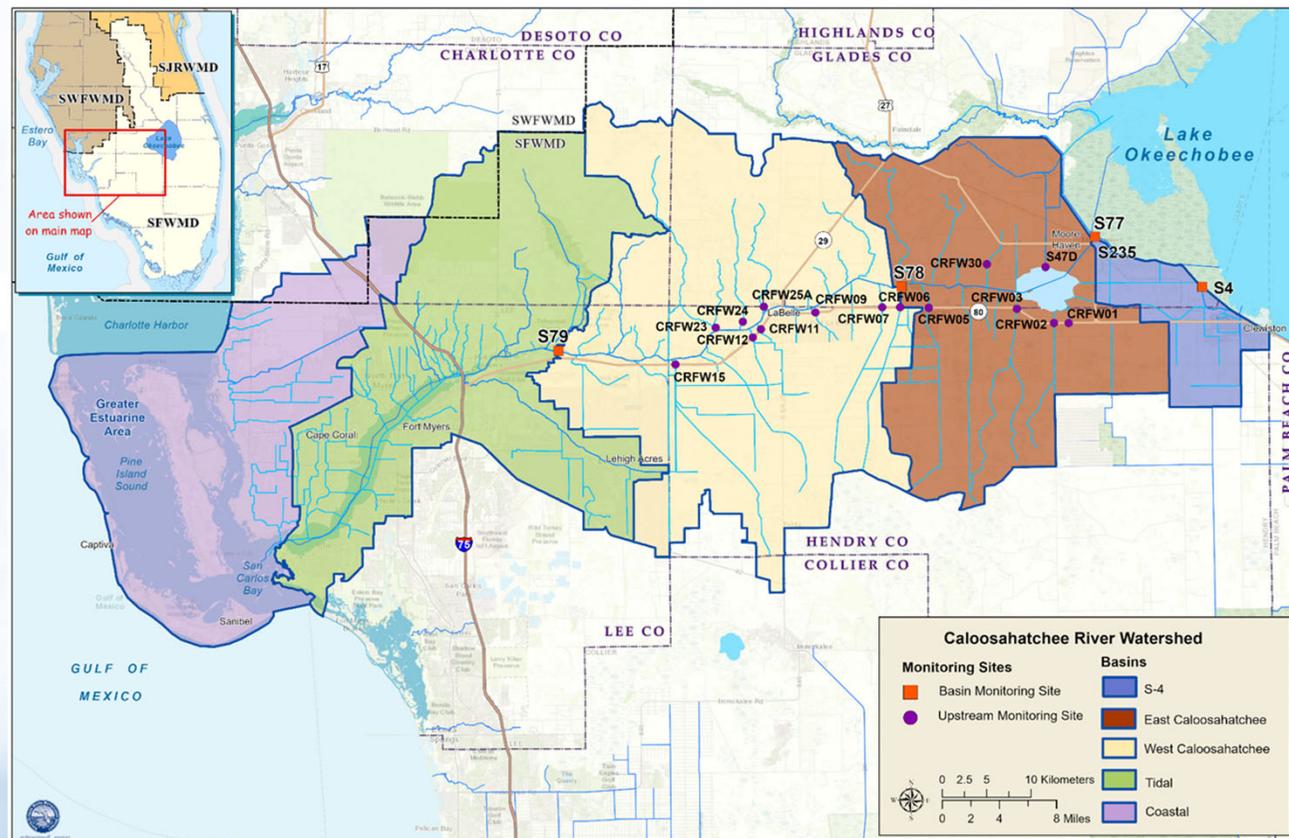
Northern Everglades and Estuaries Protection Program

- Purpose: Protect and restore surface water resources by improving hydrology and water quality for the Northern Everglades ecosystem (373.4595(1)(c), F.S.)
- Goals:
 - Improve Water Quality
 - Manage Water Quantity



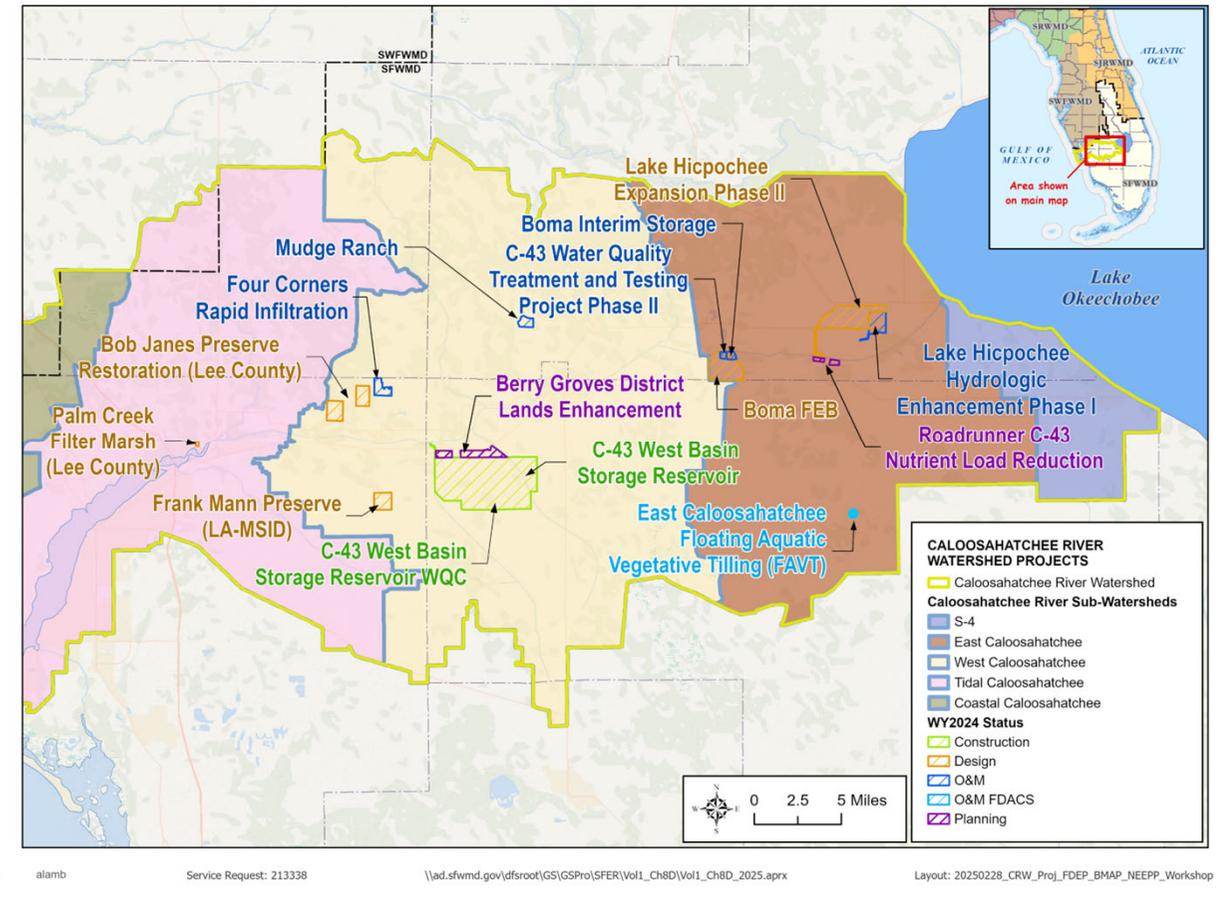
Caloosahatchee River Watershed (CRW)

- Total watershed 882,435 acres
- Comprised of 5 Basins
- Watershed targets:
 - Total Nitrogen load: 1,383 metric tons per year (t/yr)
 - Static Storage: 400,000 acre-feet/ year (ac-ft)
- Monitoring Stations
 - 5 Basin level sites
 - 15 Upstream level sites



5-Year CRW Protection Plan Update

- Watershed boundary revised
- Reevaluated storage with Regional Simulation Model
- Watershed Assessment
- Project Progress
 - Planning (2)
 - Design (5)
 - Construction (2)
 - O&M (6)



CRW Dispersed Water Management Projects

Four Corners



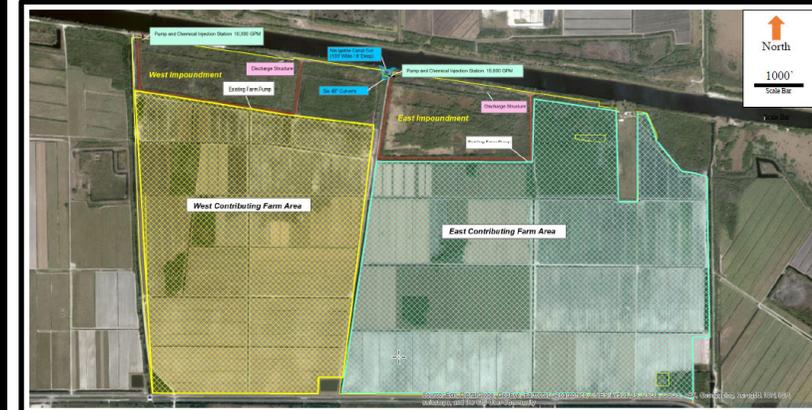
- Impoundment & Water Control Features (2023)
- 463 acres
- 20,000 ac-ft of storage via a 22-acre rapid infiltration area

Mudge Ranch



- Passive Storage on former grazing lands (2014)
- 251 acres
- Stormwater retention, groundwater recharge, nutrient retention

Roadrunner



- Impoundment & Chemical Treatment (2026)
- 150 acres
- C-43 to alum-wetland treatment

CRW Public Projects

Boma Test Cells



- Phase II – research evaluates effectiveness of constructed wetlands to reduce nitrogen at test-cell scale (2025)

Boma Storage



- Interim Storage Impoundment (2019)
- Future Flow Equalization Basin (2029)

CRW Public Projects

C-43 Reservoir Water Quality Component



- Inline alum injection system at the C-43 West Basin Storage Reservoir project to reduce the discharge of nutrients (2025)

Berry Groves District Lands Enhancement



- 1,900-acre mixed upland and wetland District Lands on former citrus groves (2027)



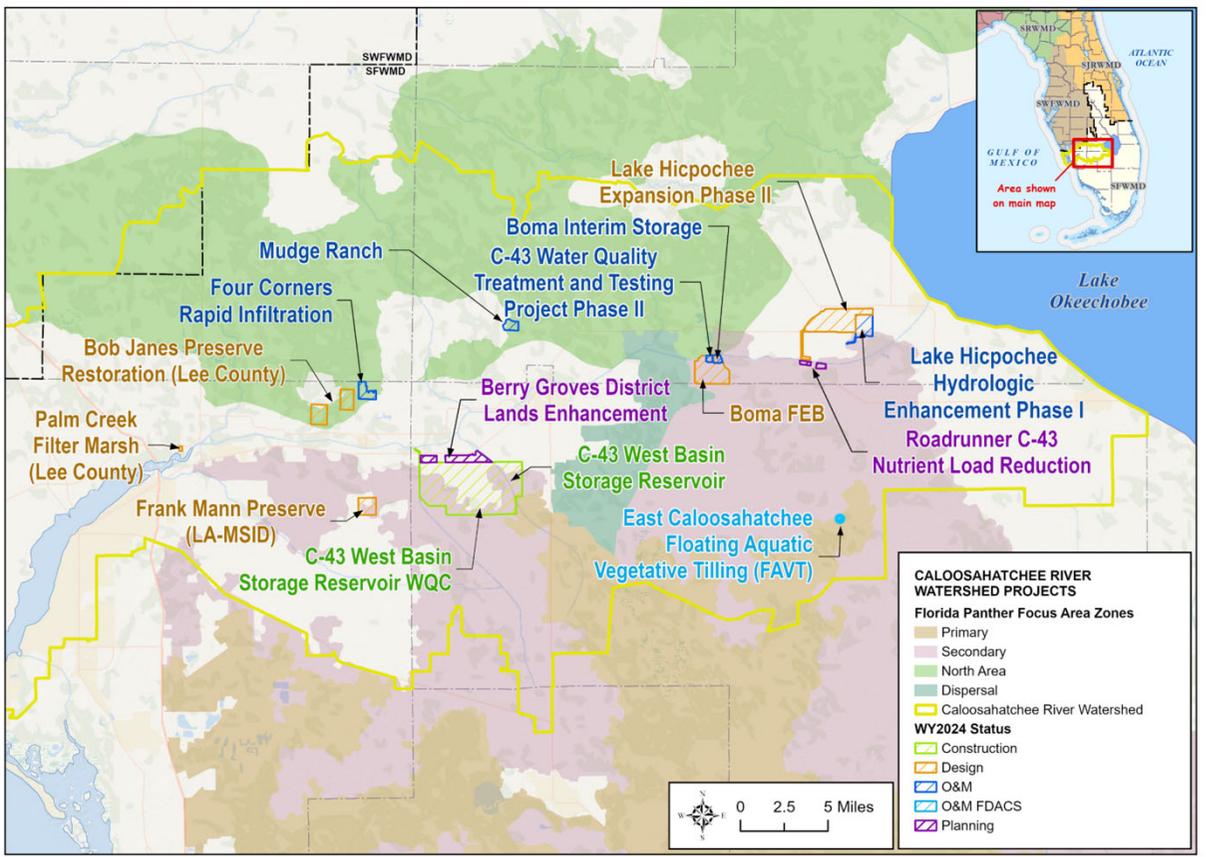
US Army Corps
of Engineers®

CRW CERP Project C-43 West Basin Storage Reservoir

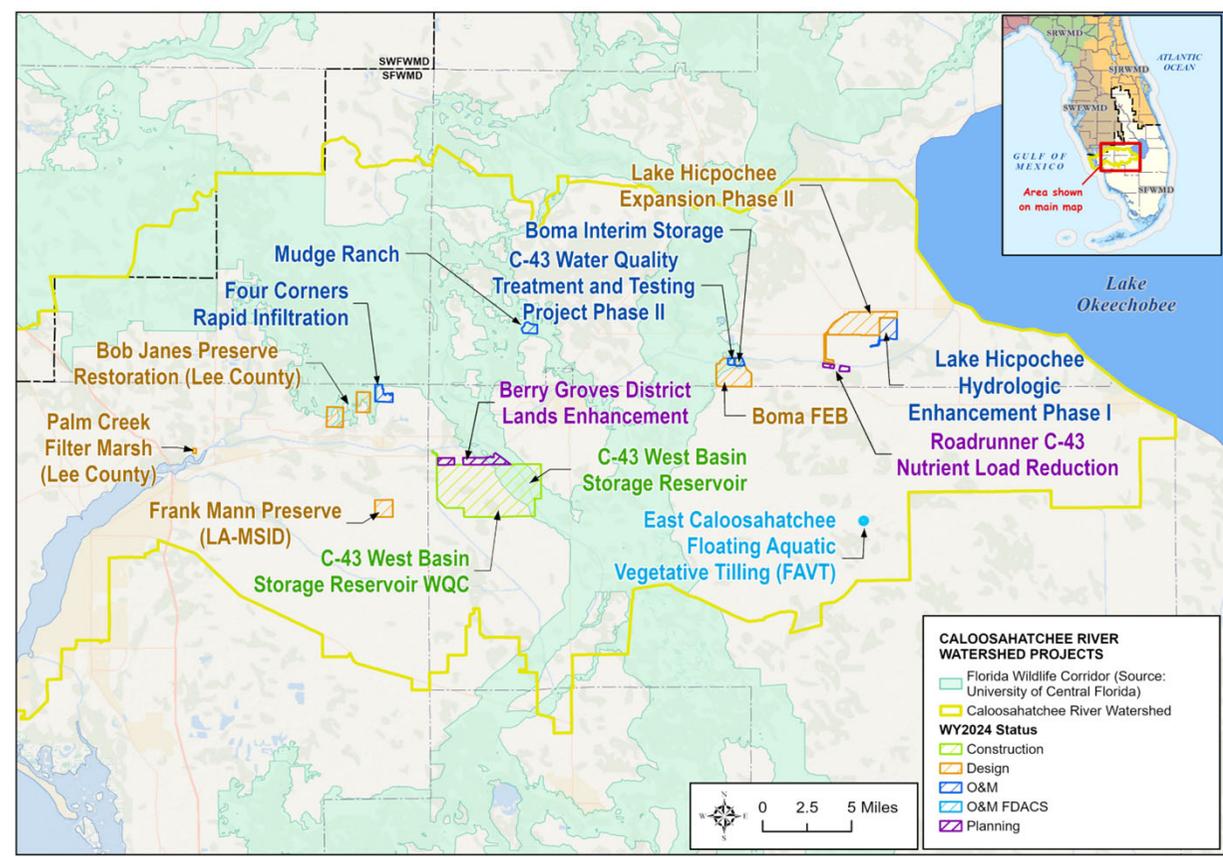
- 10,700-acre reservoir, depth range from 15-25 ft
- 170,000 ac-ft/yr expected storage



CRW Panther Habitat Conservation



Panther Focus Area Zones (FWC, FWS)



Florida Wildlife Corridor Foundation

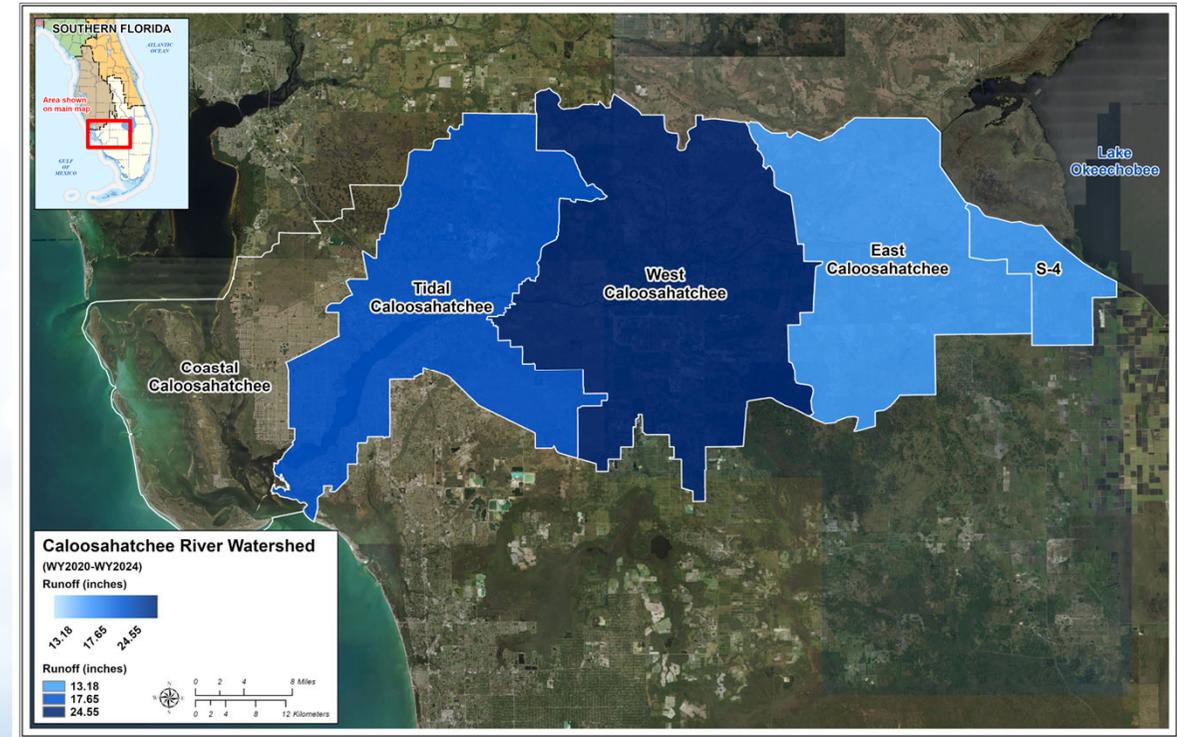
CRW Future Storage Projects

Problem: Storage Needed

- Need additional 174,000 ac-ft of storage
- Prioritize storage in the West Basin

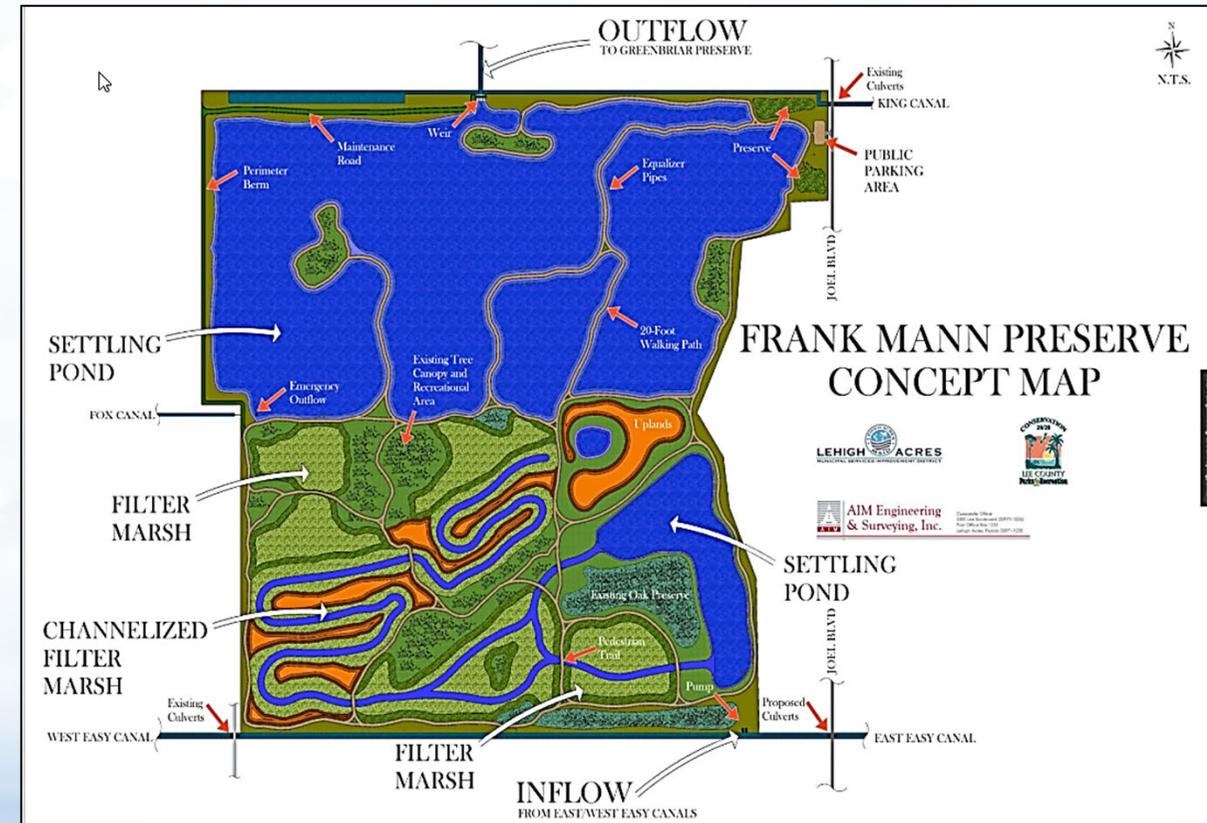
Solution: CRW Storage Solicitation

- Advertising Spring 2025



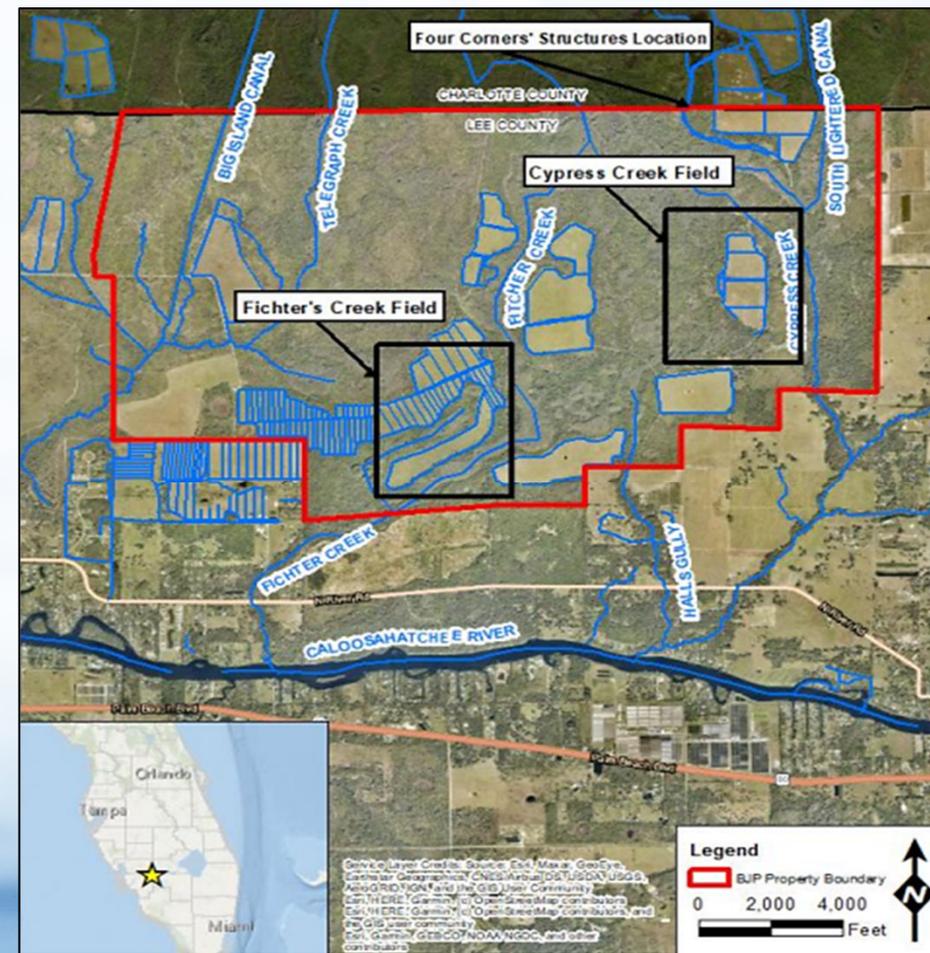
CRW Grant Project - Frank Mann Preserve

- Implemented by Lehigh Acres Municipal Services Improvement District (LA-MSID)
- Objective: Enhanced water quality, flood protection, aquifer recharge, public recreation
- Project Benefits
 - 3,000-4,000 ac-ft/yr expected storage
 - Remove 0.7 mt of Total Phosphorous (TP) and 2.5 mt of Total Nitrogen (TN)
- Cost: \$15.5M
- Schedule: Design & Permitting 2025



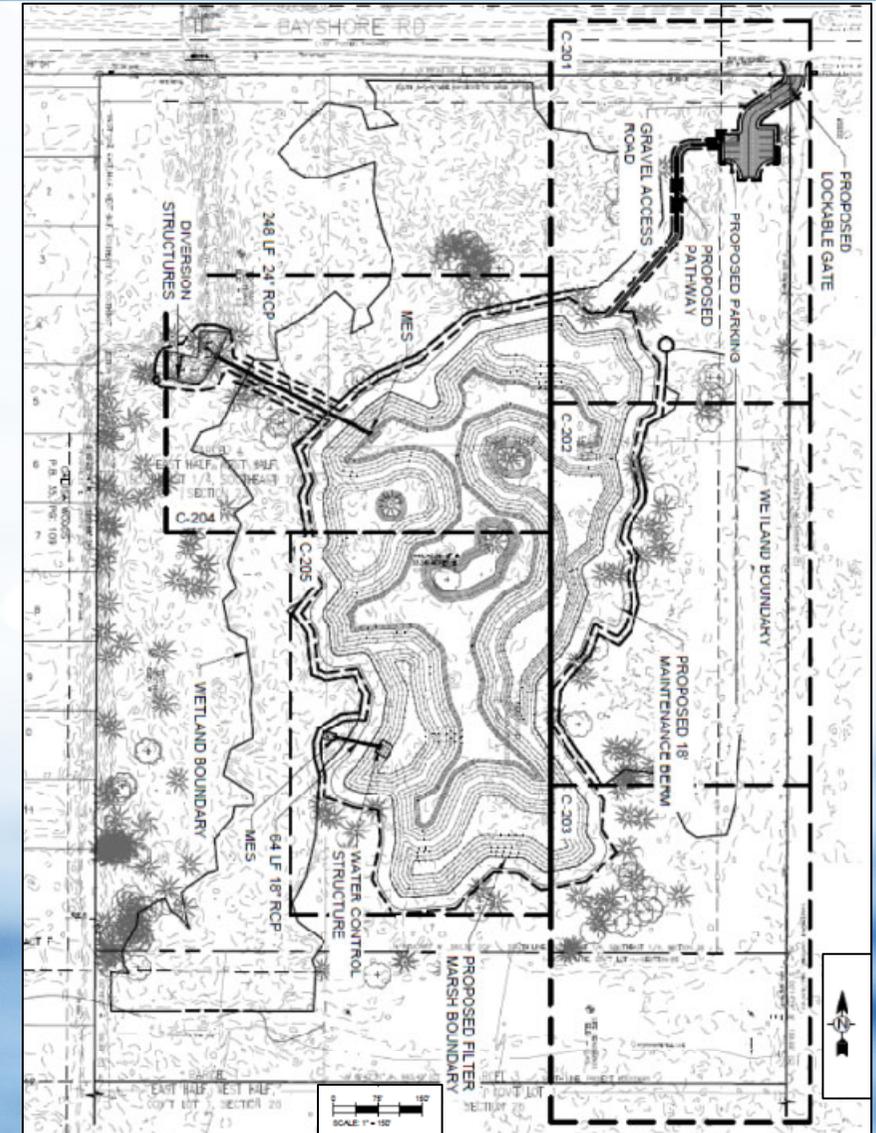
CRW Grant Project – Bob Janes Preserve

- Implemented by Lee County
- Objective: Enhanced water quality, flood control, aquifer recharge, wildlife habitat, public recreation
- Project Benefits
 - 80 ac-ft/yr expected storage
 - Remove 0.1 mt of Total Phosphorous (TP) and 0.5 mt of Total Nitrogen (TN)
- Cost: \$2.5M
- Schedule: Construction starting Fall 2025



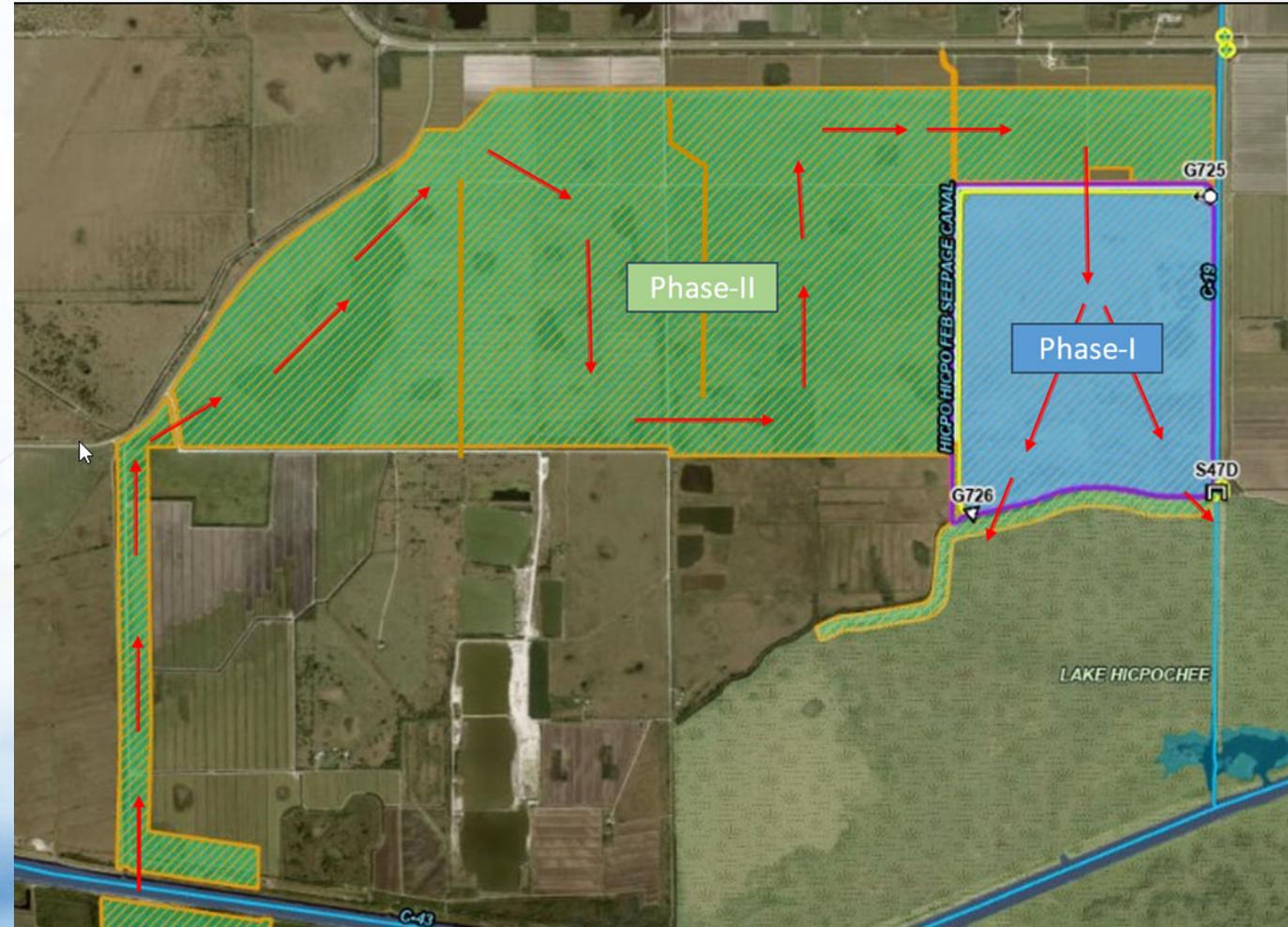
CRW Grant Project - Palm Creek Lower Filter Marsh

- Implemented by Lee County
- Objective: Enhanced water quality, aquifer recharge, wildlife habitat, public recreation
- Project Benefits
 - 18.5 ac-ft/yr expected storage
 - Remove 0.3 mt of Total Phosphorous (TP) and 2.1 mt of Total Nitrogen (TN)
- Cost: \$1.5M
- Schedule: Construction starting in Fall 2025



Lake Hicpochee Hydrologic Enhancement - Phase II

- Phase I – 670-acre FEB (2020)
- Phase II Expansion – ~2,200-acre FEB + pump station
- Objective: nutrient reduction, enhancing the hydrology of the historic lakebed, decrease discharge to the Caloosahatchee River Estuary



Lake Hicpochee Hydrologic Enhancement - Phase II

- 2 cell FEB increases total storage capacity by over 8,000 acre-feet
- 225 cfs pump station with three 75 cfs pumps
- 2 double gated culverts manage internal flows and discharges
- 1.75-mile Inflow Canal conveys water from the C-43 Canal
- 7.8 miles of seepage systems



Resolution No. 2025-0311

A Resolution of the Governing Board of the South Florida Water Management District to authorize entering into agreements with grant-eligible entities for the Caloosahatchee River Water Quality Improvement Projects in an approximate amount of \$19,500,000, for which \$6,000,000 in dedicated funds (State Grants) is budgeted in Fiscal Year 2024-2025, and the remainder is subject to Governing Board approval of future years' budgets.

- \$15,500,000 Agreement with Lehigh Acres Municipal Services Improvement District for the Frank Mann Preserve Project (Contract No. 4600005172, through 12/31/28)
- \$1,500,000 Agreement with Lee County Board of County Commissioners for the Palm Creek Lower Filter Marsh Project (Contract No. 4600005173, through 10/31/27)
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Resolution 2025-0312

A Resolution of the Governing Board of the South Florida Water Management District to authorize entering into a 1,075-day contract with Phillips & Jordan, Inc., the lowest responsive and responsible bidder, for the Lake Hicpochee Hydrologic Enhancement - Phase 2 Expansion Project in the amount of \$126,074,200, for which \$18,000,000 in dedicated funds (Land Acquisition Trust Fund and State Grant) are budgeted in Fiscal Year 2024-2025 and the remainder is subject to Governing Board approval of future years' budgets. (Contract No. 4600005185)

Okeechobee Field Station Expansion & Relocation Project Phase II Construction

Progressive Design-Build Contract Amendment 2

Rich Virgil, P.E., PMP
Division Director - Field Operations
South Florida Water Management District
Governing Board
March 13, 2025



Background

1962



- The existing field station opened for business in the early 1960s



Background

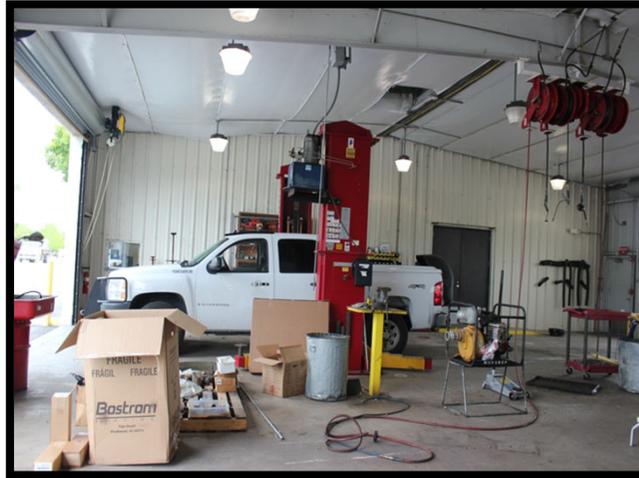


- Present day facility at 1000 NE 40th Avenue Okeechobee, FL
- The City of Okeechobee indicated that they did not want the District to rebuild the facility at the current location due it being within a residential community
- Additionally, the current facility does not have sanitary sewer connection available

Background



Building Corrosion



Limited Workspace



124

Inadequate Office Space



Inadequate Storage Space

- The existing field station has reached the end of its' service life and requires replacement with facilities that meet present code requirements and facility needs
- The existing service center is operated in a leased facility, the inclusion of the service center will allow the services to be provided from a District owned facility
- The new facility will consolidate and centrally locate the works and services provided in support of the District's mission through the combined efforts of Operations and Maintenance, Community and Government Relations, Land Management, Regulation, SCADA, Survey and Water Quality

Okeechobee Field Station Area of Responsibility

Infrastructure

Miles of Canal	447
Miles of Levee	636
Structures	112
Weirs	62
Locks	5
Pump Station	18
Project Culverts	237

Legend

	Culvert		Structures shown in red = USACE		New Reservoirs/ STAs
	Lock		Natural Storage/ Water Quality Treatment Projects		Operational STA and FEB Boundaries
	Pump		Operational Reservoirs		
	Spillway				
	Weir				
	Flume				
	ASR Facilities				



Okeechobee Field Station Area of Responsibility

Nubbin Slough STA



Taylor Creek STA

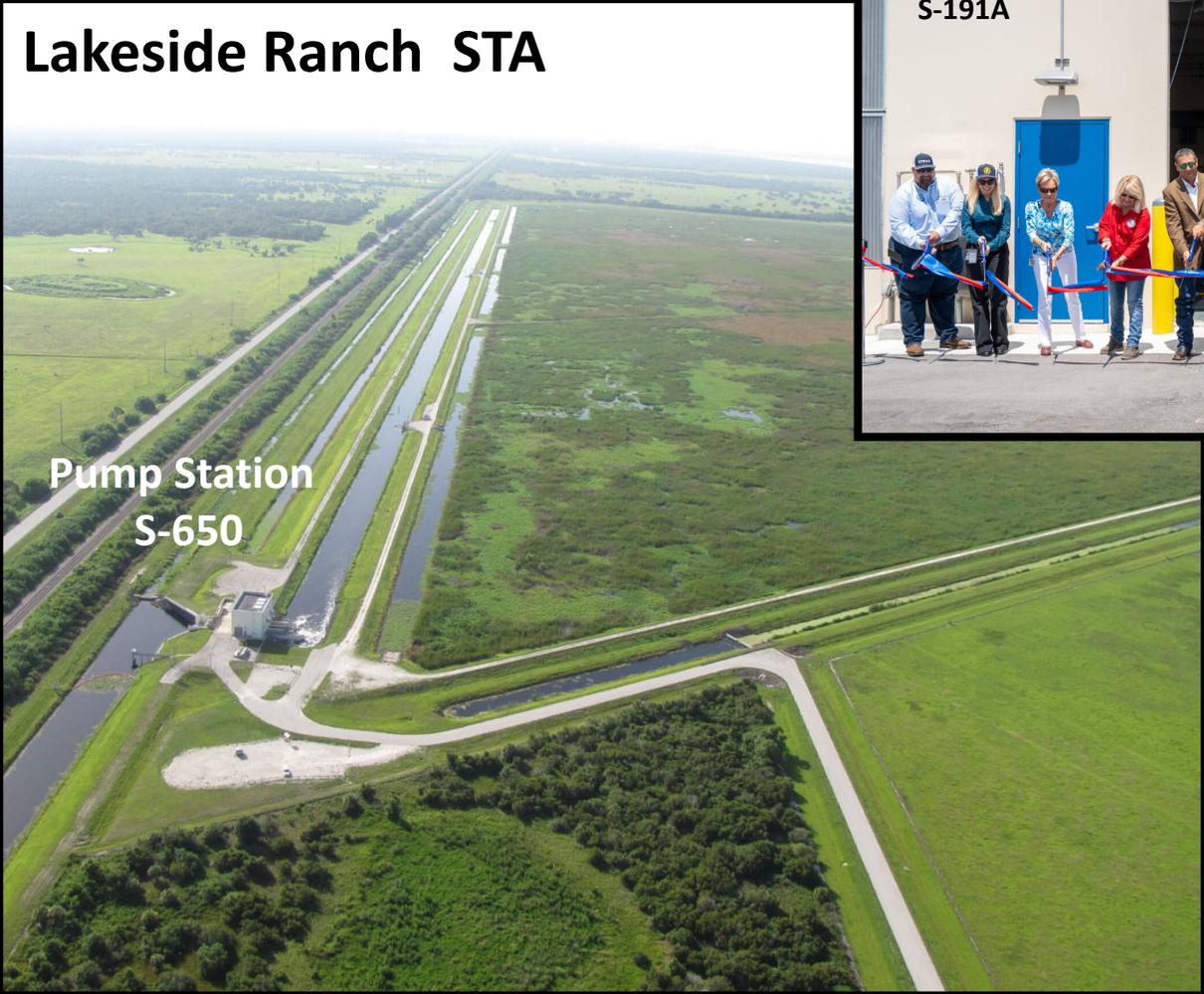


Okeechobee Field Station Area of Responsibility



Okeechobee Field Station Area of Responsibility

Lakeside Ranch STA



Pump Station S-650



S-191A



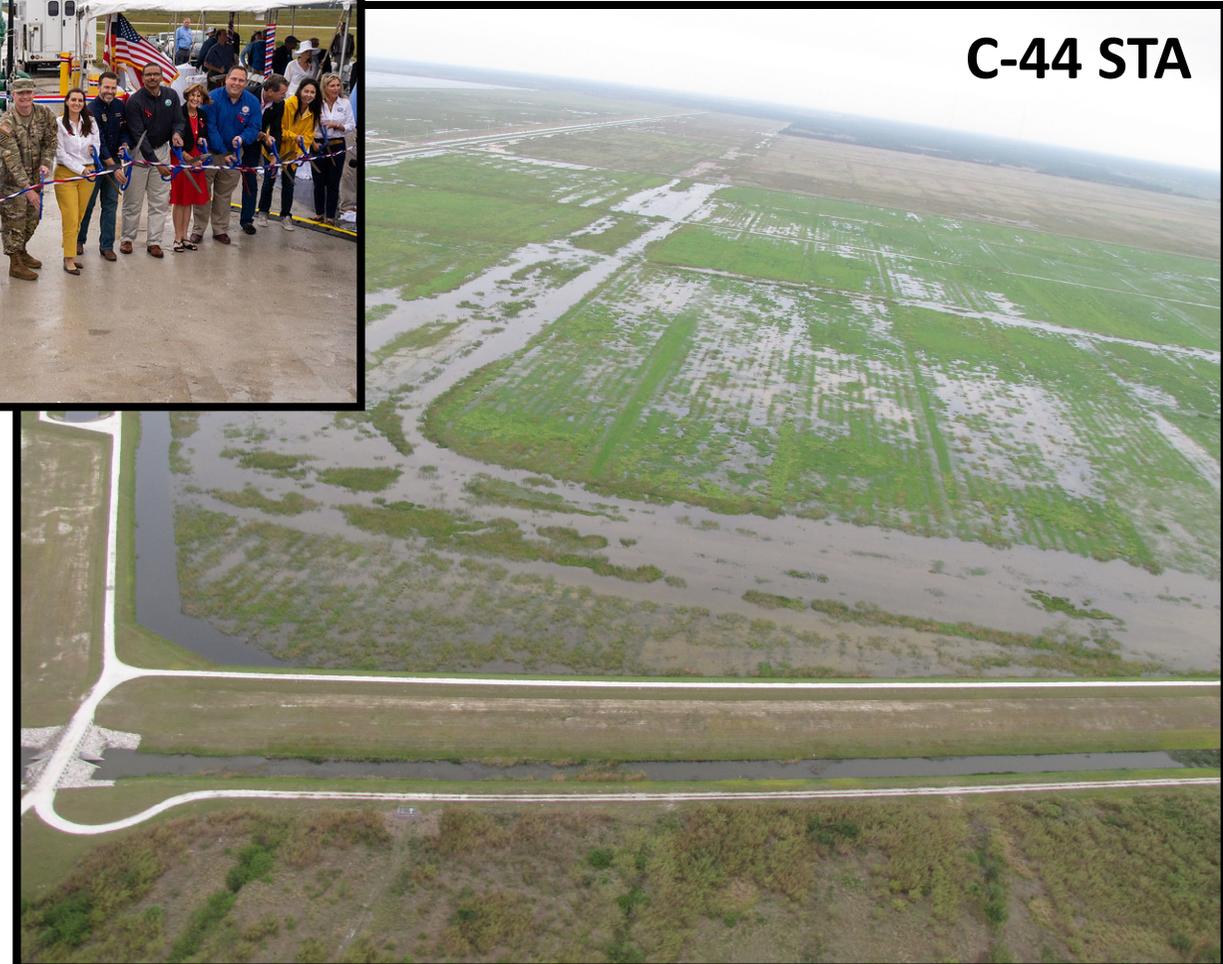
Pump Station S-191A

Okeechobee Field Station Area of Responsibility

C-44 Reservoir



C-44 STA



Okeechobee Field Station Area of Responsibility

C23/C24 STA



Pump Station S-441 Concrete Pour



Seepage Canal Revetment Installation

Okeechobee Field Station Area of Responsibility

C-23 Estuary Discharge Diversion



PS S-457 & C-23 Interconnect Canal



Pump Station S-457

Okeechobee Field Station Area of Responsibility

C-23/C-24 South Reservoir

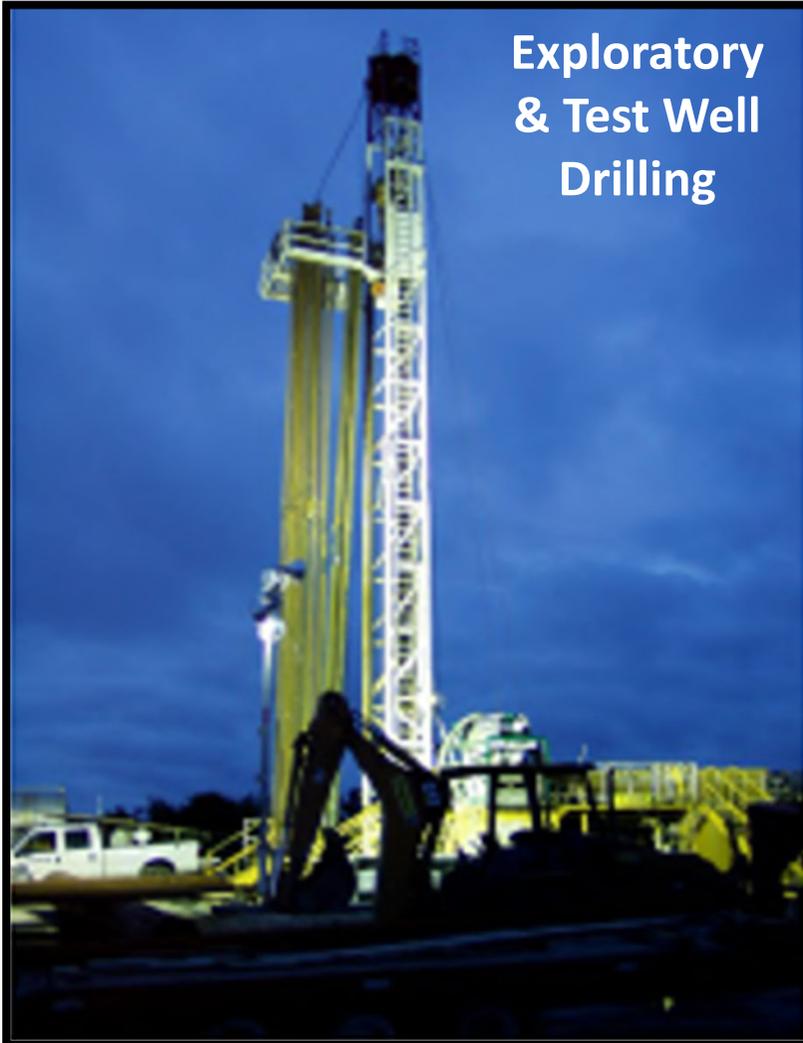


Const. Village Pad



Stockpile

Okeechobee Field Station Area of Responsibility

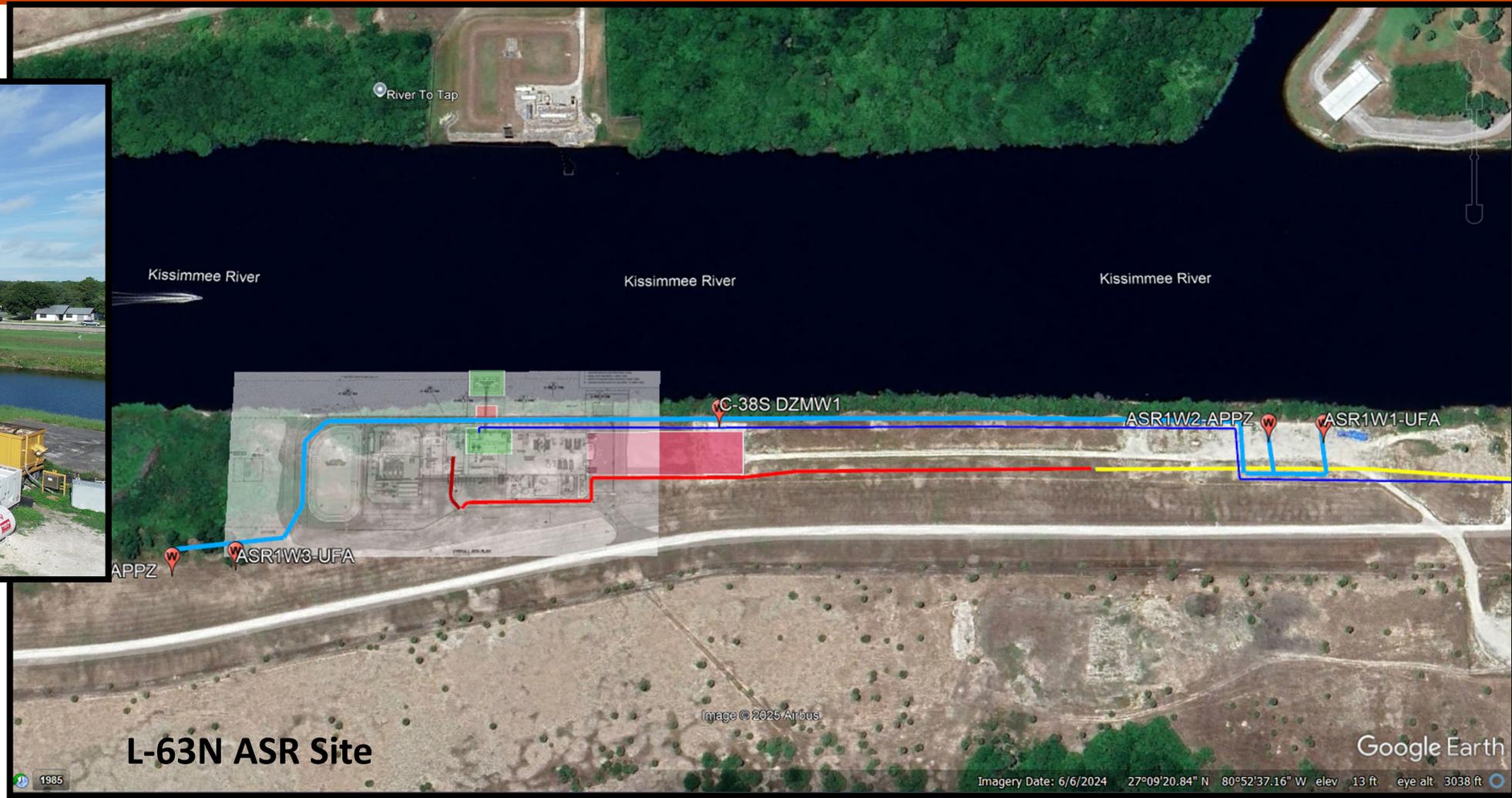


- Aquifer Storage & Recovery North of Lake Okeechobee**
- 55 Aquifer Storage & Recovery Wells
 - C38N & L63N Test Wells in development

Okeechobee Field Station Area of Responsibility



Exploratory & Test Well Drilling



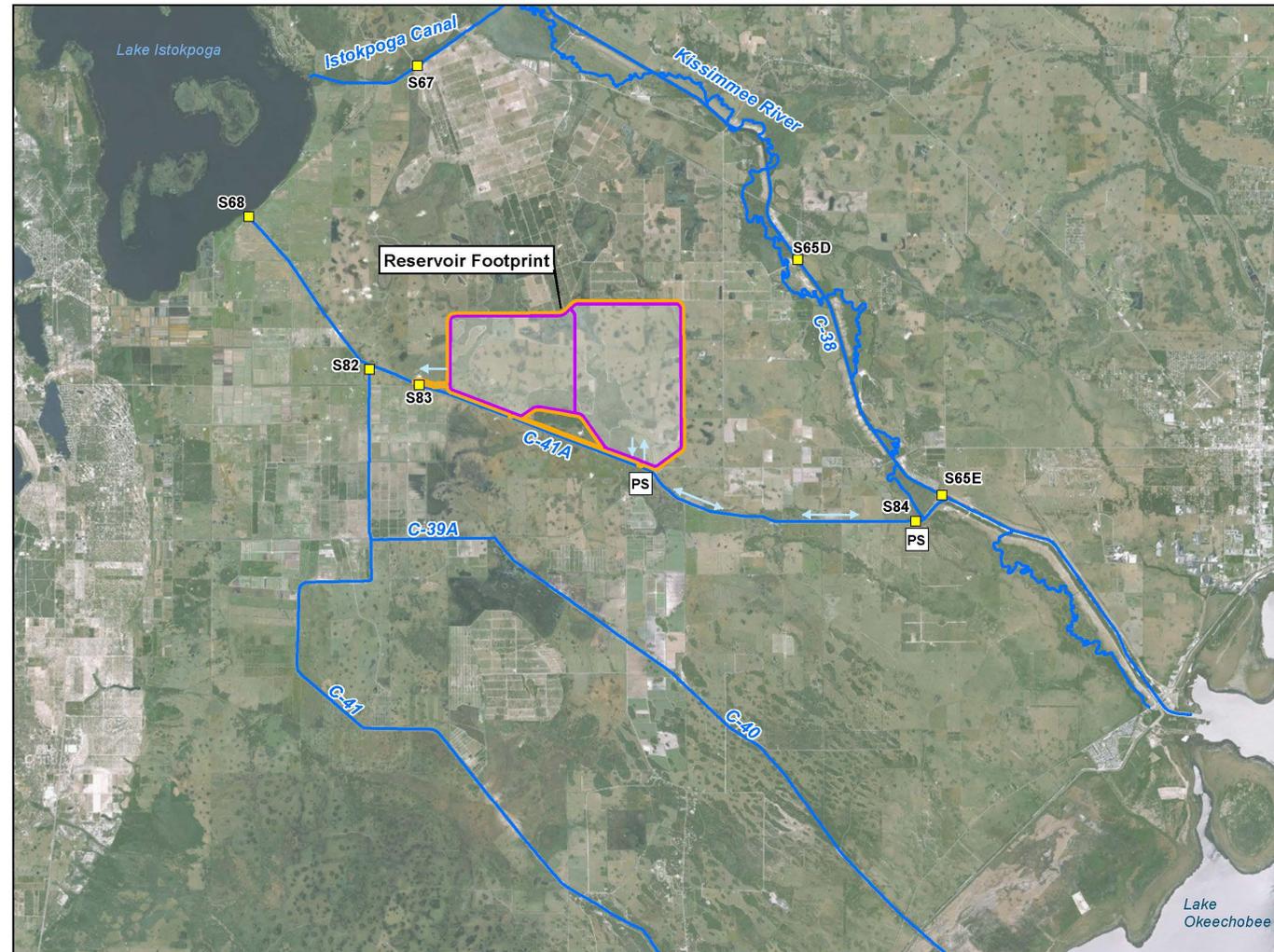
L-63N ASR Site

Okeechobee Field Station Area of Responsibility

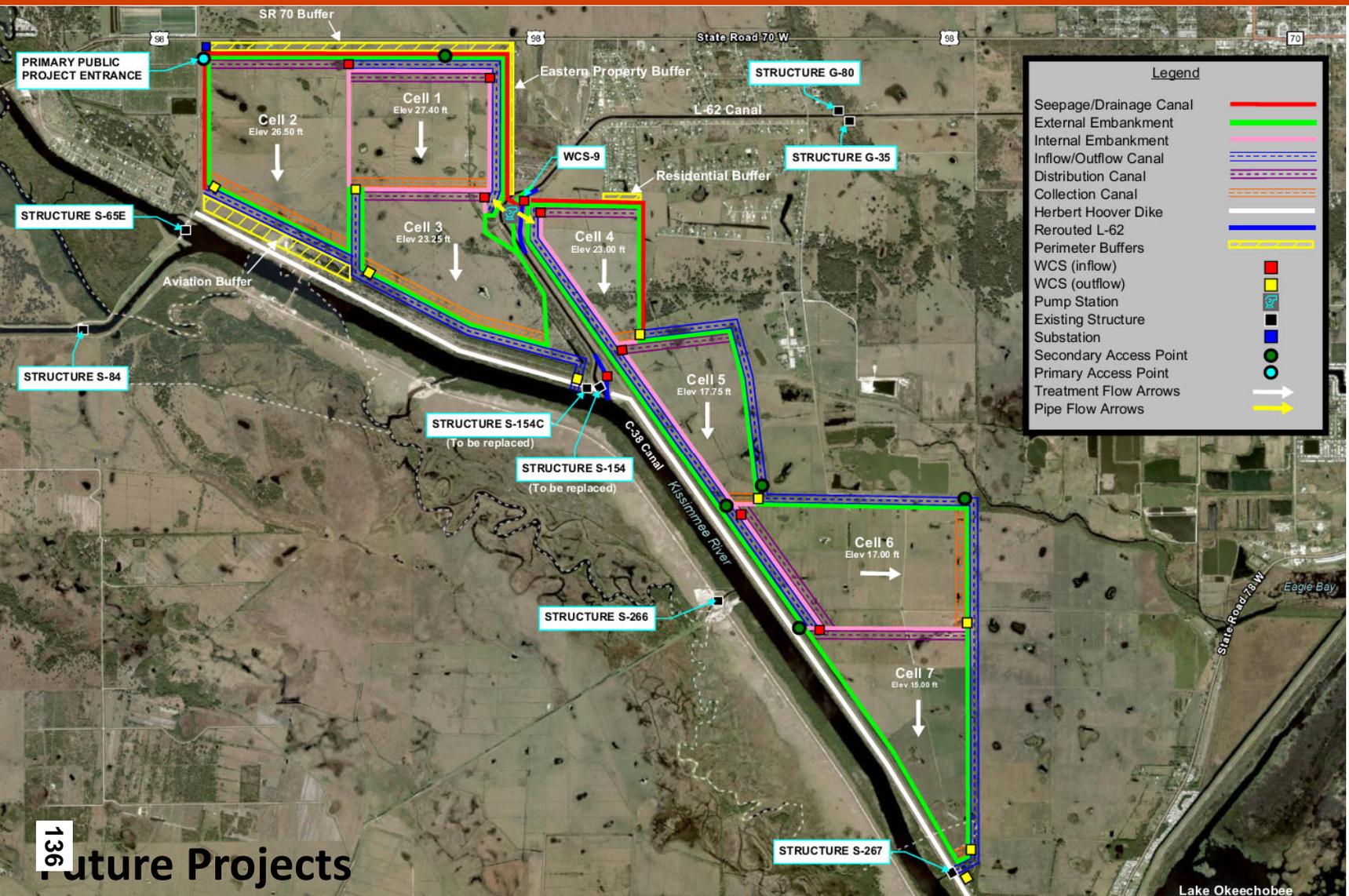
Lake Okeechobee Component A Reservoir (LOCAR)

- 2 cells, 12,000 acres
- 200,000 ac-ft of storage
- Average depth of 19 ft
- 18 miles of embankment
- 2 pump stations
- Improve canal conveyance

Future Projects



Okeechobee Field Station Area of Responsibility



Lower Kissimmee Basin Stormwater Treatment Area

- BMAP project in basins with highest nutrient loading
- 7 cells on 4,800 acres
- Estimated to remove 20-22 mt of phosphorus per year
- Preliminary design under review

Location Map



**Future Home of
the Okeechobee
Field Station**

**Downtown Okeechobee
3.2 Miles South**

Proposed Facilities



Field Station Offices and Maintenance Facilities
120 ft. Communications Tower and IT Shelter
Backup Emergency Operations Center & Water Control Center
Regional Service Center Office
Regional Water Quality Laboratory
FWC Statewide Nuisance Alligator Program (SNAP)

Proposed Facilities



Administrative Offices
EOC, Service Center, SNAP

Maintenance Facility Bays

**Water Quality
Laboratory**



Existing vs. Proposed

Existing Offices



Proposed Administrative Building



Existing Administration Building



Existing vs. Proposed



Existing Fleet Maintenance Bays



Proposed Maintenance Facility Bays



141



Existing Land Management Facilities

Existing vs. Proposed



Progressive Design Status – Completed Tasks

- The use of the progressive design/build procurement method allows the District to work in collaboration with the Design/Build Team throughout the design and construction process to value engineer, complete 100% design, construct and commission the facility
- The following tasks have been completed under the current Design/Build Contract Agreement with State Contracting and Engineering Corporation that was executed in October 2023 and Amendment No. 1:
 - Complete Final (90%) and Corrected Final Design Documents
 - Permit process for Offsite Utilities, Roadways, and Onsite Microwave Tower Construction
 - Construction of offsite utilities and roadway work packages and Microwave tower (70% complete)
 - Develop Stipulated Price Proposal for Phase II Facility Construction

Progressive Design Status – Phase II Tasks

- Amendment 2 moves the project to the Construction Phase for the remaining project features
- Phase II Progressive Design/Build Contract Agreement – Construction Tasks
 - Complete facility permitting process
 - Construct Administration Building Field Station, Service Center, Fish and Wildlife Commission SNAP Building, Maintenance Building, Water Quality Laboratory, Chemical Storage Building, Vehicle Wash, Fuel Storage and Distribution, Heli-pad, Backup Emergency Operations Center and Water Control Center, and remaining site features
 - Add 247 days to the Contract agreement for a total of 1,427 days





Resolution

A Resolution of the Governing Board of the South Florida Water Management District to authorize an amendment to the Design/Build contract with State Contracting and Engineering Corporation for the Okeechobee Field Station Relocation Project, authorizing Phase II for the construction of a new Okeechobee Field Station complex, adding 247 days and the stipulated price proposal in an amount not to exceed \$80,693,127.00, for which \$20,000,000.00 in dedicated funds (Land Acquisition Trust Fund and State General Revenue) are budgeted in Fiscal Year 2024-2025 and the remainder is subject to Governing Board approval of future years' budgets, providing an effective date. (Contract No. 4600004857-A2)

Water and Ecological Conditions Summary

South Florida Water Management District Governing Board Meeting March 13, 2025

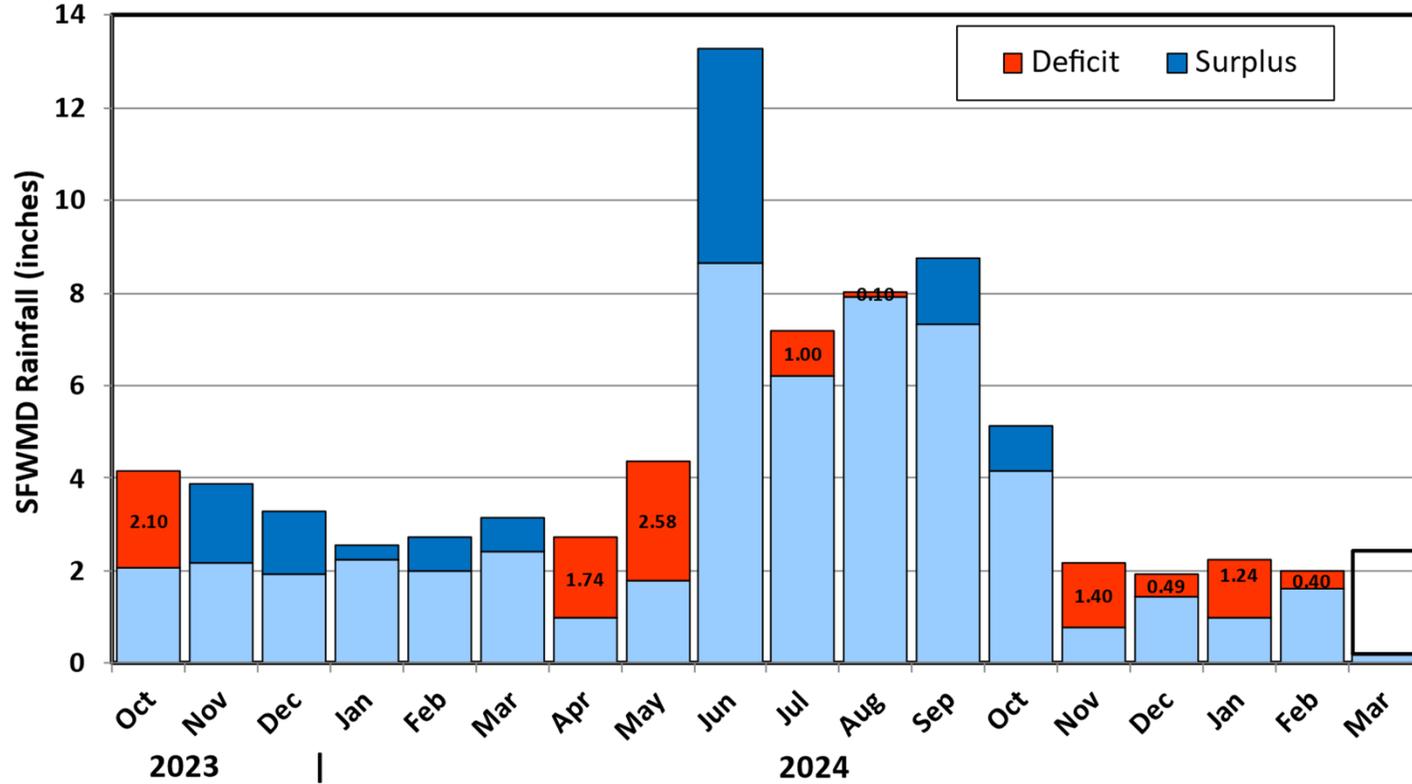


John P. Mitnik, PE
Chief District Engineer
Assistant Executive Director



Lawrence Glenn
Division Director
Water Resources

SFWMD Rainfall Distribution Comparison (October 2023 - March 2025)



Wet-Season Rainfall

- Total rainfall 120% of normal since the start of the 2024 wet season (13 May)
- May and July were below Normal
- June finished above 90th percentile
- August near normal
- September was above 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

2023-2024 DRY SEASON

- Started 10/01/2023 ended 5/12/2024
- October 2023 and April 2024 were extremely dry
- Large isolated rainfall events November to March
- November 2023 through March 2024 above normal

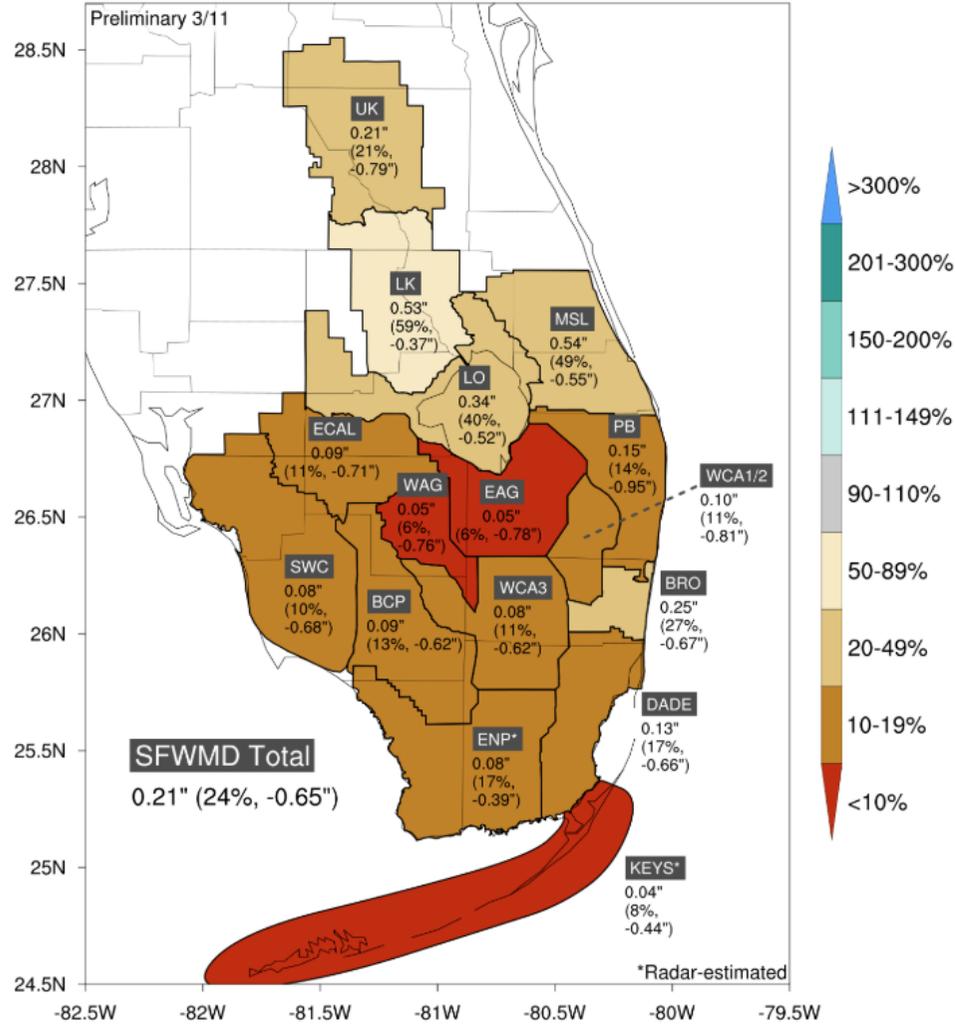
2024 WET SEASON

- Total rainfall 120% of normal (5/13 – 10/9/2024)
- May and July were below Normal
- June finished above 90th percentile
- August near normal
- September was above Normal

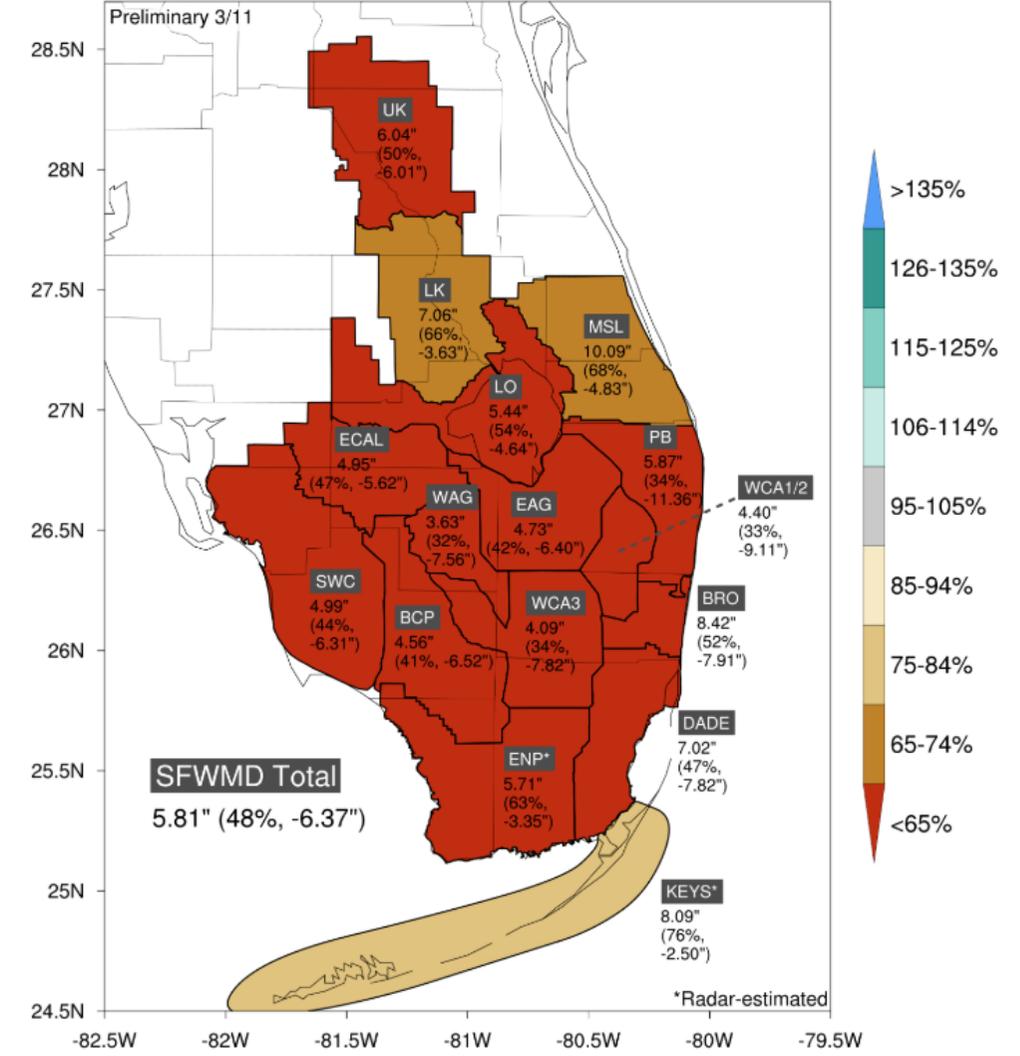
2024-2025 DRY SEASON

- Total rainfall 49% of normal (10 Oct – Present)
- October was 120% of Normal
- Nov. 2024 and Jan. 2025 were extremely dry
- Dec. 2024 and Feb. 2025 were dry
- La Nina conditions (drier) are expected to persist in the near-term.

March 2025 (3/1/25 to 3/11/25)
 Rainfall, Percent of Normal, and Departures



2024-2025 Dynamic Dry Season (10/10/24 to 3/11/25)
 Rainfall, Percent of Normal, and Departures



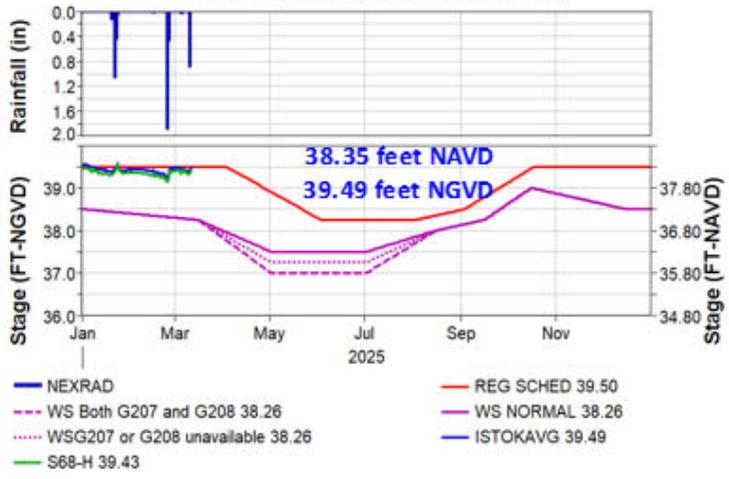
Lake Kissimmee (11 March 2025)



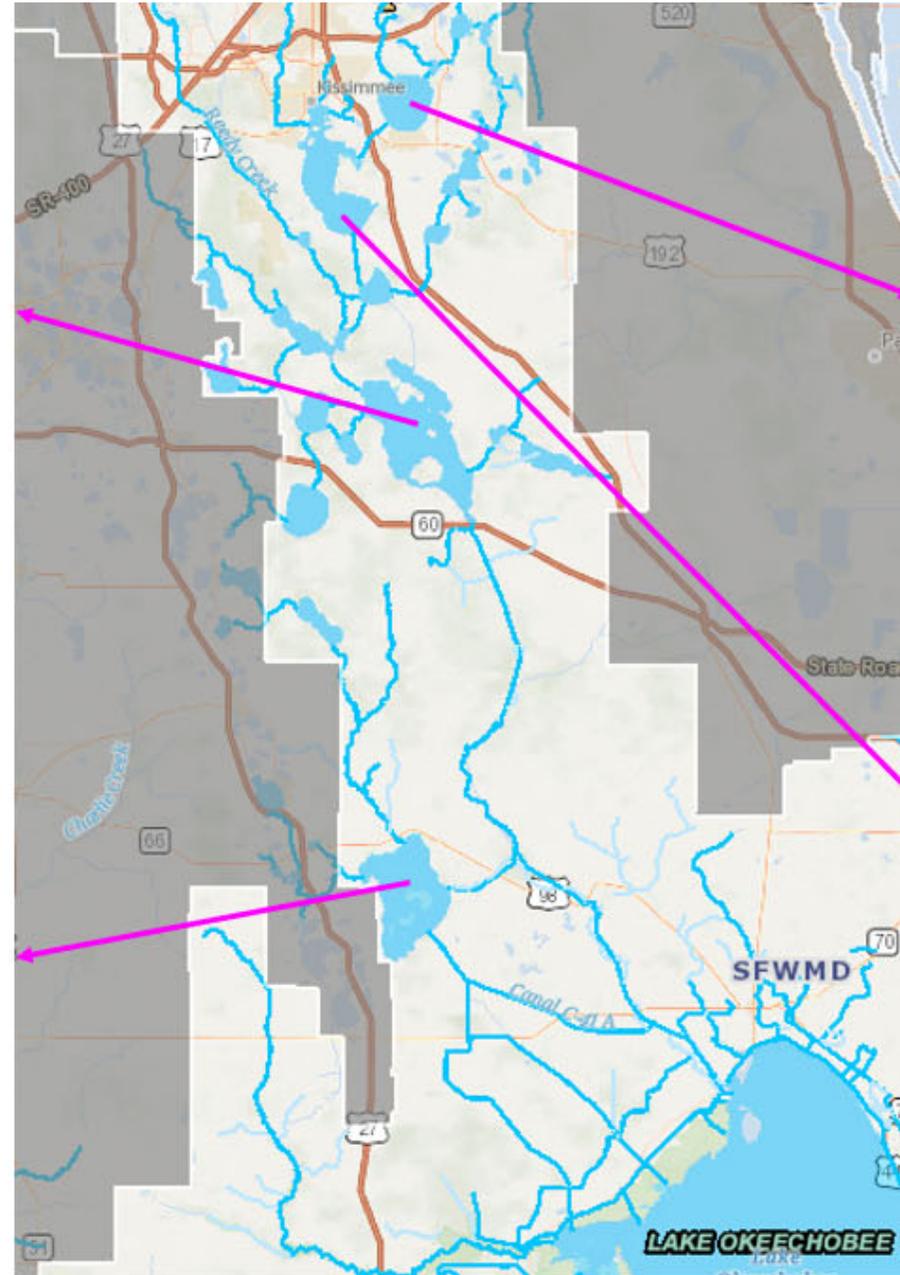
Lake East Tohopekaliga (11 March 2025)



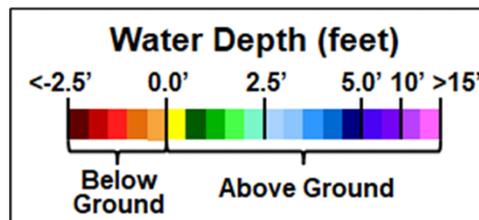
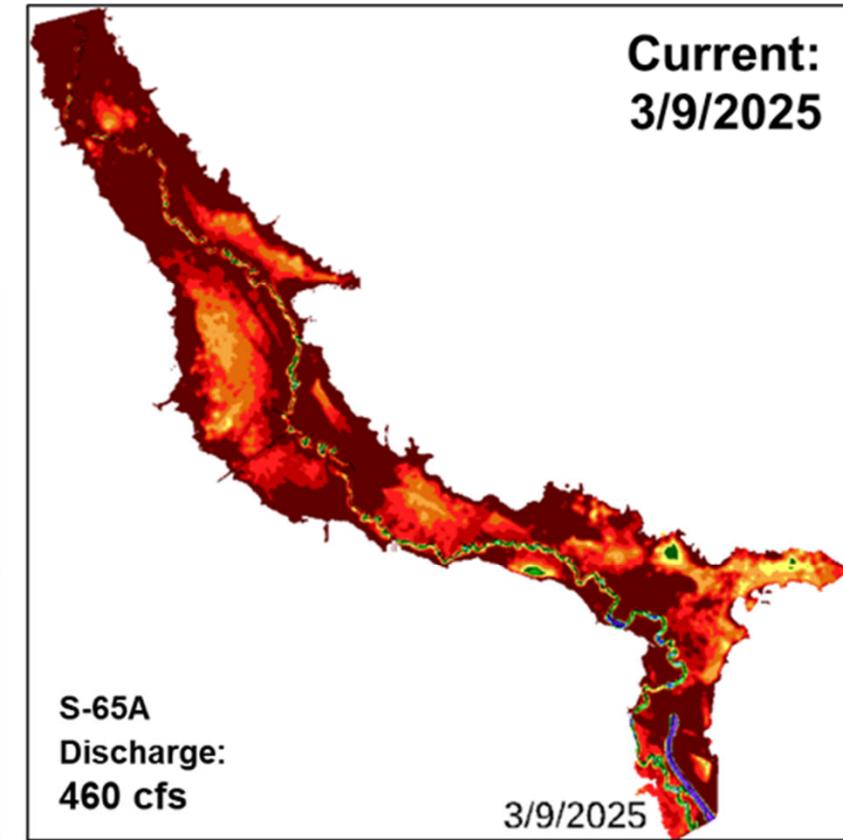
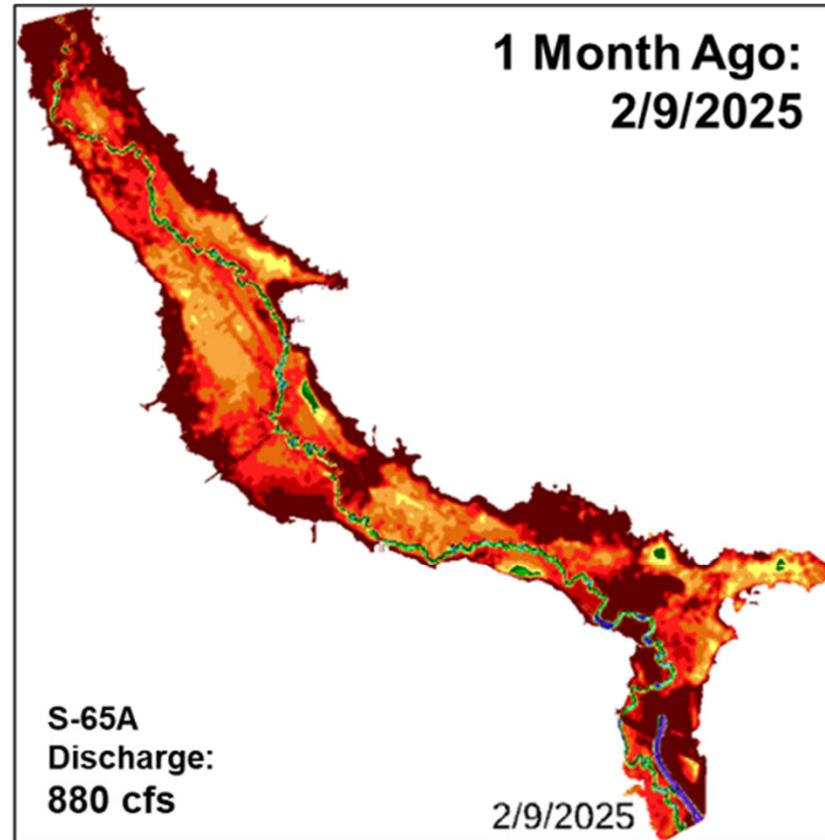
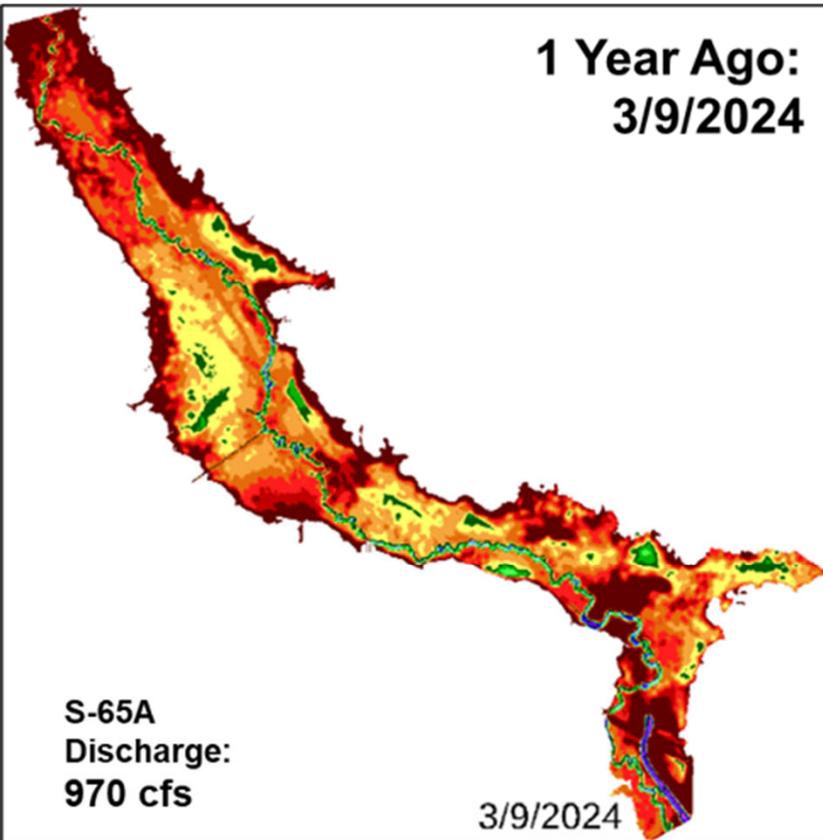
Lake Istokpoga (11 March 2025)



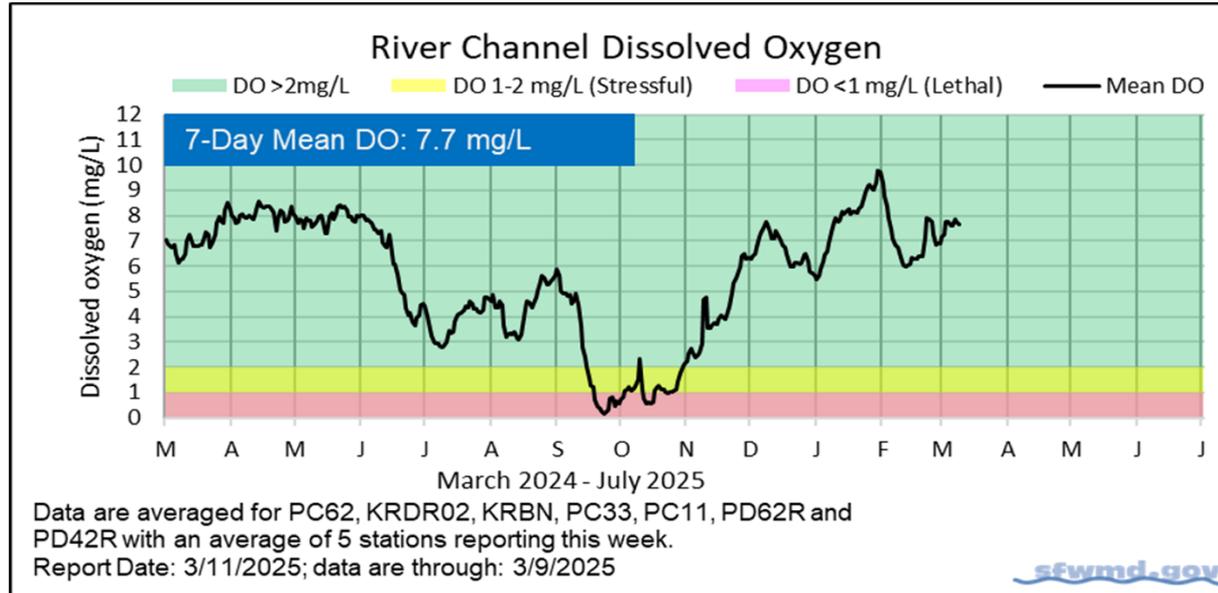
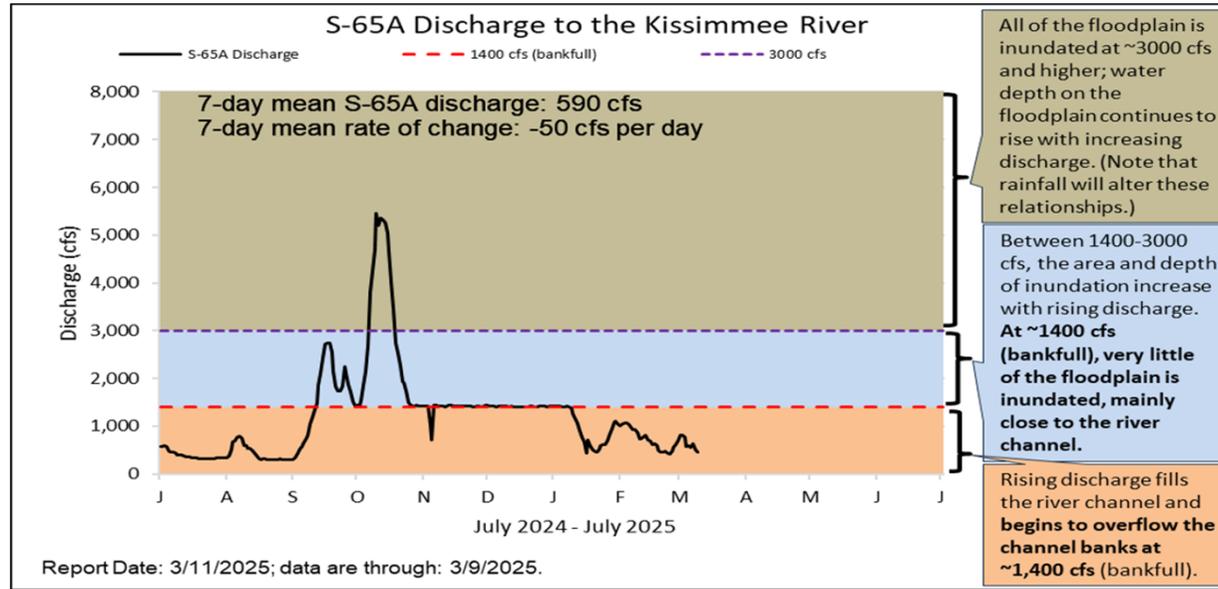
Lake Tohopekaliga (11 March 2025)

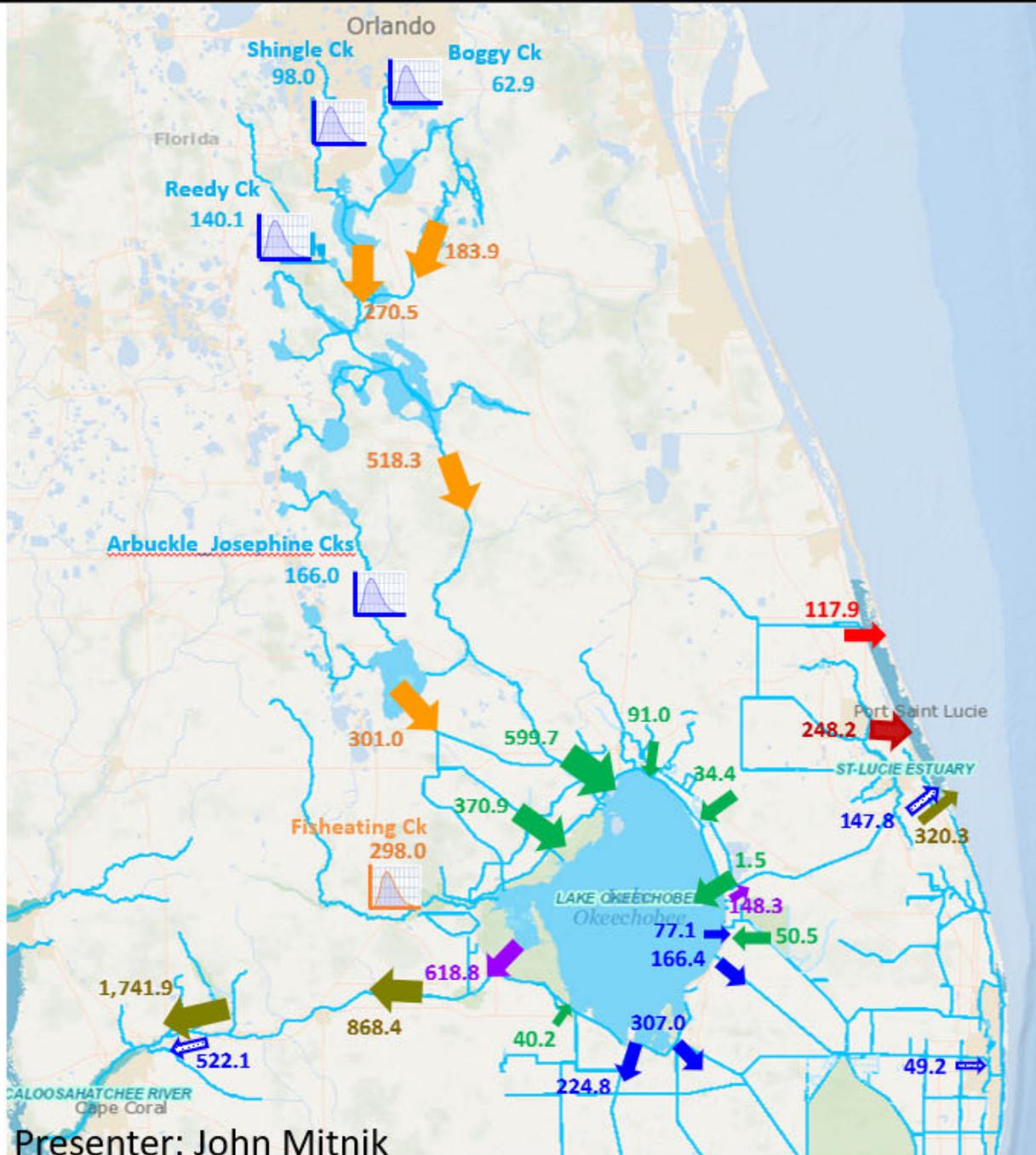


Kissimmee River Floodplain Inundation



Kissimmee River Discharge and Dissolved Oxygen



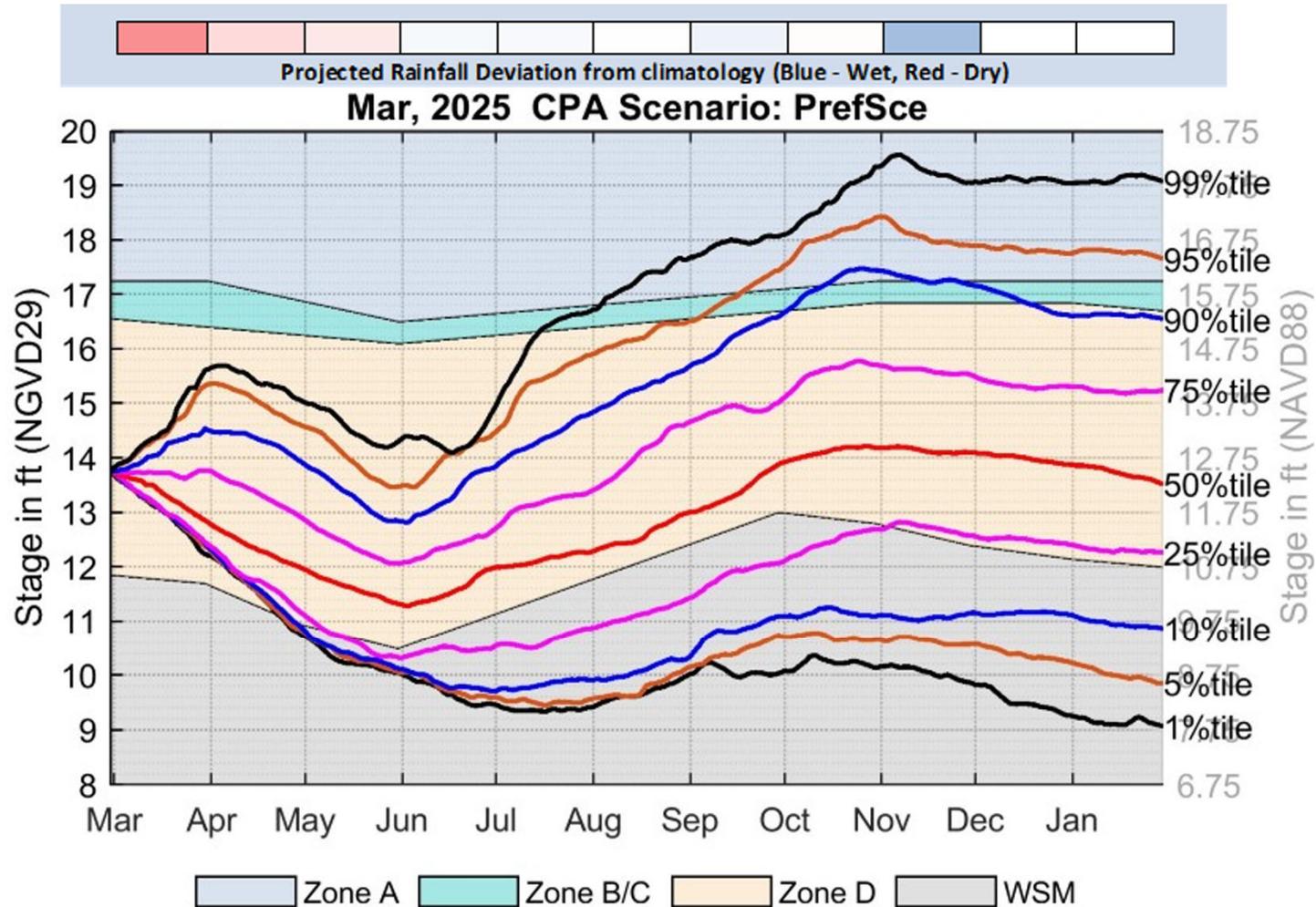


SFWMD – Selected Release Volumes for the Period May 1, 2024 to March 11, 2025
(volumes in 1,000 acre-feet)

Symbol	Description	Volume (1,000 acre- feet)	
		WYR 2025	Last Month
	Upper Kissimmee to Lower Kissimmee	518.3	33.9
	Inflows to Lake Okeechobee (including Fisheating Creek)	1,486.1	40.5
	Lake Releases and Basin Runoff	2,062.2	192.7
	Lake Releases East and West	767.1	129.6
	Lake Flood Control to Estuaries	669.9	118.2
	Total Lake Releases South	775.3	122.6
	Releases to Indian River Lagoon	117.9	6.4
	Upper East Coast discharges to St. Lucie Estuary	248.2	3.6
	Uncontrolled flows - Creeks (does not include Fisheating Creek)	467.0	15.8

1,000 acre-feet = 325.9 Million Gallons

Conditional Position Analysis (CPA) LOK under LOSOM RO

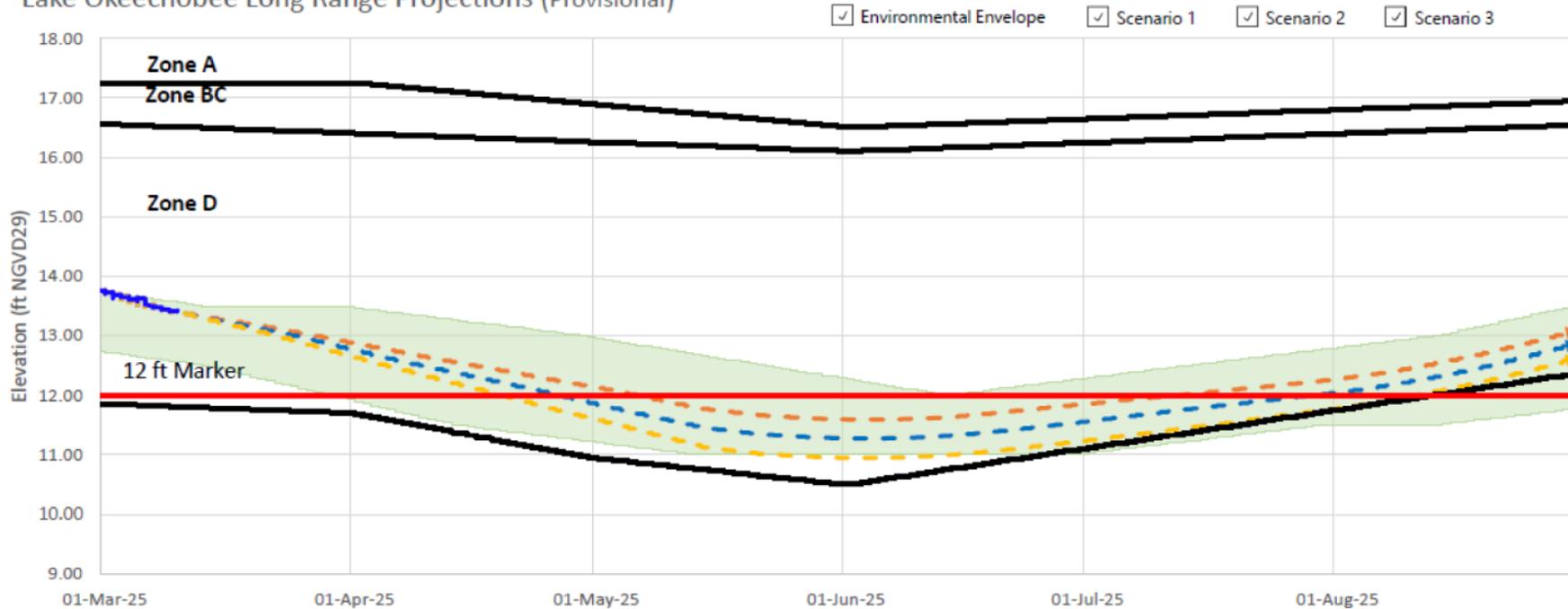


- Conditional Position Analysis (CPA) improves DPA predicted stages by taking into account the anticipated rainfall conditions.
- Conditional Position Analysis (CPA) is a stochastic technique that utilizes robust and well-established approaches, such as Monte Carlo simulation and NonLinear Programming, to correctly apply the rainfall to stage Transition Probability Matrix and recognize non-unique solutions.

March 10 Forecast



Lake Okeechobee Long Range Projections (Provisional)



- High chance of successful recovery operations if current conditions persist
- Assumes wet season begins May 15th
- Actively assessing conditions to see at what point it may be possible to continue recovery operations at a reduced level and still achieve targets.

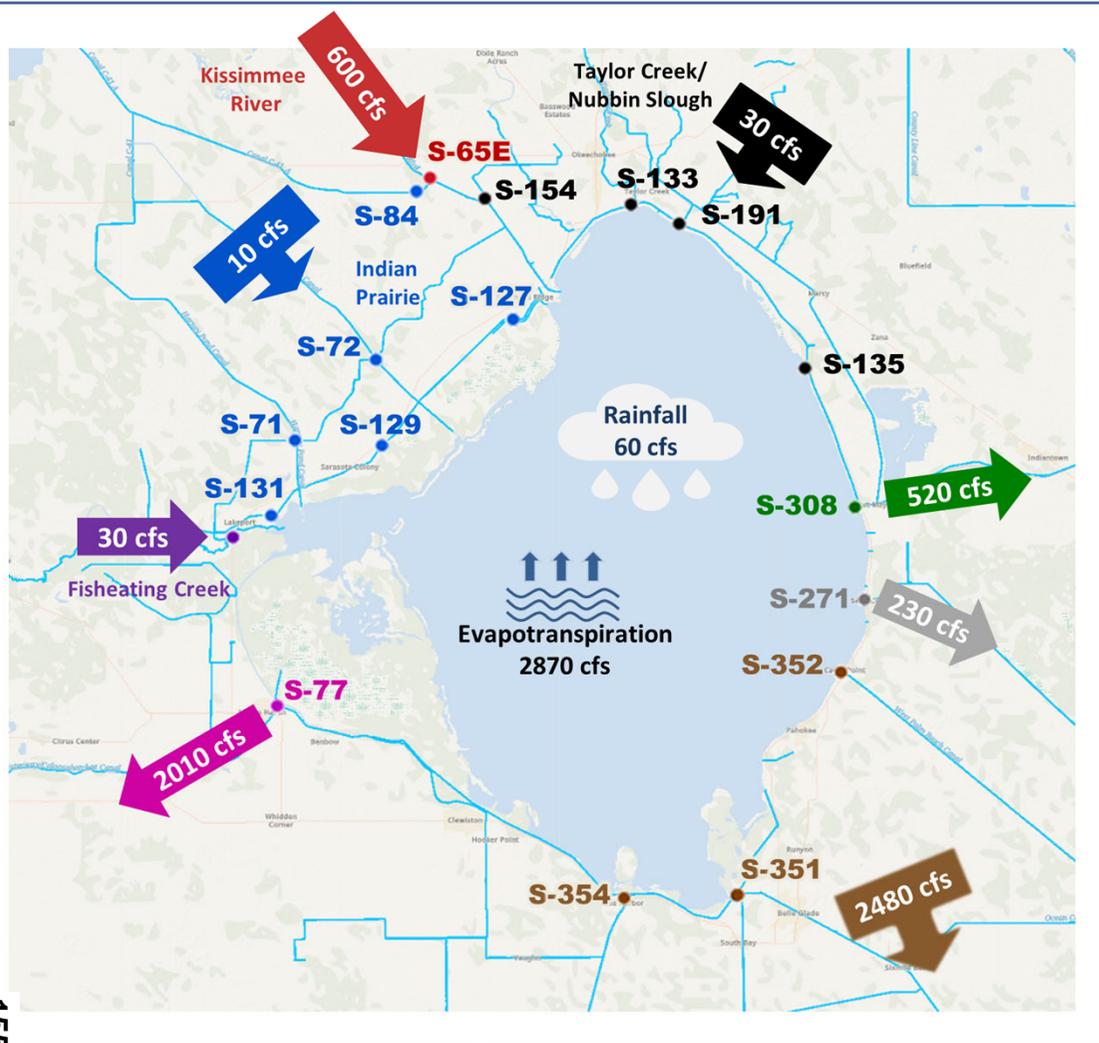
	Forecast Assumptions	Forecast Low	Date	Days Possible Below 12.0 ft	Days Possible below 11.5 ft
Scenario 1	Reduced RO with 50% normal precip remainder of dry season, Wet Season beginning May 15	11.59	05-Jun-25	67	0
Scenario 2	Reduced RO with 50% normal precip remainder of dry season, Wet Season beginning May 15	11.27	05-Jun-25	93	45
Scenario 3	Reduced RO with 50% normal precip remainder of dry season, Wet Season beginning May 15	10.94	05-Jun-25	113	74

* Assume 50% Normal Precipitation rest of Dry Season and 100% Normal Precipitation beginning in Wet Season
 * East (E) and West (W) flows assumed at S-80 and S-79 respectively (actual flows out of Lake O are assumed less due to local flows)
 * Scenario 1: Begin 2,100 cfs W / 1,400 cfs E / 1,500 cfs S , 01 Mar --> 2,100 cfs W / 0 cfs E / 1,500 cfs S , 01 Apr --> 1,200 cfs W / 0 cfs E / 1,500 cfs S E , 15 May --> 0 cfs W / 0 cfs E / 0 cfs S
 * Scenario 2: Begin 2,100 cfs W / 1,400 cfs E / 2,500 cfs S , 15 Mar --> 2,100 cfs W / 0 cfs E / 2,500 cfs S , 01 Apr --> 1,200 cfs W / 0 cfs E / 2,500 cfs S E , 15 May --> 0 cfs W / 0 cfs E / 0 cfs S
 * Scenario 3: Begin 2,100 cfs W / 1,400 cfs E / 3,500 cfs S , 15 Mar --> 2,100 cfs W / 0 cfs E / 3,500 cfs S , 01 Apr --> 1,200 cfs W / 0 cfs E / 3,500 cfs S E , 15 May --> 0 cfs W / 0 cfs E / 0 cfs S

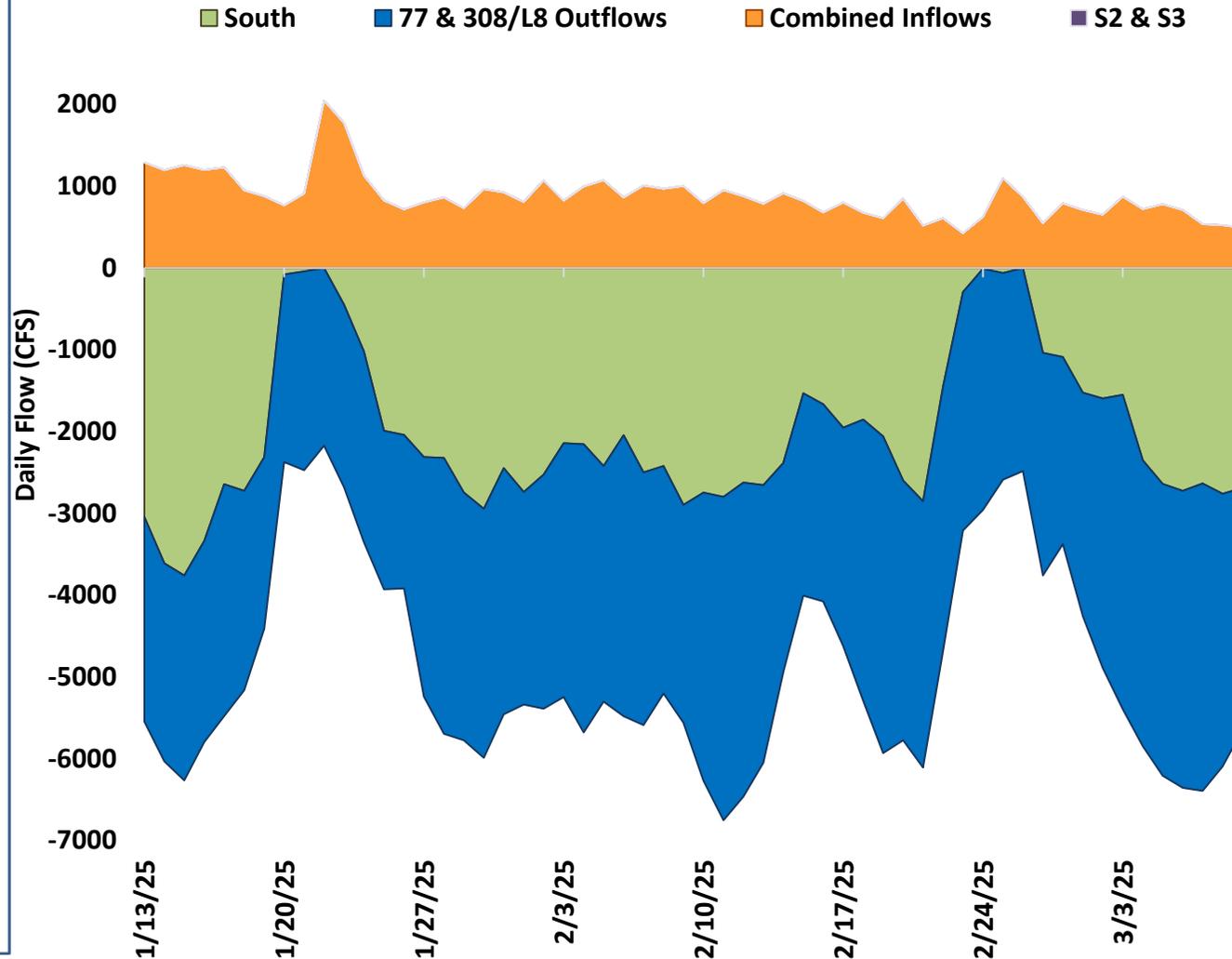
Lake Okeechobee Hydrology

(*Provisional Data)

March 03 - 09, 2025 Inflows and Outflows

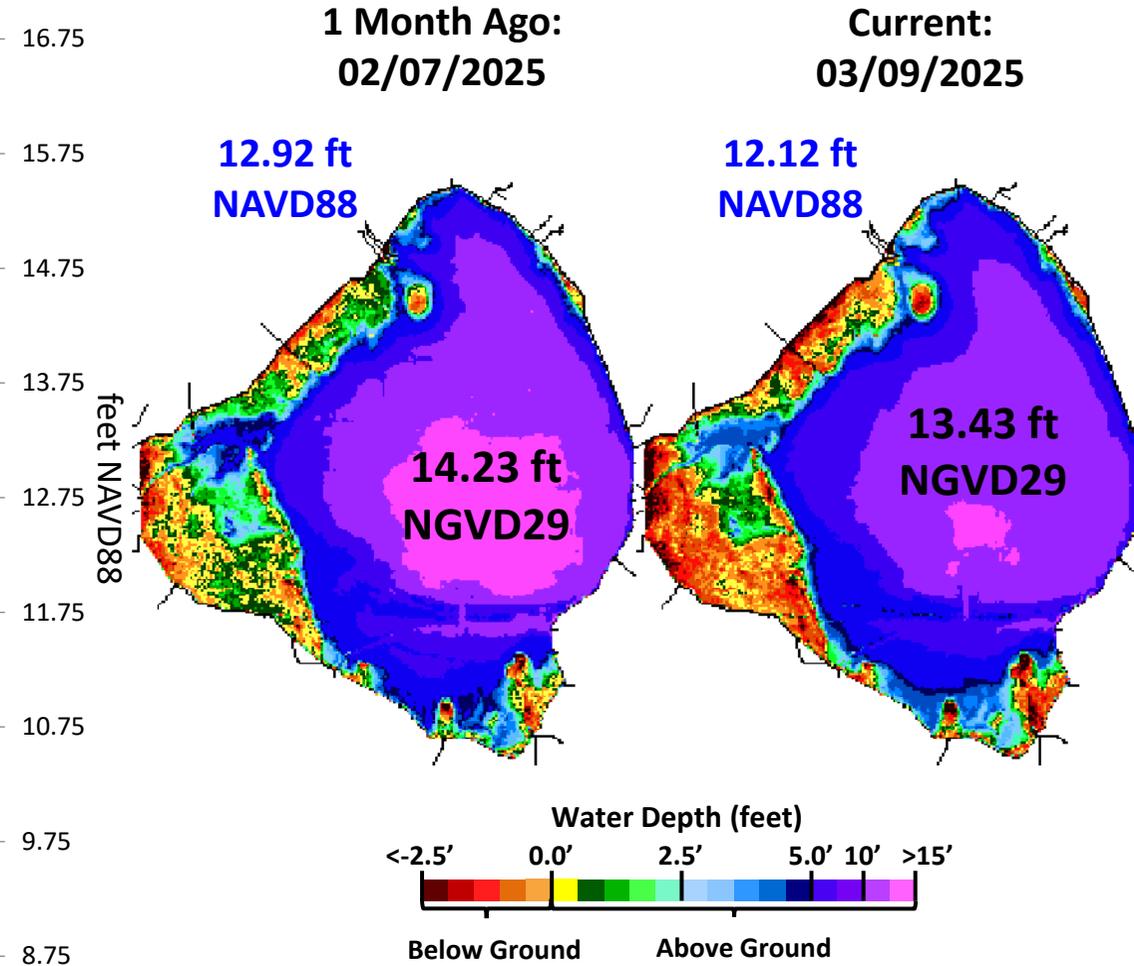
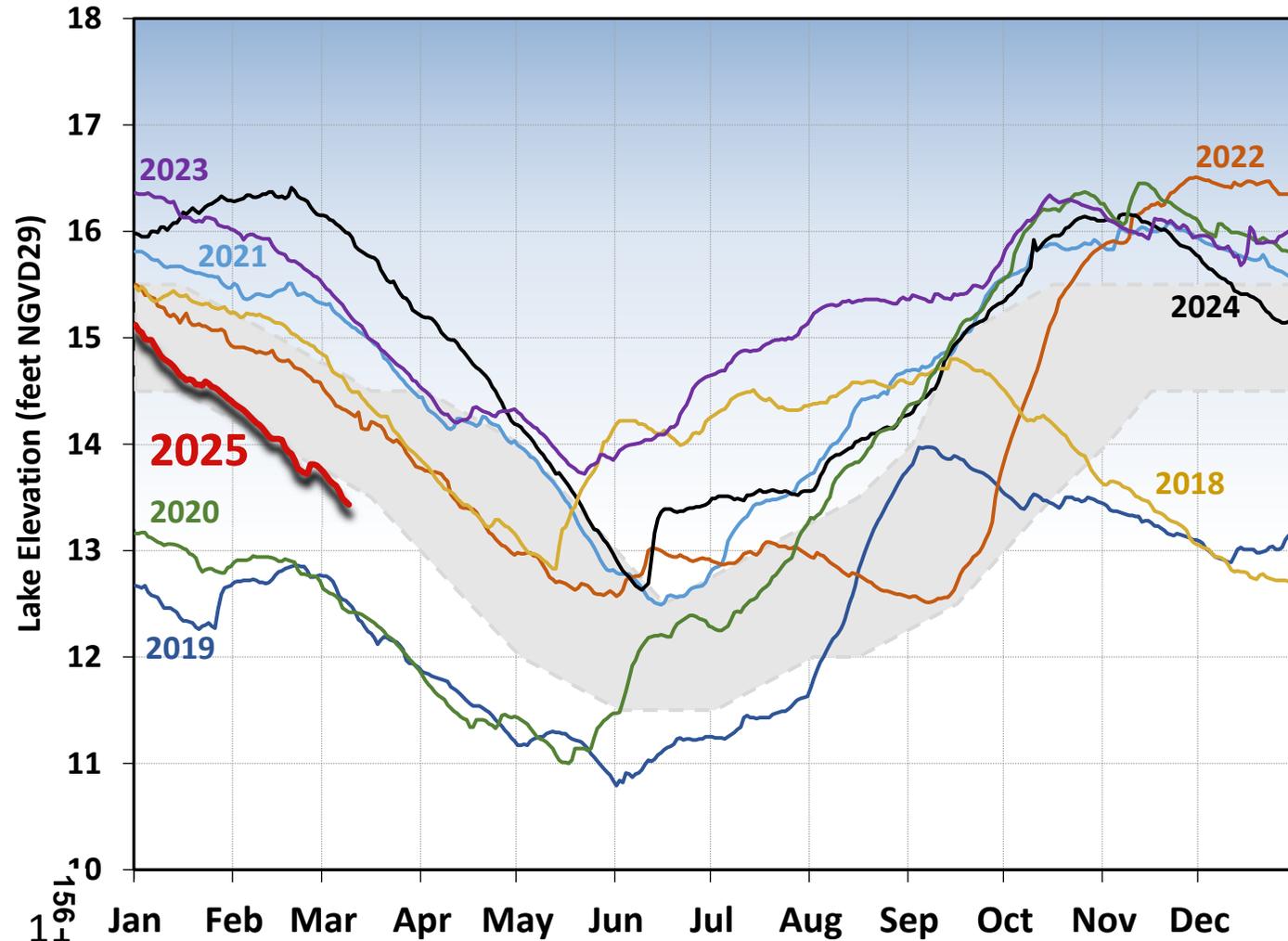


Prior 8 Weeks Inflows and Outflows



Ecological Envelope and Water Depths

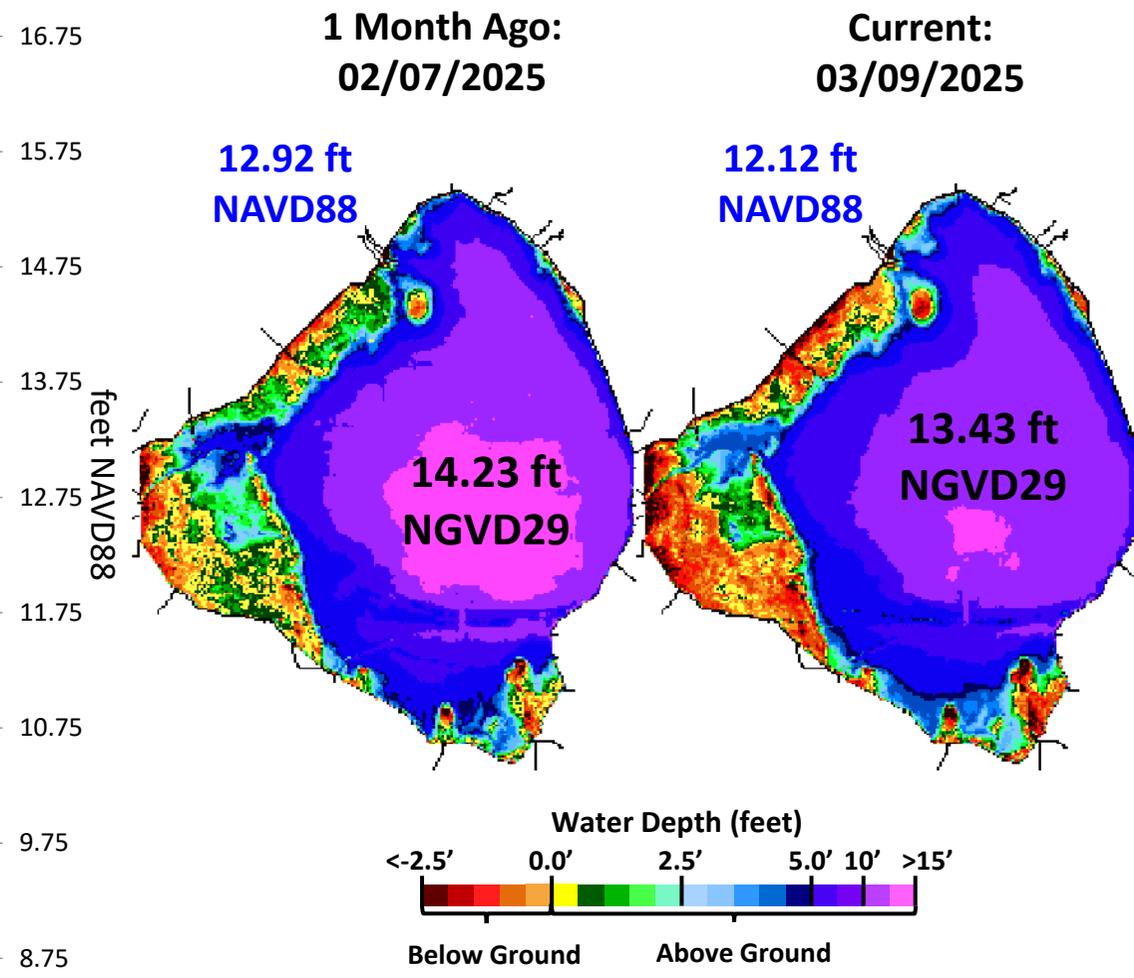
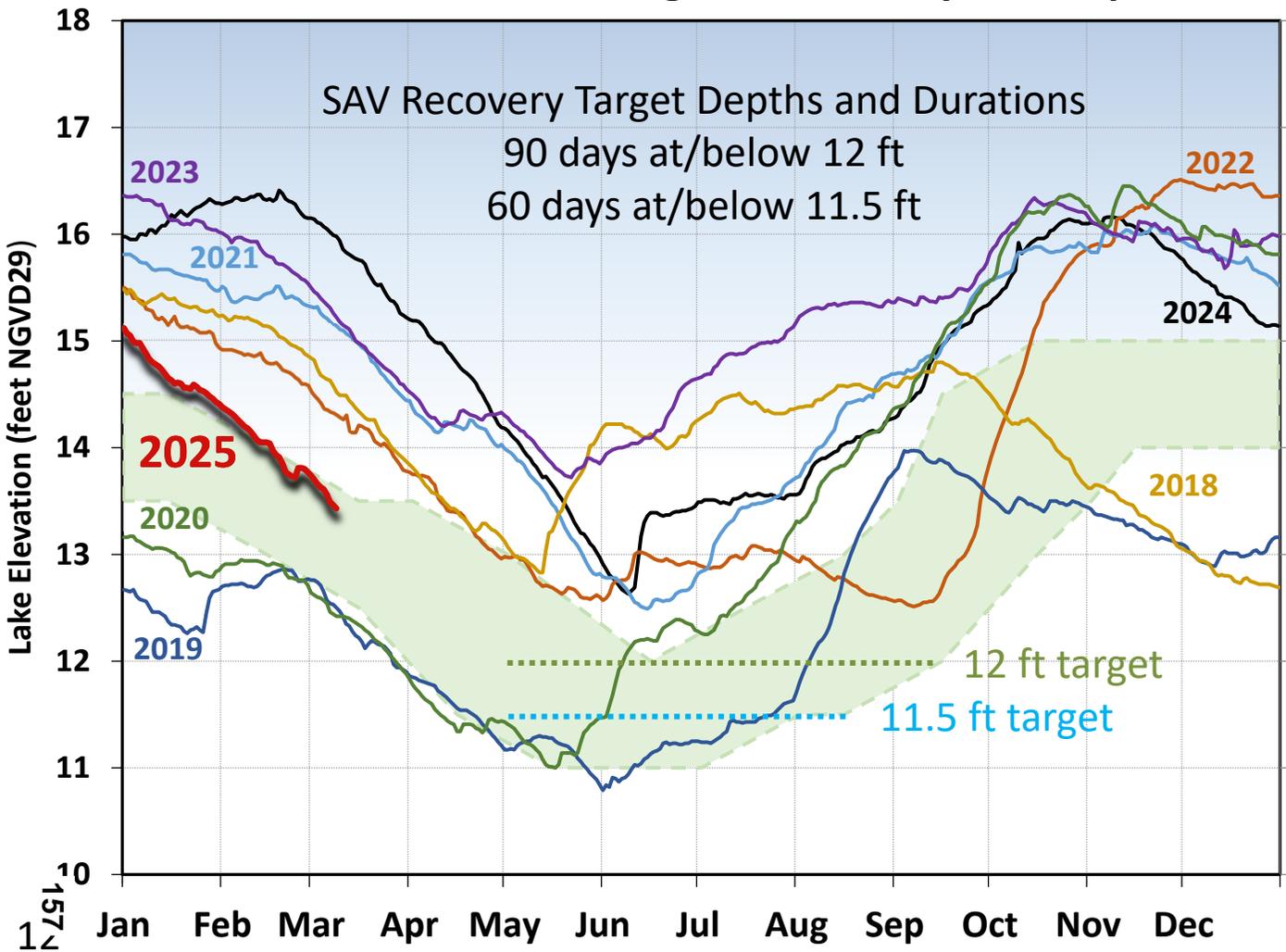
Lake Okeechobee Stage vs Ecological Envelope



Presenter: Lawrence Glenn

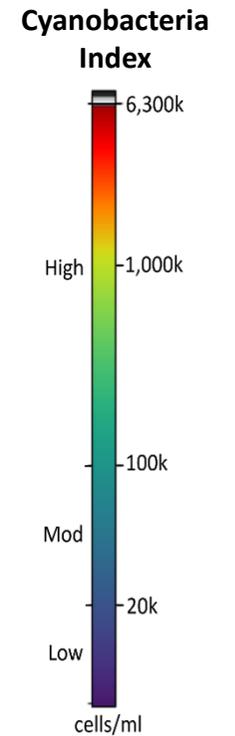
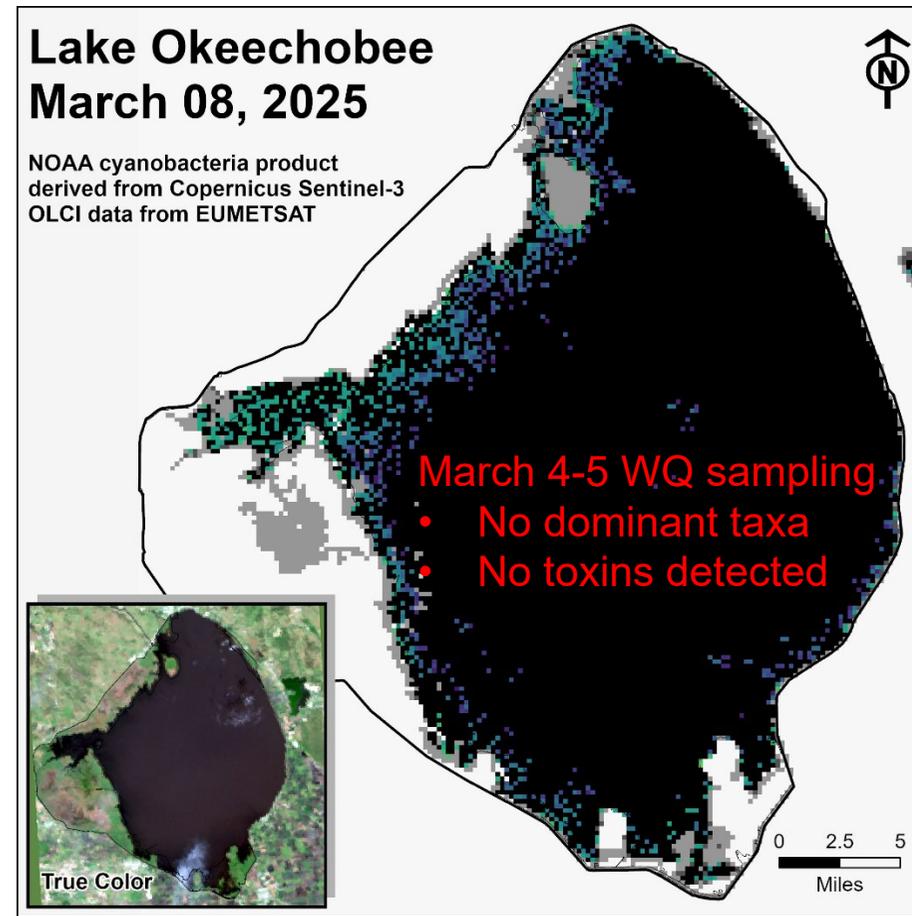
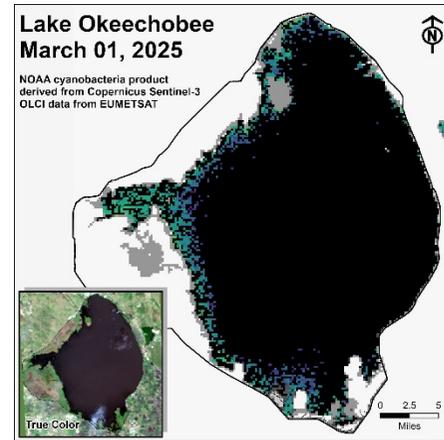
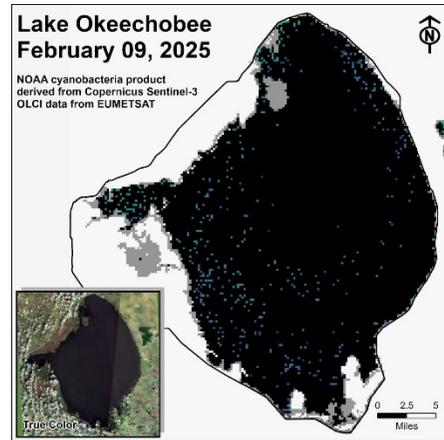
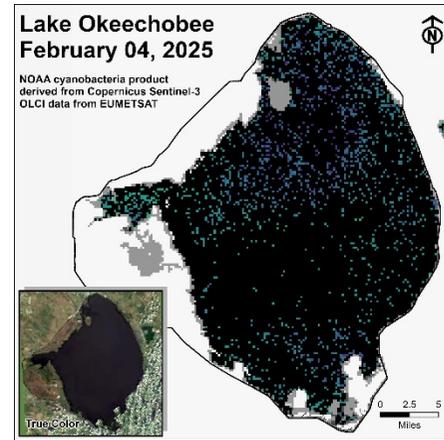
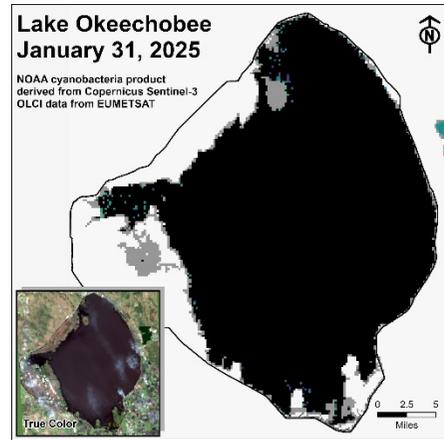
Ecological Envelope and Water Depths

Lake Okeechobee Stage vs Recovery Envelope



Presenter: Lawrence Glenn

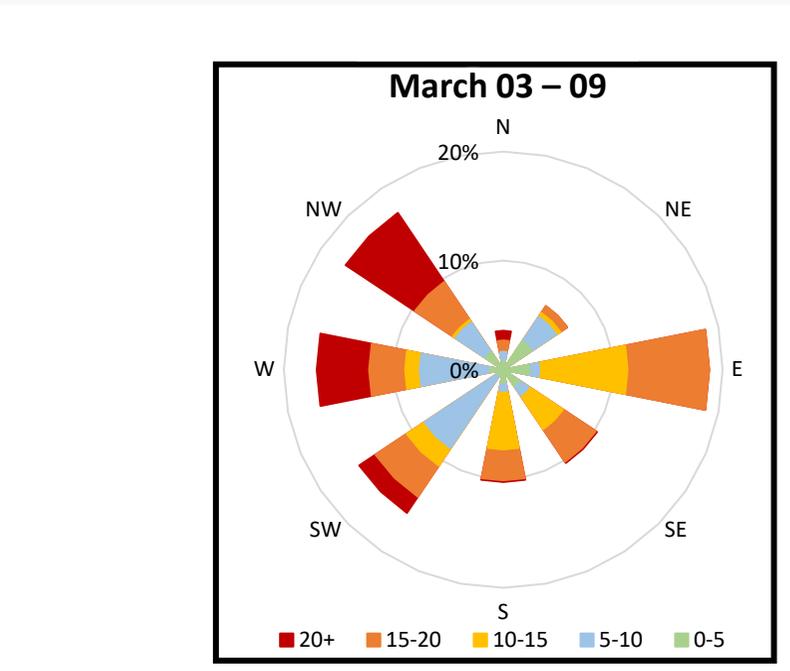
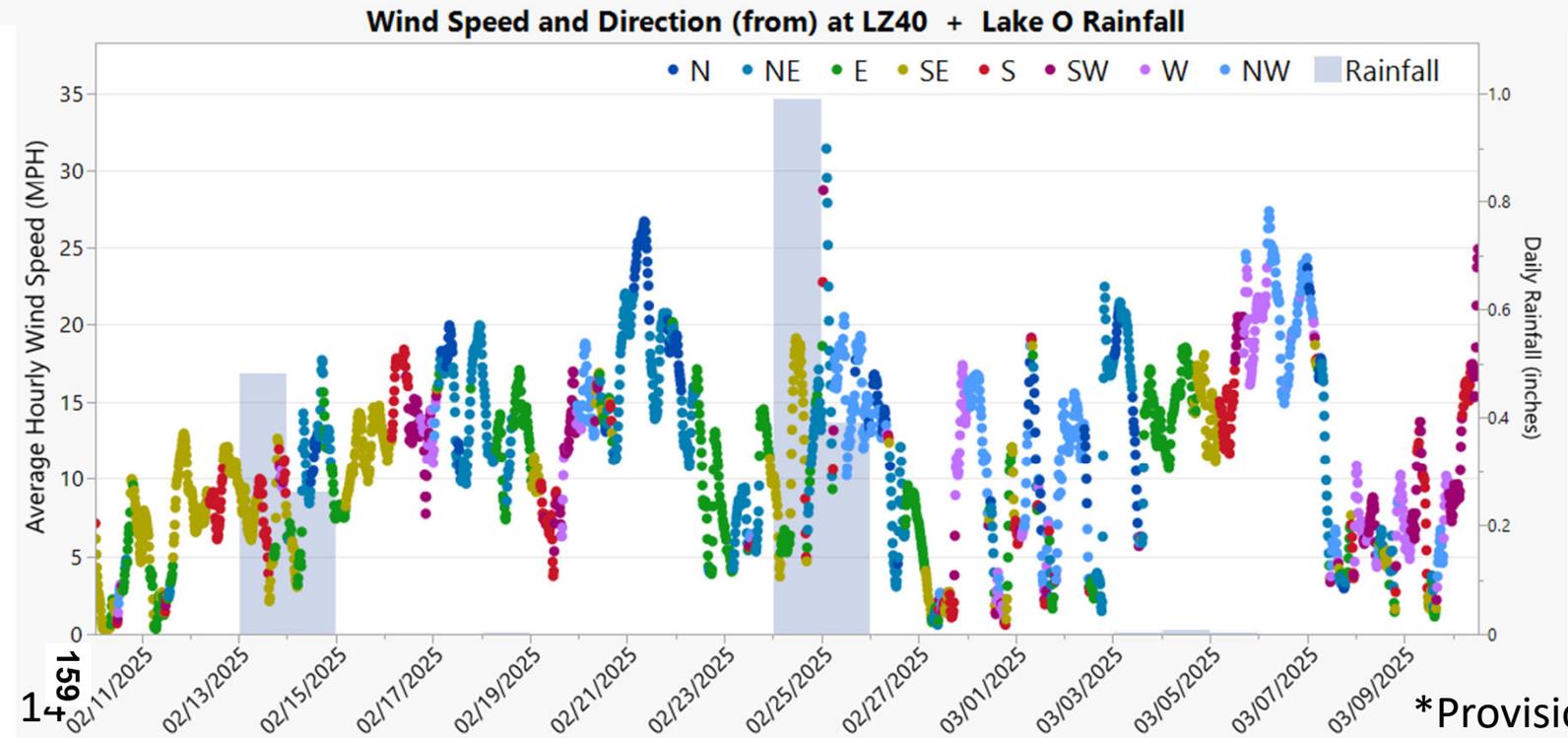
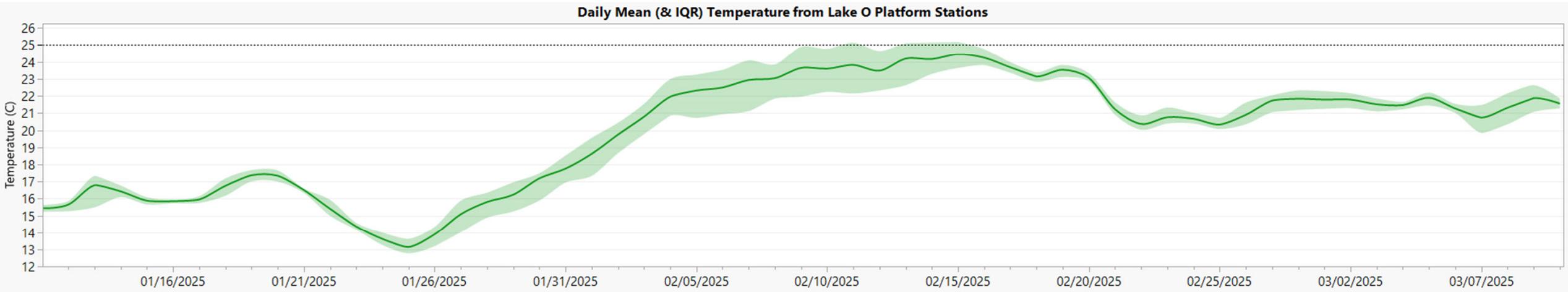
Lake Okeechobee Cyanobacterial Bloom Distribution and Intensity



NOAA cyanobacteria product derived from Copernicus Sentinel-3 OLCI data from EUMETSAT

Maps' Source: <https://coastalscience.noaa.gov/science-areas/habs/hab-monitoring-system/cyanobacteria-algal-bloom-satellite-lake-okeechobee-fl/>

Lake Okeechobee Wind, Precipitation, and Temperature Patterns



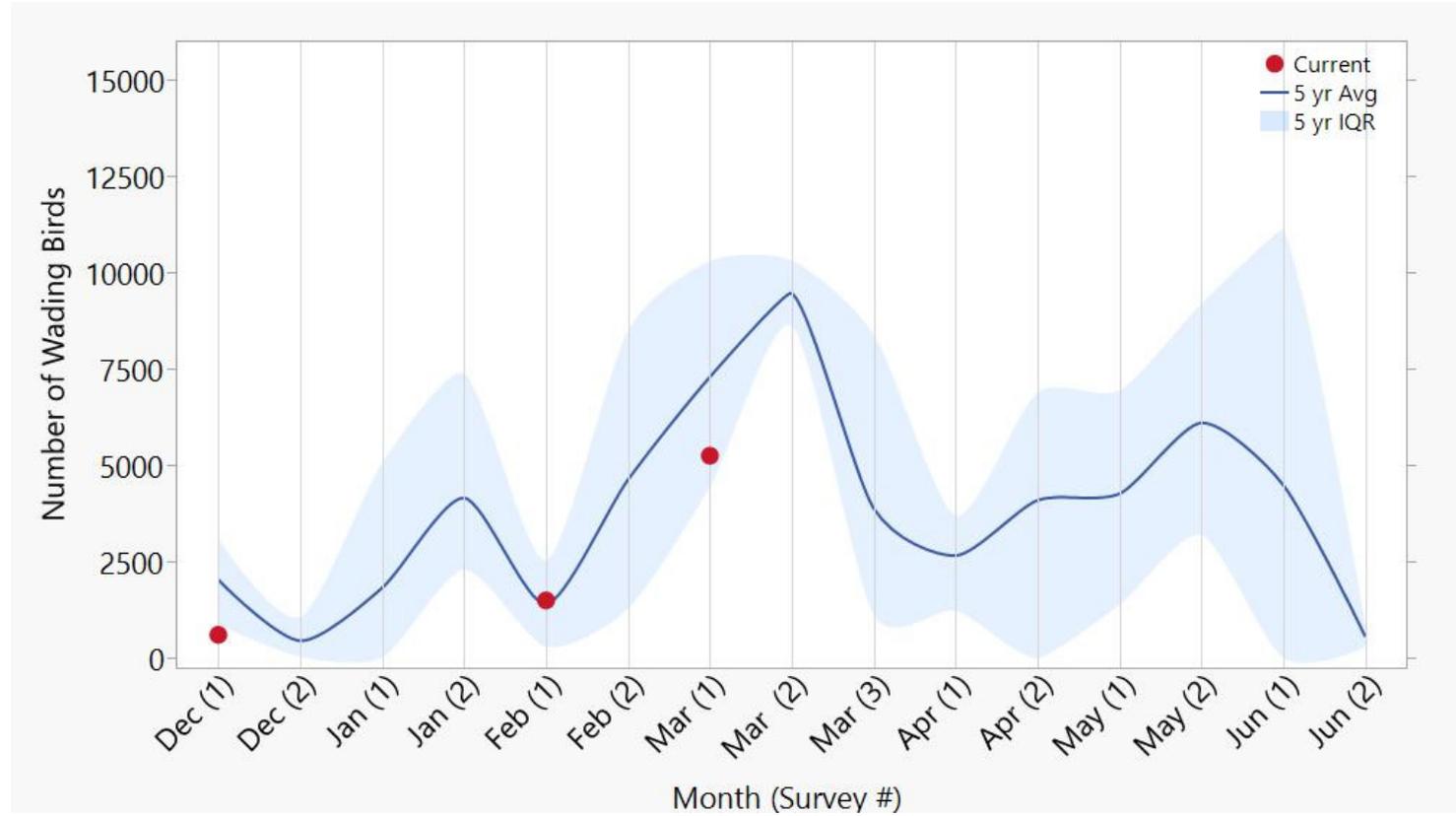
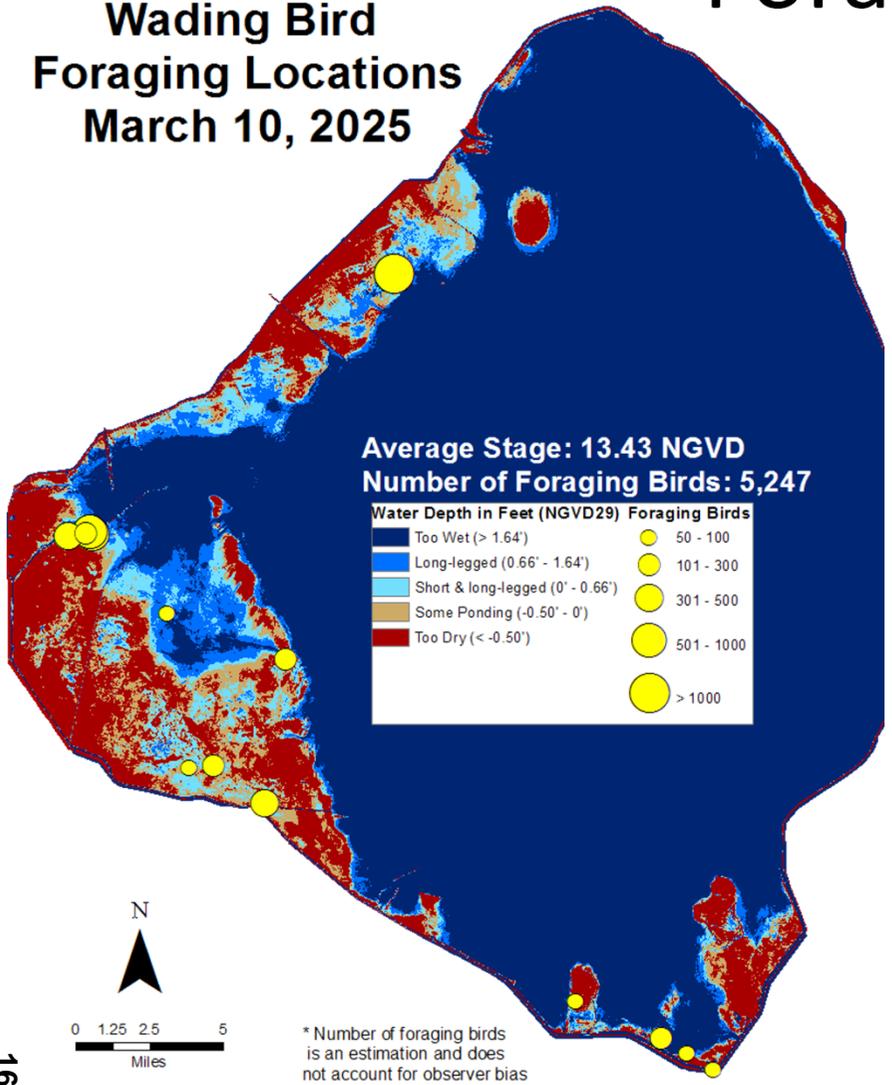
Provisional Data

Presenter: Lawrence Glenn

Lake Okeechobee

Foraging Wading Birds

Wading Bird
Foraging Locations
March 10, 2025



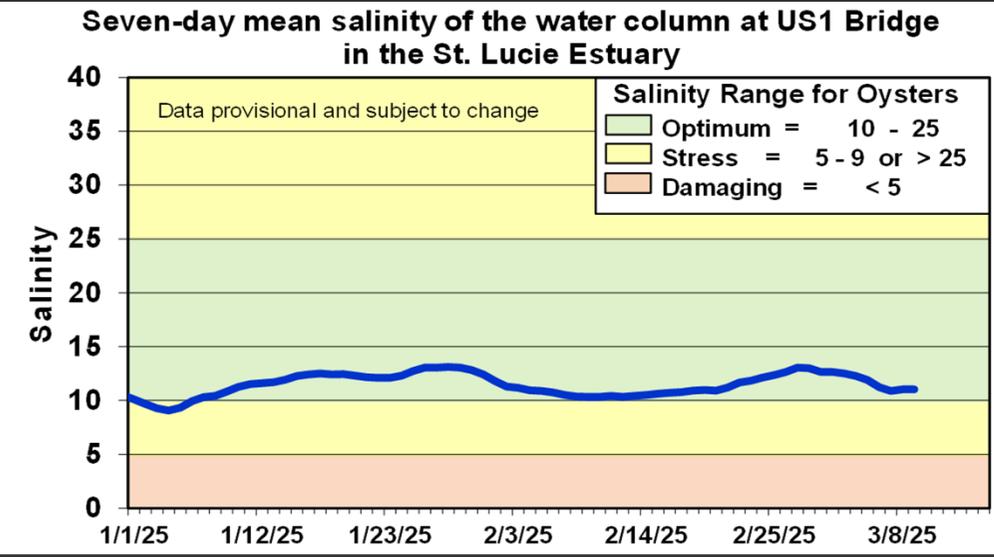
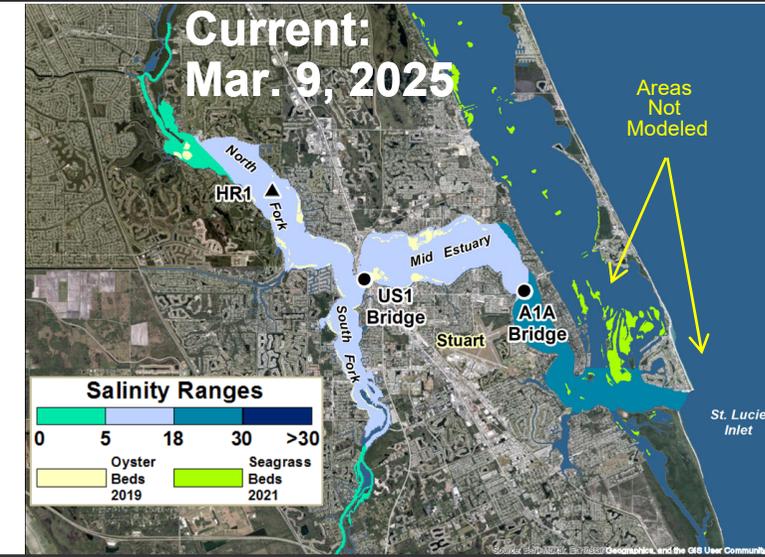
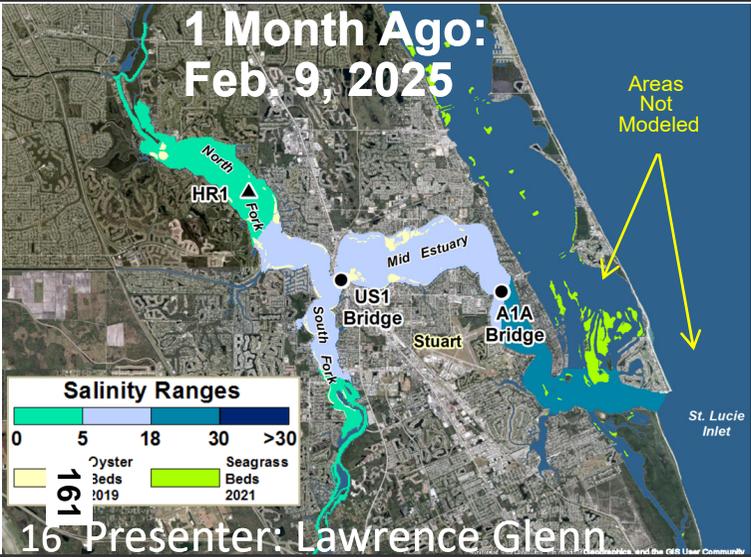
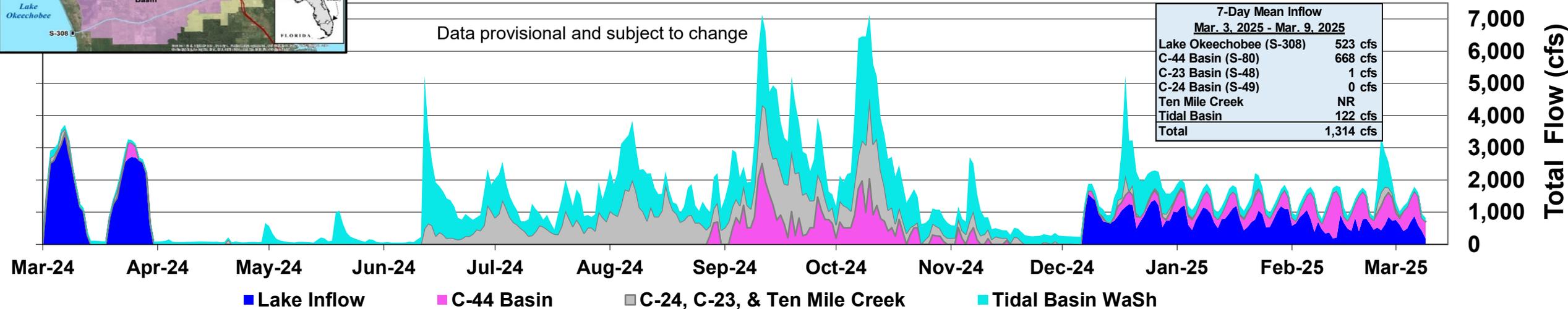
St. Lucie Inflows and Salinity Conditions



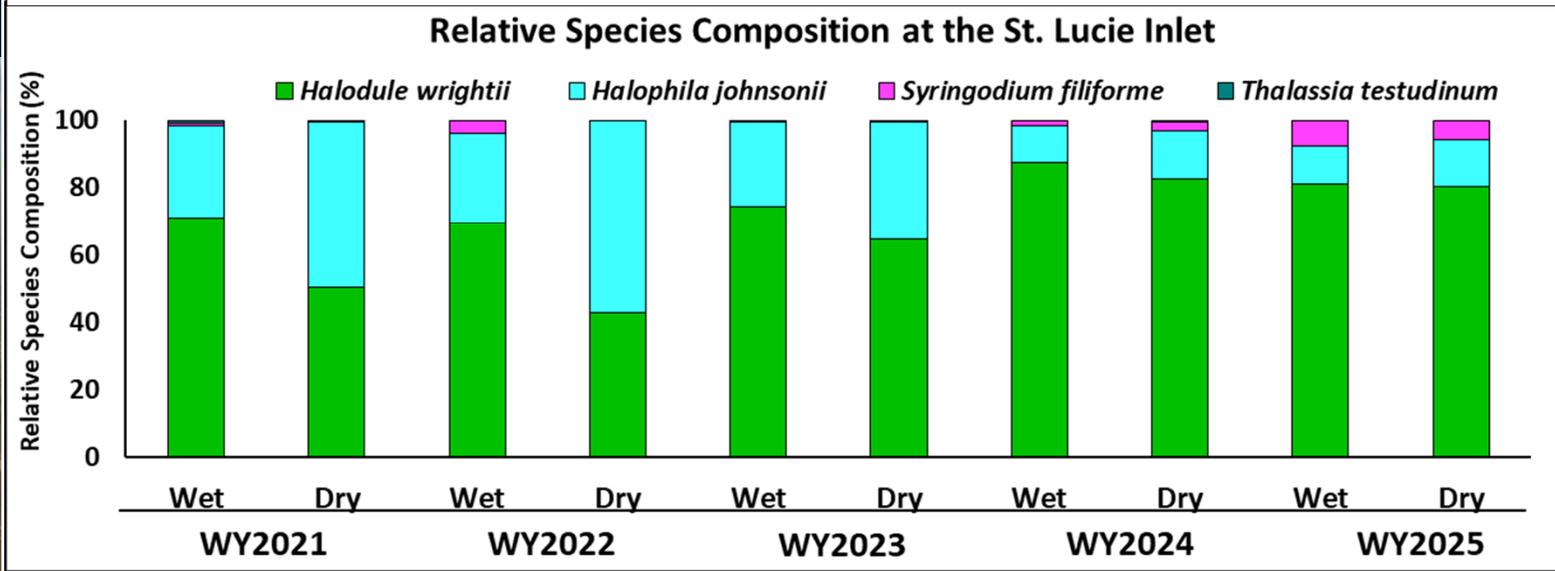
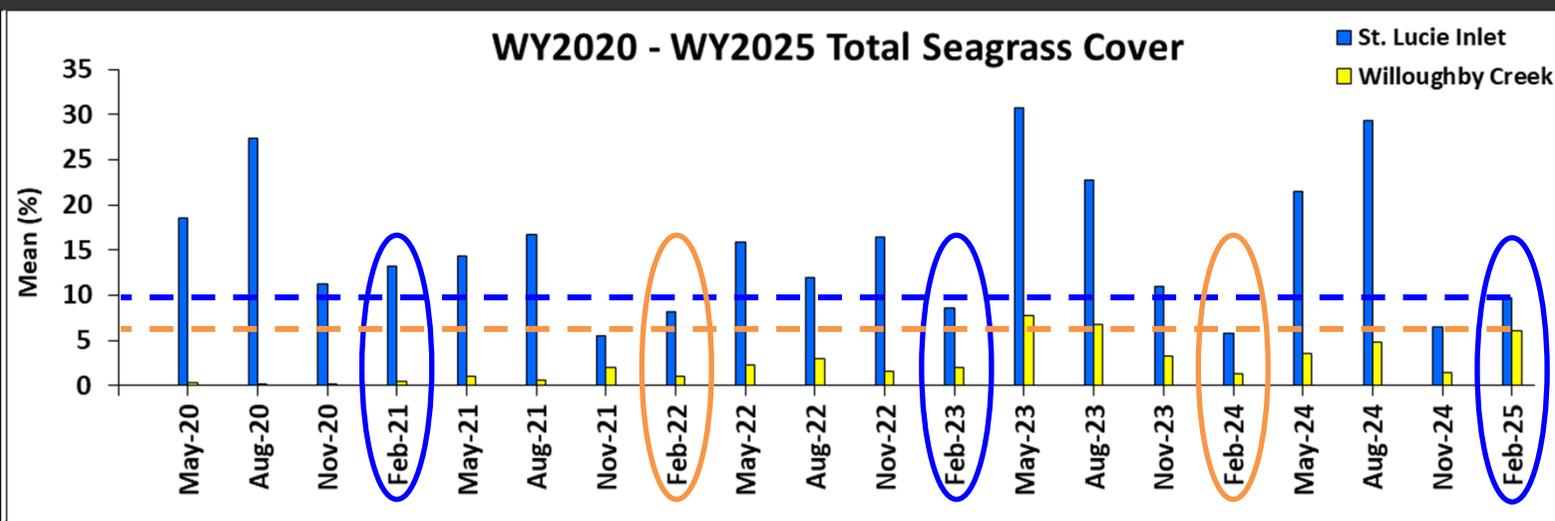
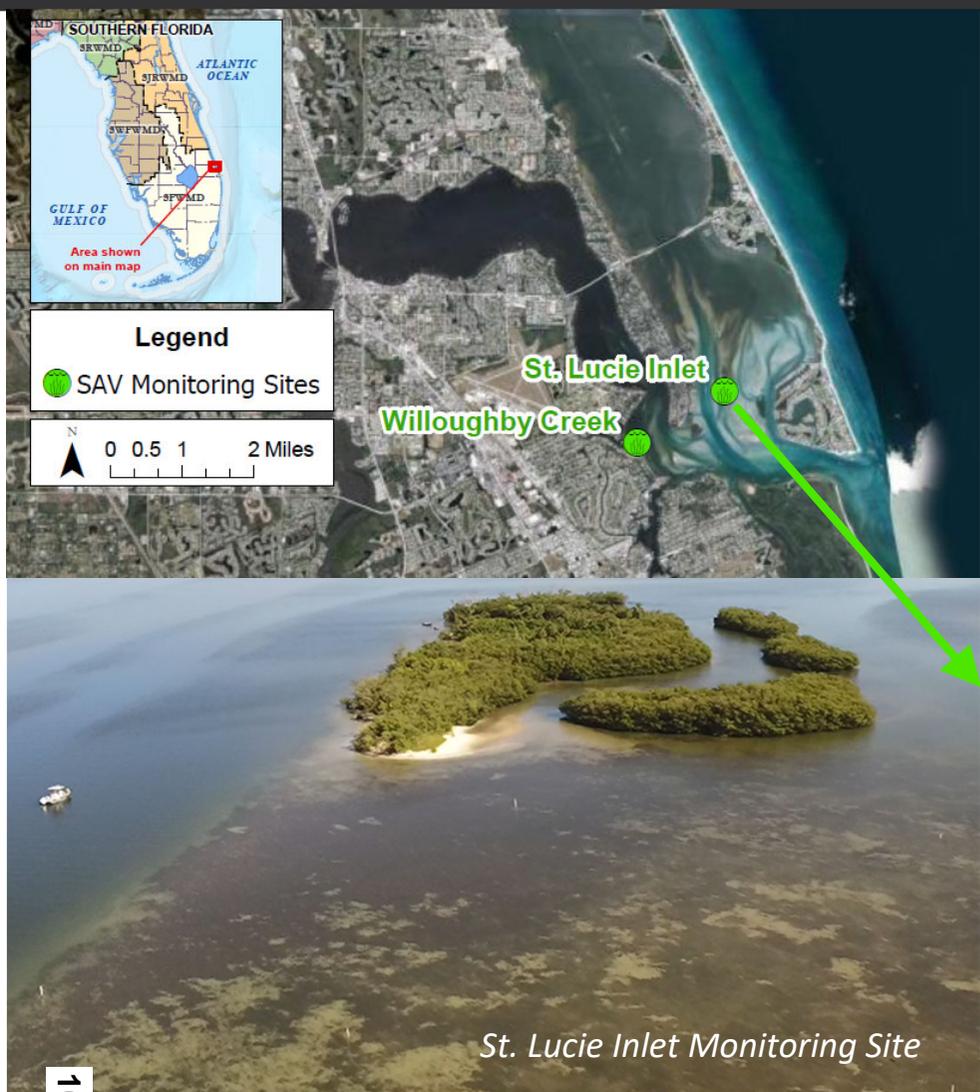
Total Daily Inflow into the St. Lucie Estuary

Data provisional and subject to change

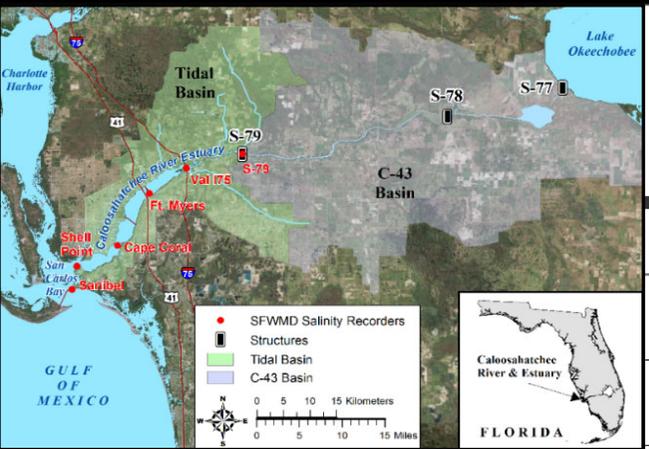
7-Day Mean Inflow Mar. 3, 2025 - Mar. 9, 2025	
Lake Okeechobee (S-308)	523 cfs
C-44 Basin (S-80)	668 cfs
C-23 Basin (S-48)	1 cfs
C-24 Basin (S-49)	0 cfs
Ten Mile Creek	NR
Tidal Basin	122 cfs
Total	1,314 cfs



St. Lucie Estuary – Submerged Aquatic Vegetation



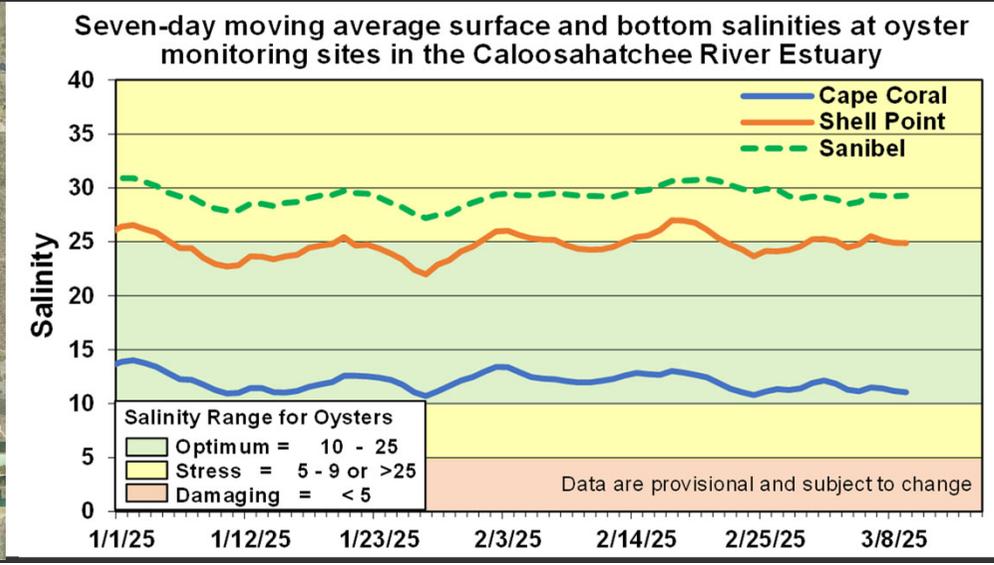
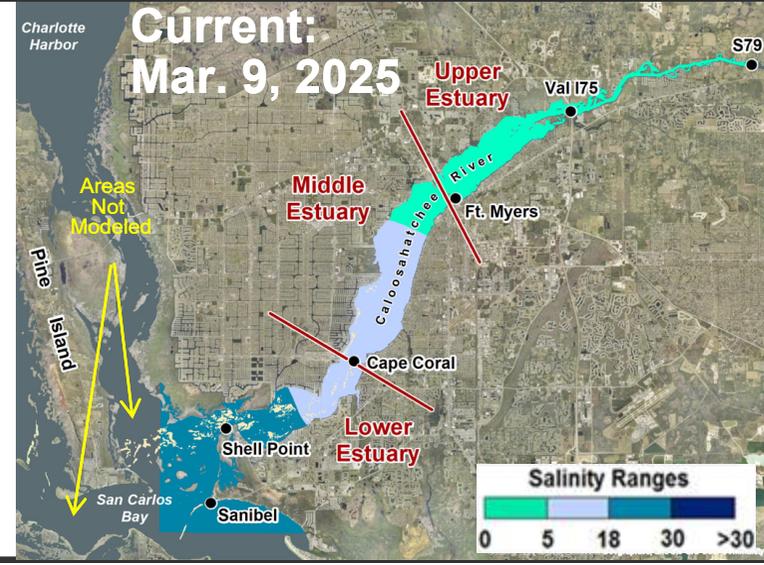
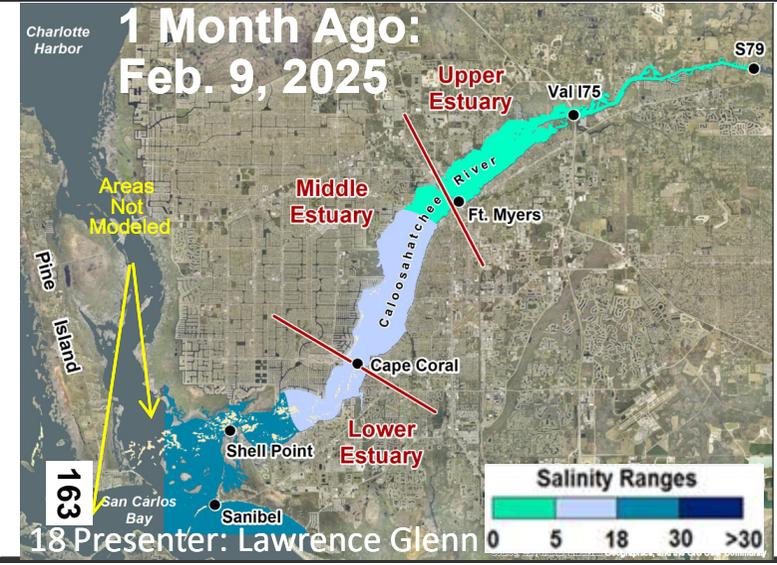
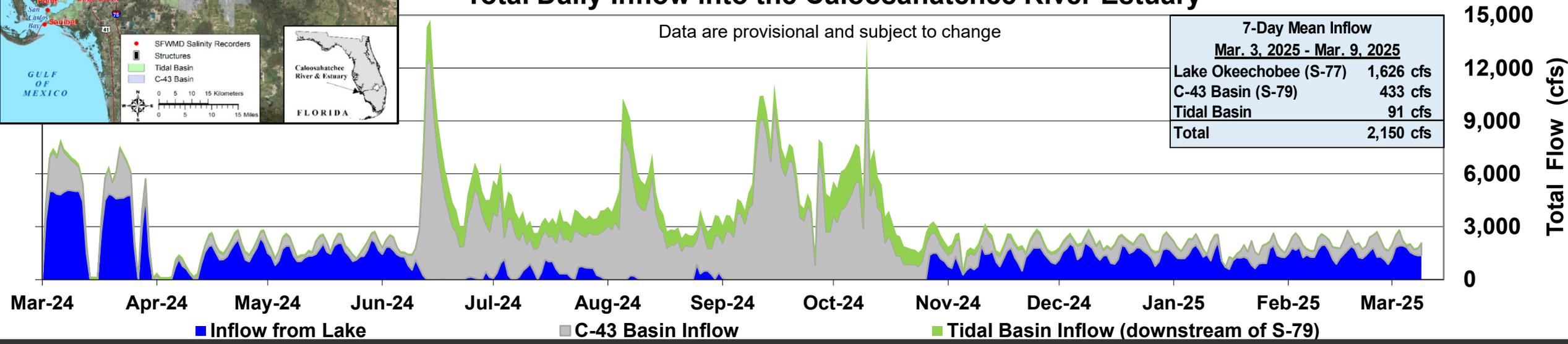
Caloosahatchee Inflows and Salinity Conditions



Total Daily Inflow into the Caloosahatchee River Estuary

Data are provisional and subject to change

7-Day Mean Inflow Mar. 3, 2025 - Mar. 9, 2025	
Lake Okechobee (S-77)	1,626 cfs
C-43 Basin (S-79)	433 cfs
Tidal Basin	91 cfs
Total	2,150 cfs



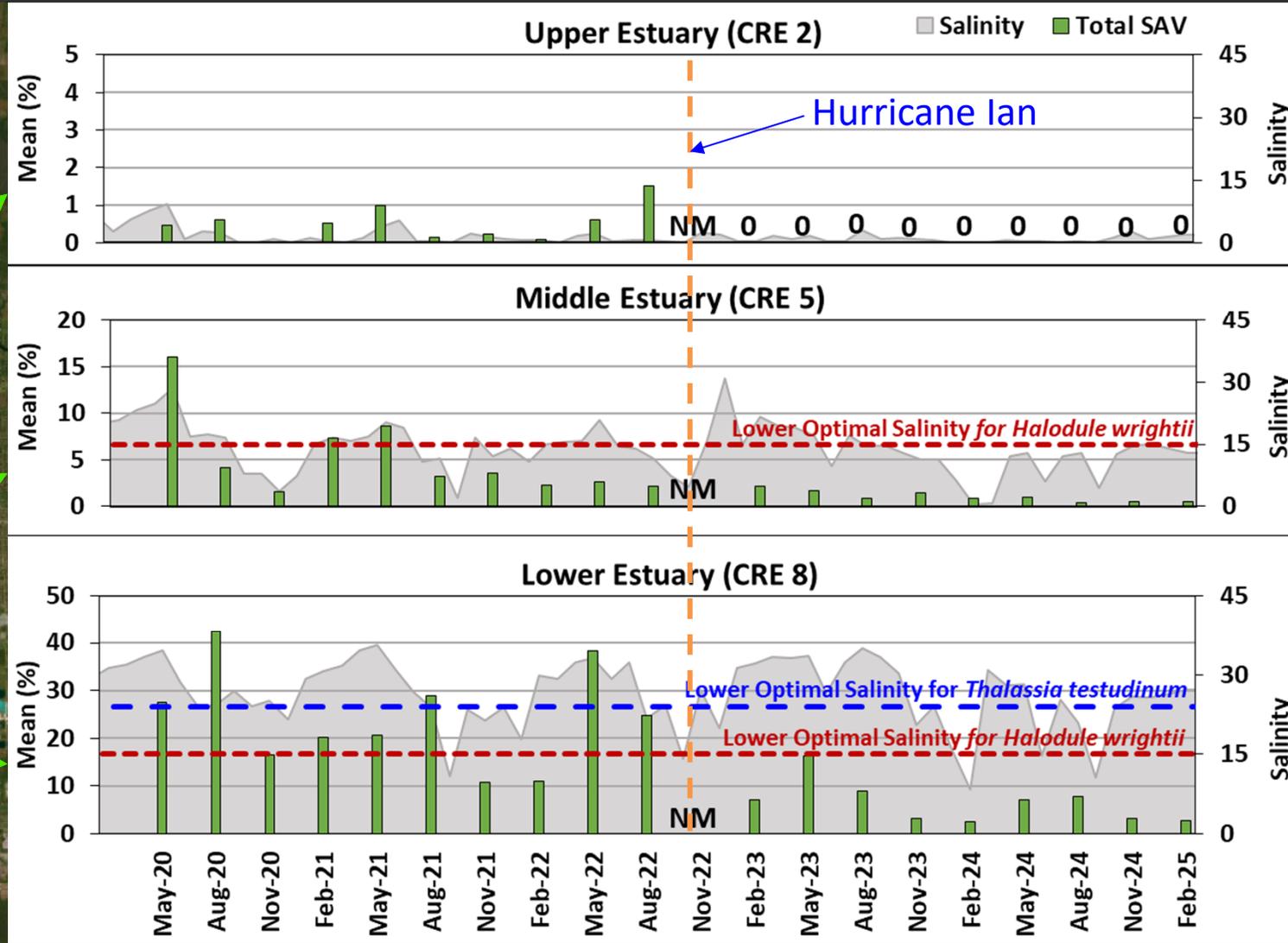
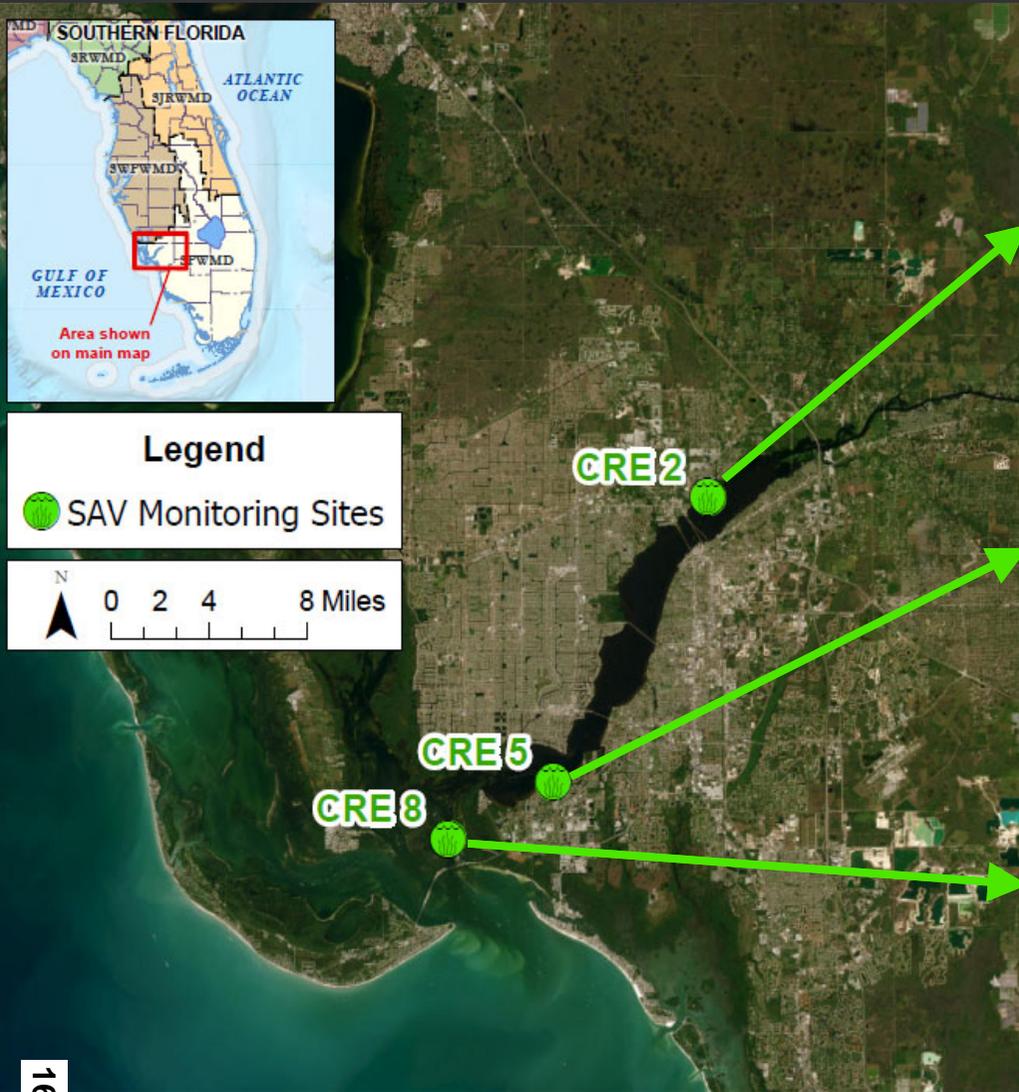
Caloosahatchee River Estuary – Submerged Aquatic Vegetation



Legend

- SAV Monitoring Sites

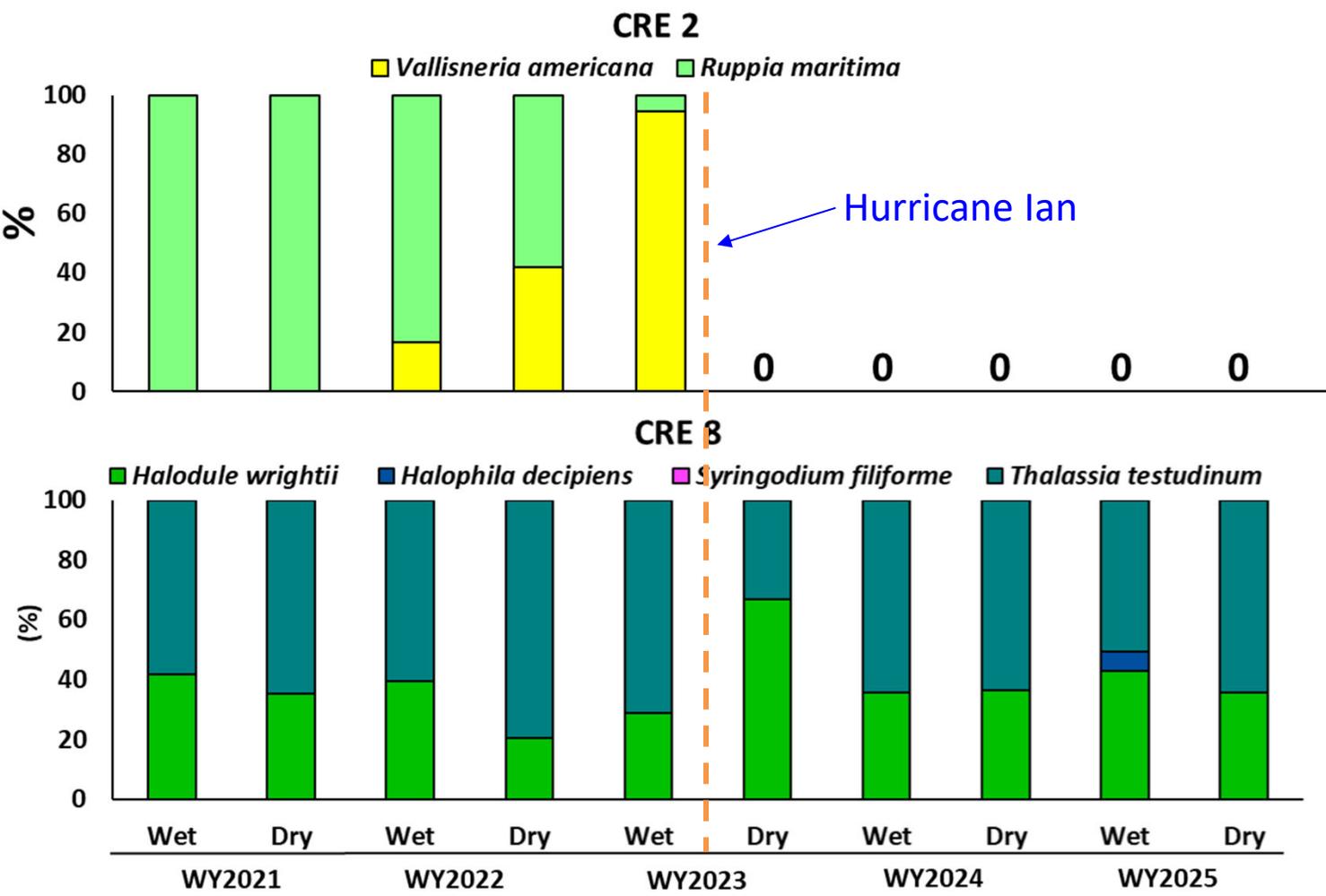
0 2 4 8 Miles



Caloosahatchee River Estuary – Submerged Aquatic Vegetation



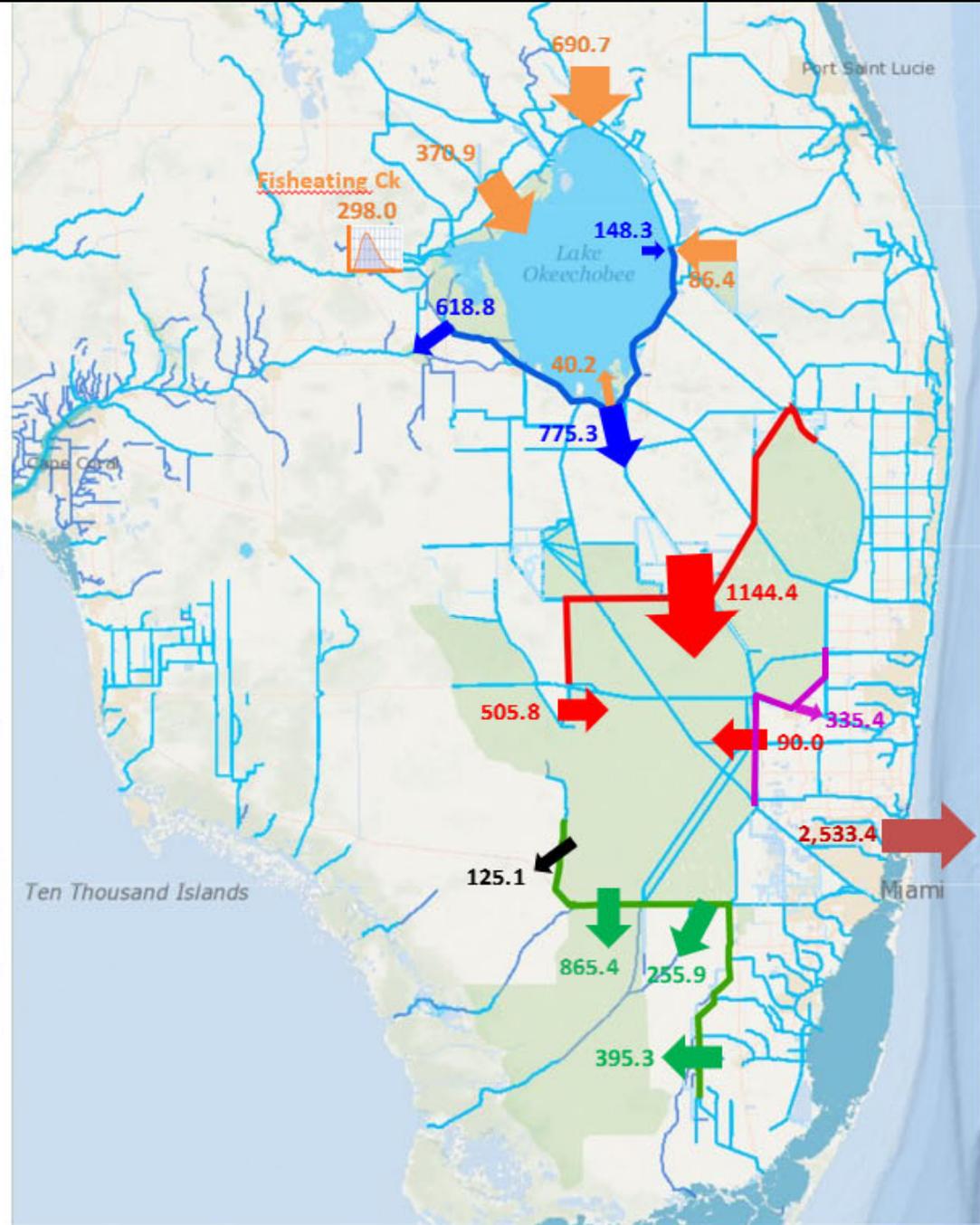
Relative Species Composition (%) at CRE 2 and CRE 8



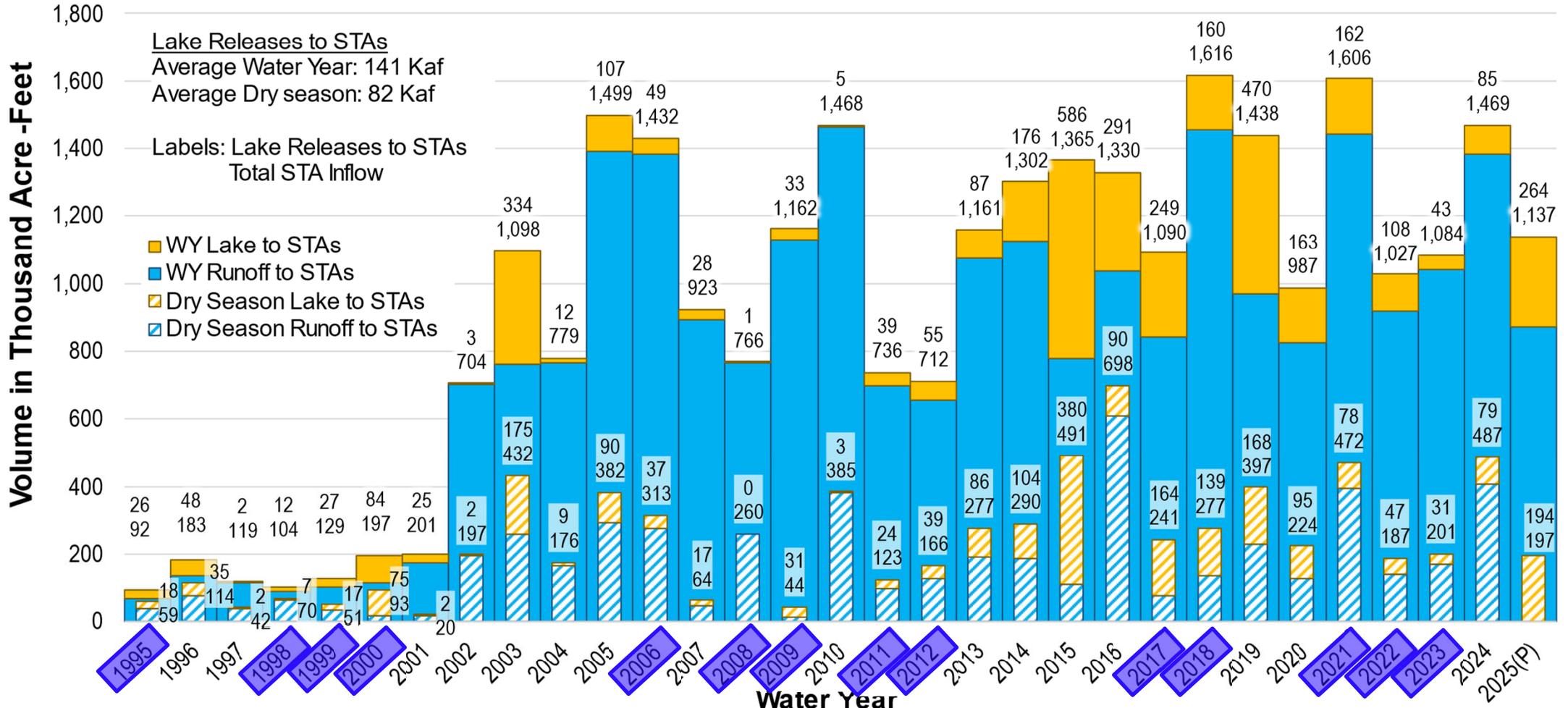
**SFWMD –Volumes Flowing
Down the System for the
Period May 1, 2024 to March 11, 2025**
(volumes in 1,000 acre-feet)

Symbol	Description	Volume (1,000 acre- feet)	
		WYR 2025	Last Month
	Lake Okeechobee Inflows	1486.1	40.5
	Lake Okeechobee Outflows	1542.4	252.2
	WCAs Inflows	1740.2	46.5
	ENP / Detention Cell Inflows	1516.6	71.6
	WCAs to East	335.4	11.3
	Flows to Intracoastal	2533.4	42.2

1,000 acre-feet = 325.9 Million Gallons



Total STA Inflow and Lake Releases to STAs



2025(p): Data from May 1, 2024 to March 9, 2025. Total STA Inflow includes inflows to STA -1E, STA-1W, STA-2, STA-3/4, and STA-5/6.

La Niña Water Years

Everglades Stormwater Treatment Areas - STAs

Estimated Inflow and Outflow Volumes

Mar. 3 – Mar. 9, 2025

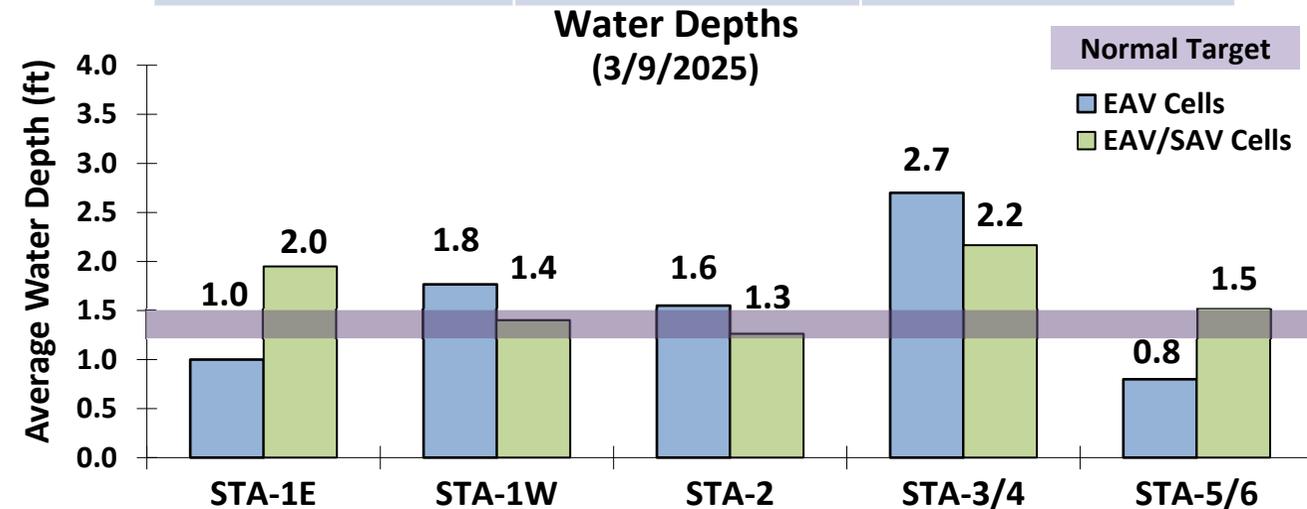
Includes preliminary data

- STAs treated basin runoff and Lake Okeechobee releases in February
 - Total WY2025 inflows to STAs (5/1/2024 to 3/9/2025): ~1,137,000 ac-ft
 - Lake Okeechobee releases to FEBs/STAs in WY2025: ~264,000 ac-ft

- Extensive vegetation management activities underway to address stressed and highly stressed vegetation in EAV cells

- Most treatment cells are near or above target water depth except STA-5/6 EAV cells which are below target

	Total Inflow (acre-feet)	Total Outflow (acre-feet)
STA-1E	1,100	25
STA-1W	900	50
STA-2	0	600
STA-3/4	8,700	8,200
STA-5/6	0	0

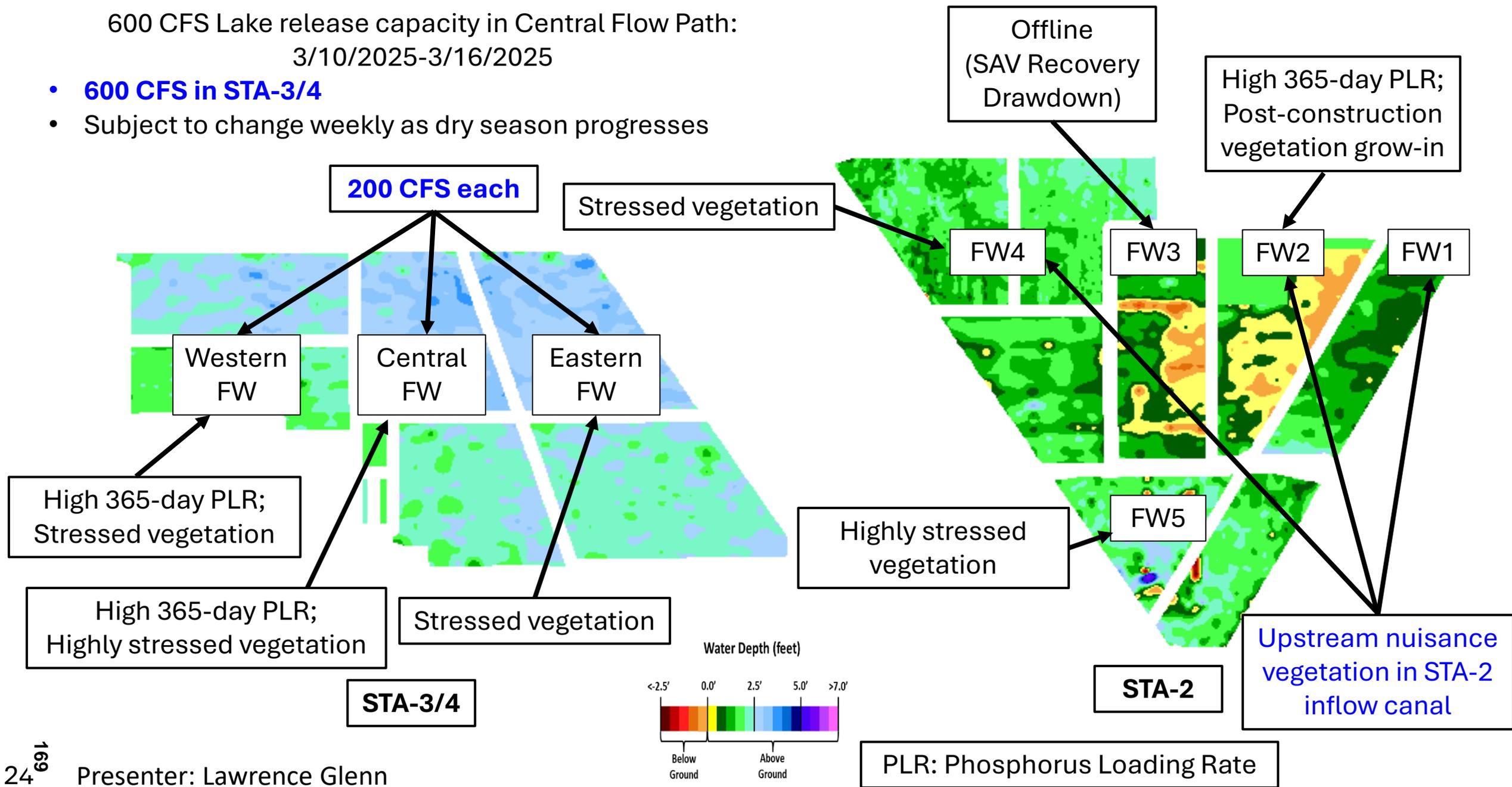


Includes preliminary data; Emergent Aquatic Vegetation (EAV); Submerged Aquatic Vegetation



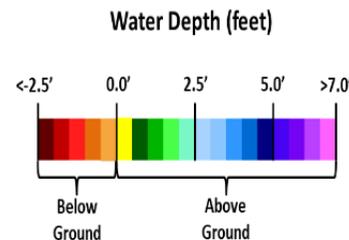
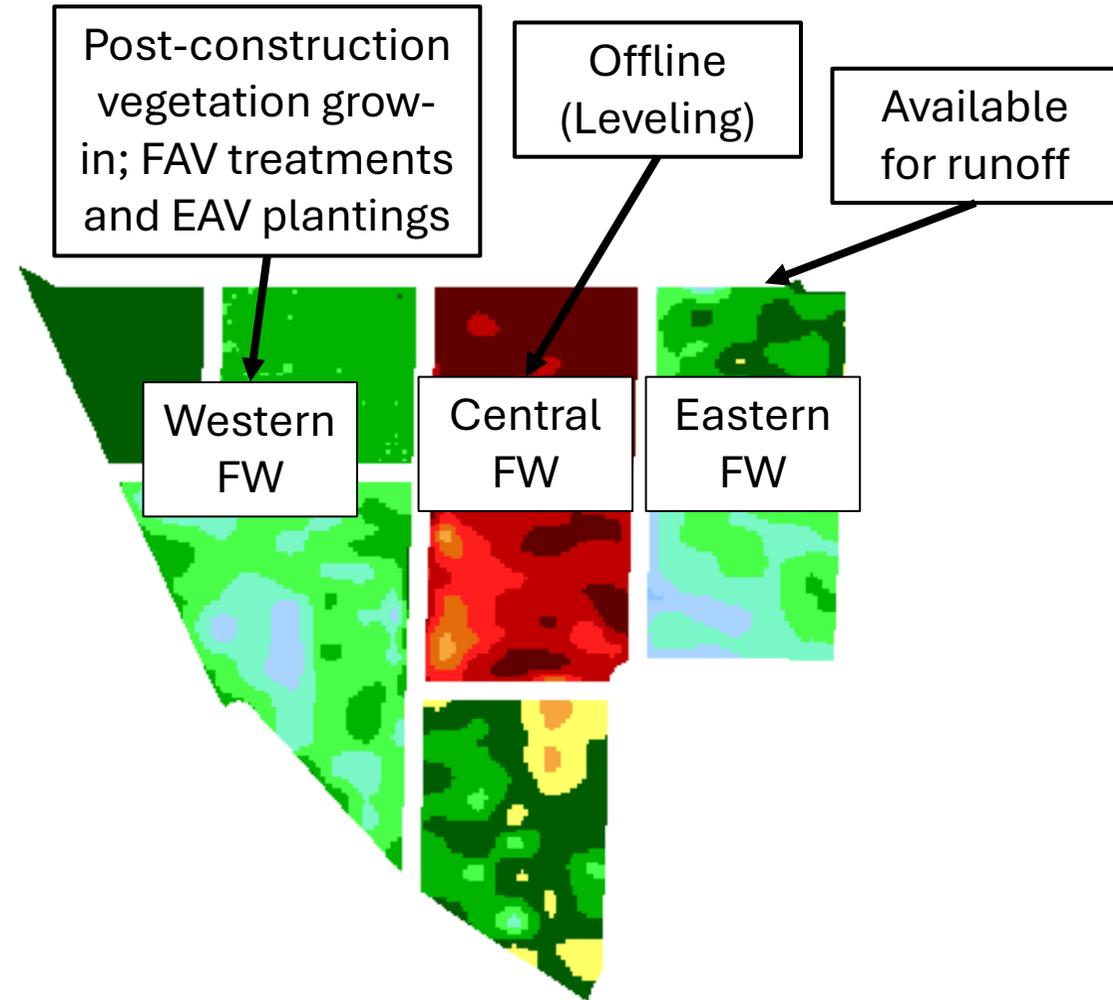
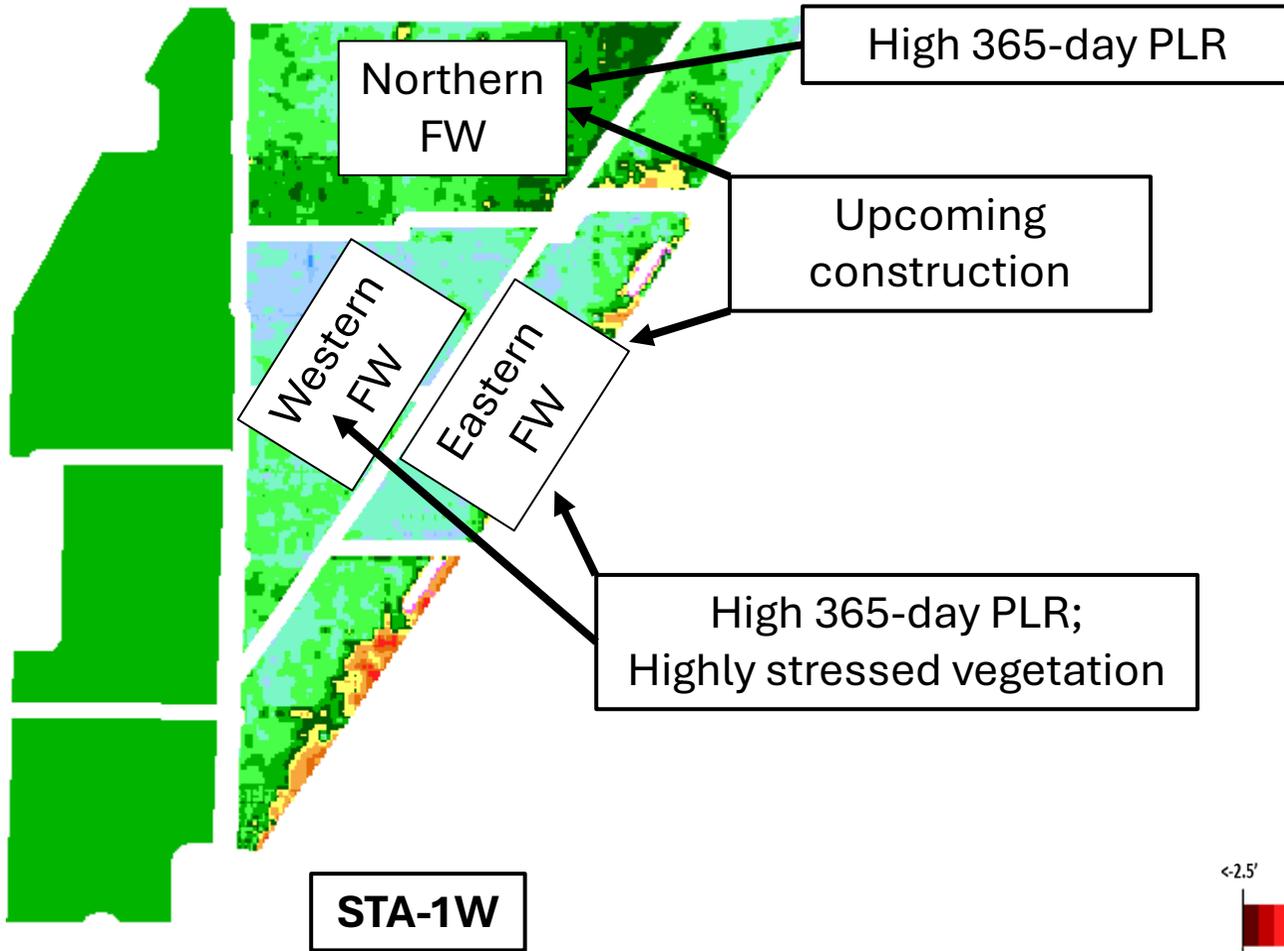
600 CFS Lake release capacity in Central Flow Path:
3/10/2025-3/16/2025

- **600 CFS in STA-3/4**
- Subject to change weekly as dry season progresses



0 CFS Lake release capacity in Eastern Flow Path:
3/10/2025-3/16/2025

- Subject to change weekly as dry season progresses



PLR: Phosphorus Loading Rate

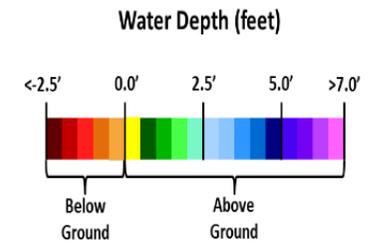
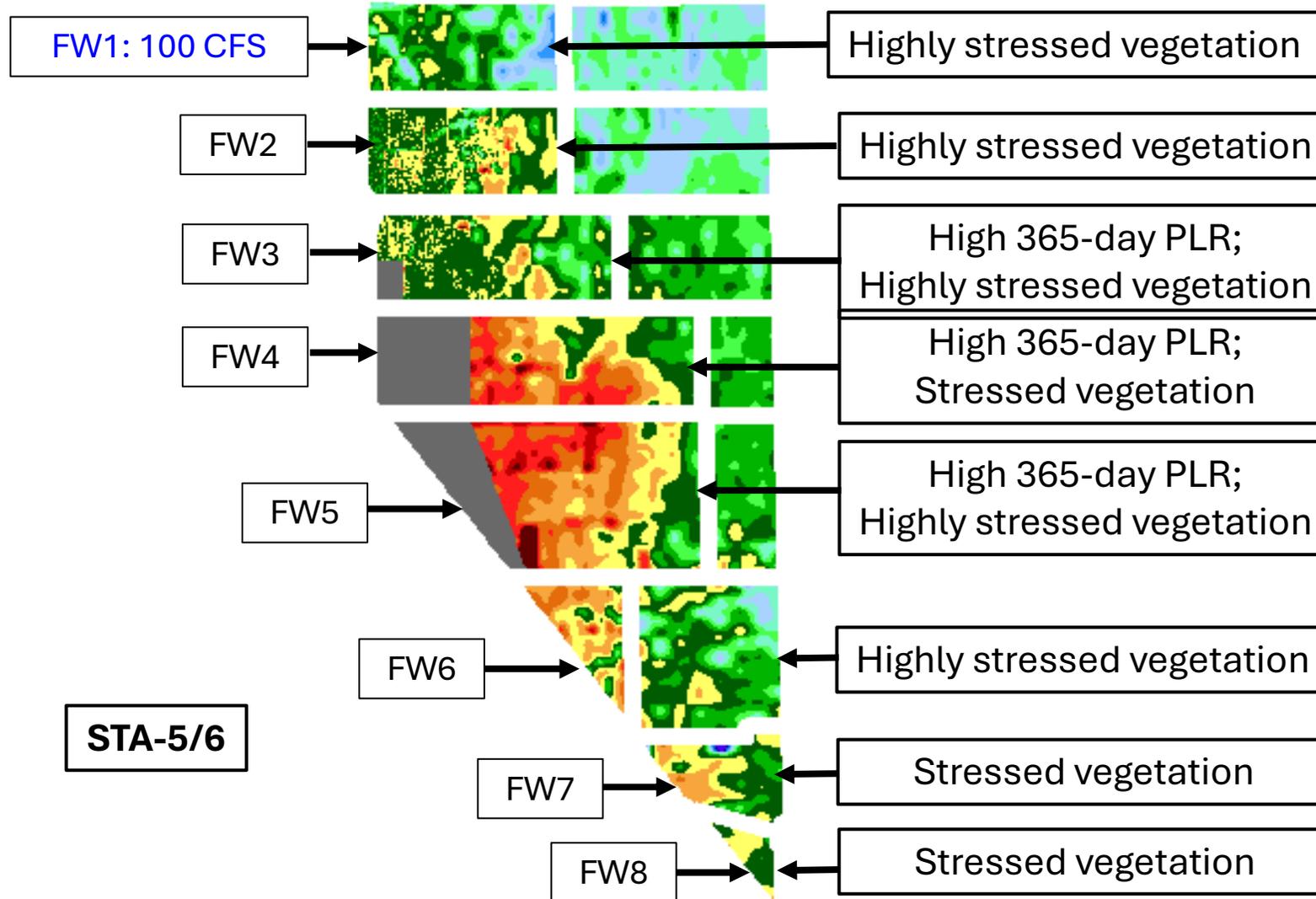
STA-1E

STA-1W

100 CFS Lake release capacity in Western Flow Path:

3/10/2025-3/16/2025

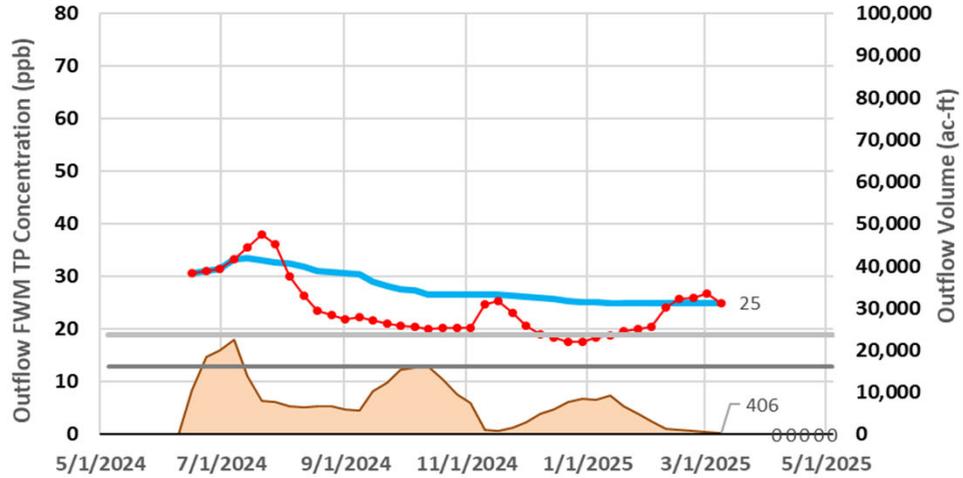
- **100 CFS in STA-5/6**
- Subject to change weekly as dry season progresses



PLR: Phosphorus Loading Rate

2025P* Data from May 1, 2024 to March 9, 2025.

WY2025 STA-1E Outflow



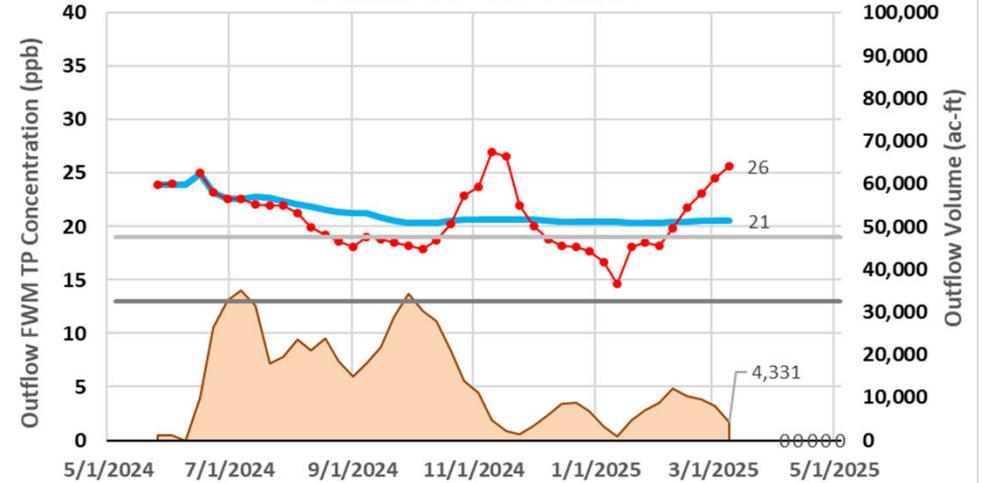
Rolling 28-Day Outflow Volume
 WY-to-Date Outflow FWM TP Conc.

Rolling 28-Day Outflow FWM TP Conc.
 WQBEL 13 ppb

WQBEL 19 ppb

2025P* Data from May 1, 2024 to March 9, 2025.

WY2025 STA-1W Outflow



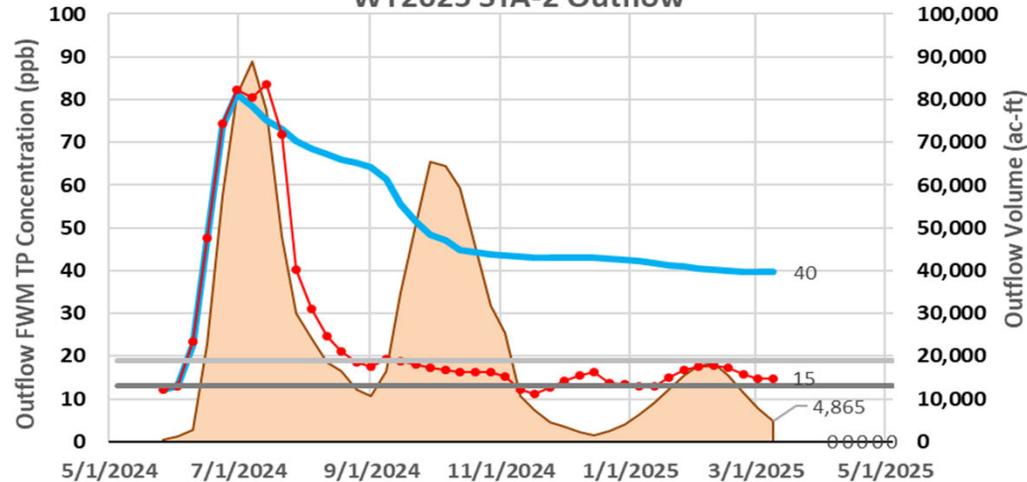
Rolling 28-Day Outflow Volume
 WY-to-Date Outflow FWM TP Conc.

Rolling 28-Day Outflow FWM TP Conc.
 WQBEL 13 ppb

WQBEL 19 ppb

2025P* Data from May 1, 2024 to March 9, 2025.

WY2025 STA-2 Outflow

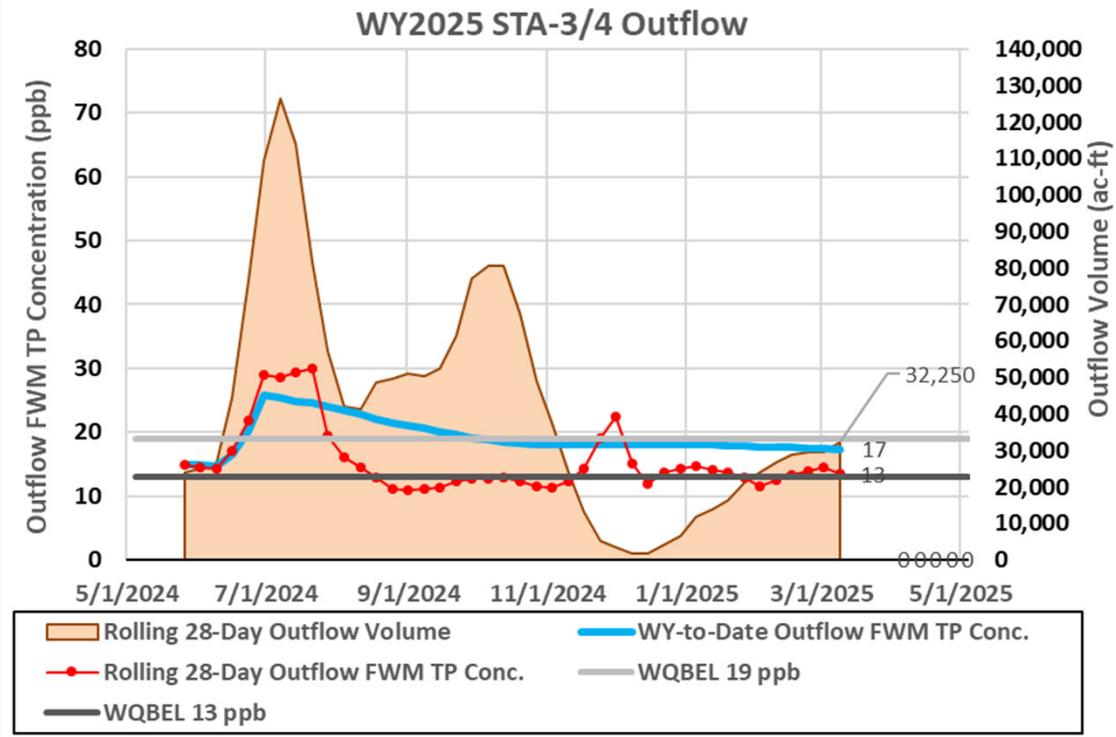


Rolling 28-Day Outflow Volume
 WY-to-Date Outflow FWM TP Conc.

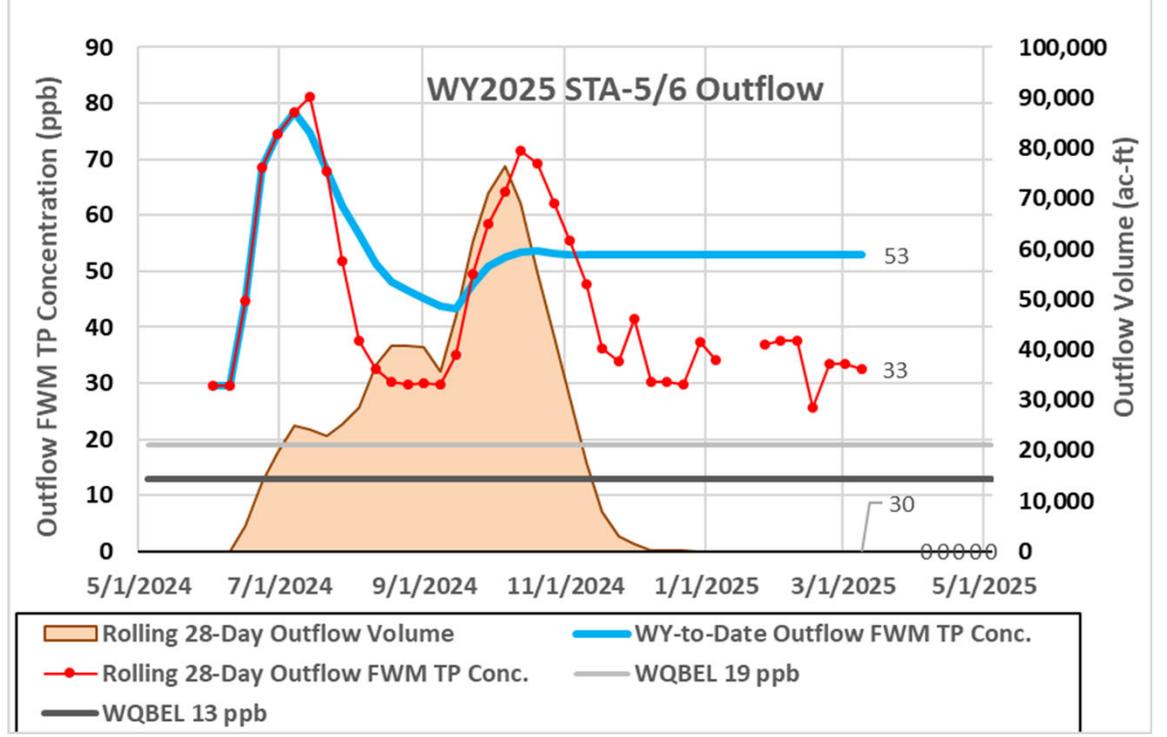
Rolling 28-Day Outflow FWM TP Conc.
 WQBEL 19 ppb

WQBEL 13 ppb

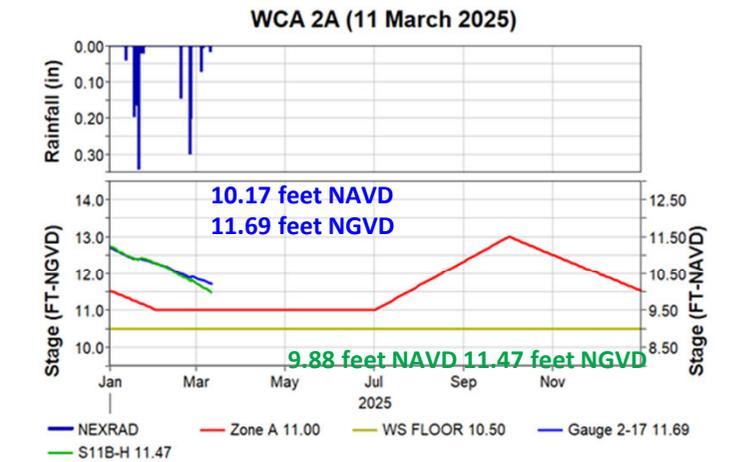
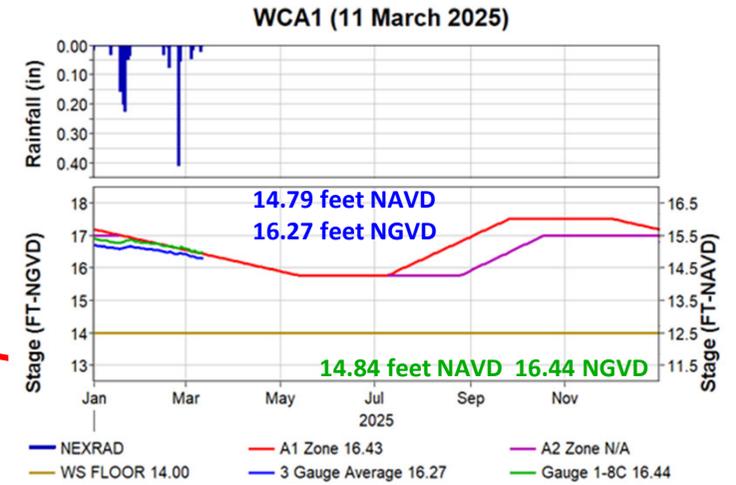
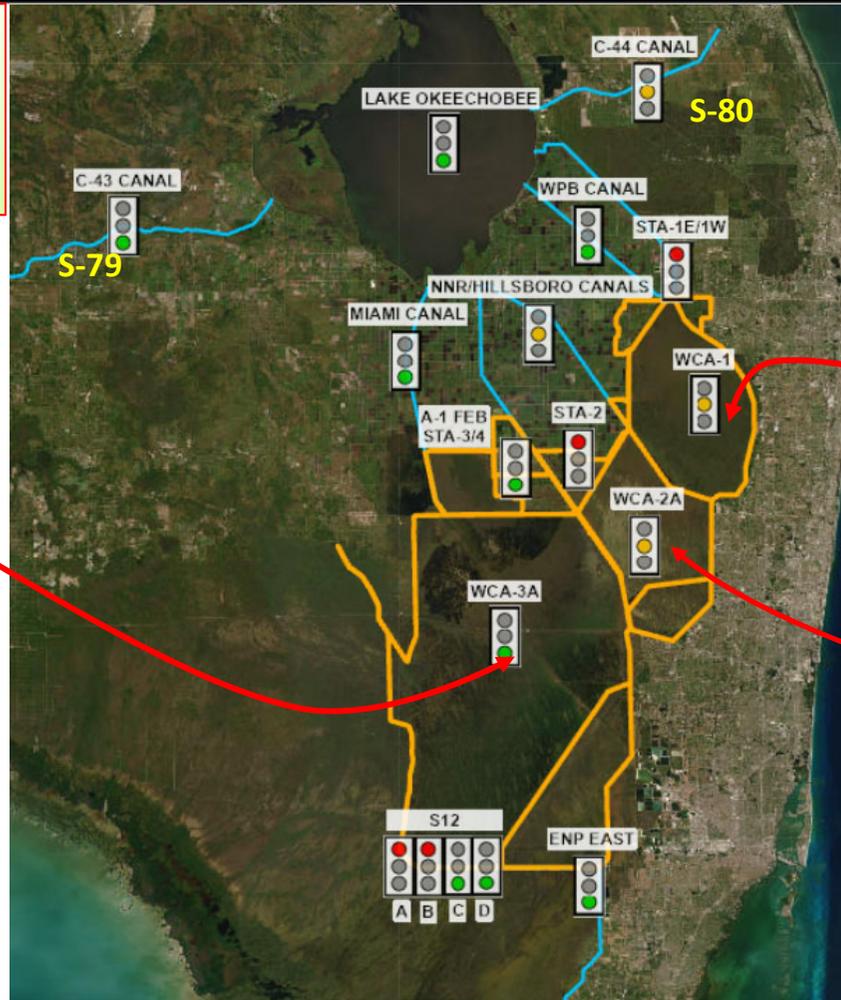
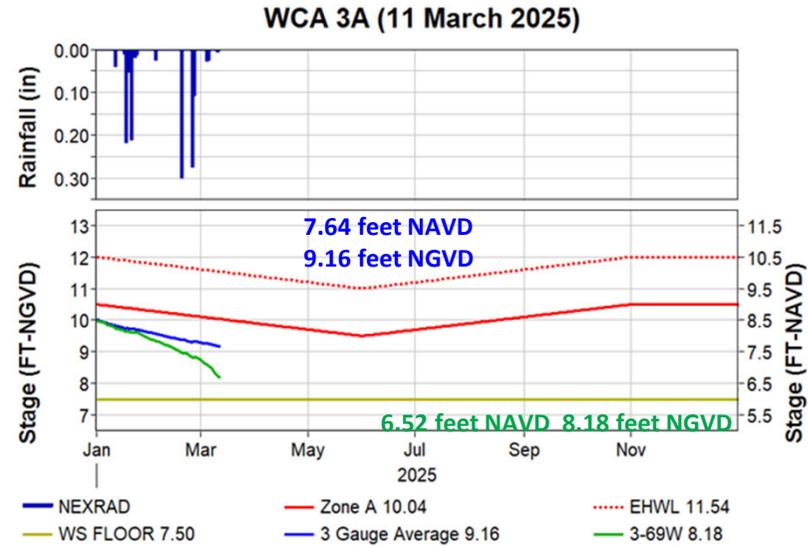
2025P* Data from May 1, 2024 to March 9, 2025.



2025P* Data from May 1, 2024 to March 9, 2025.



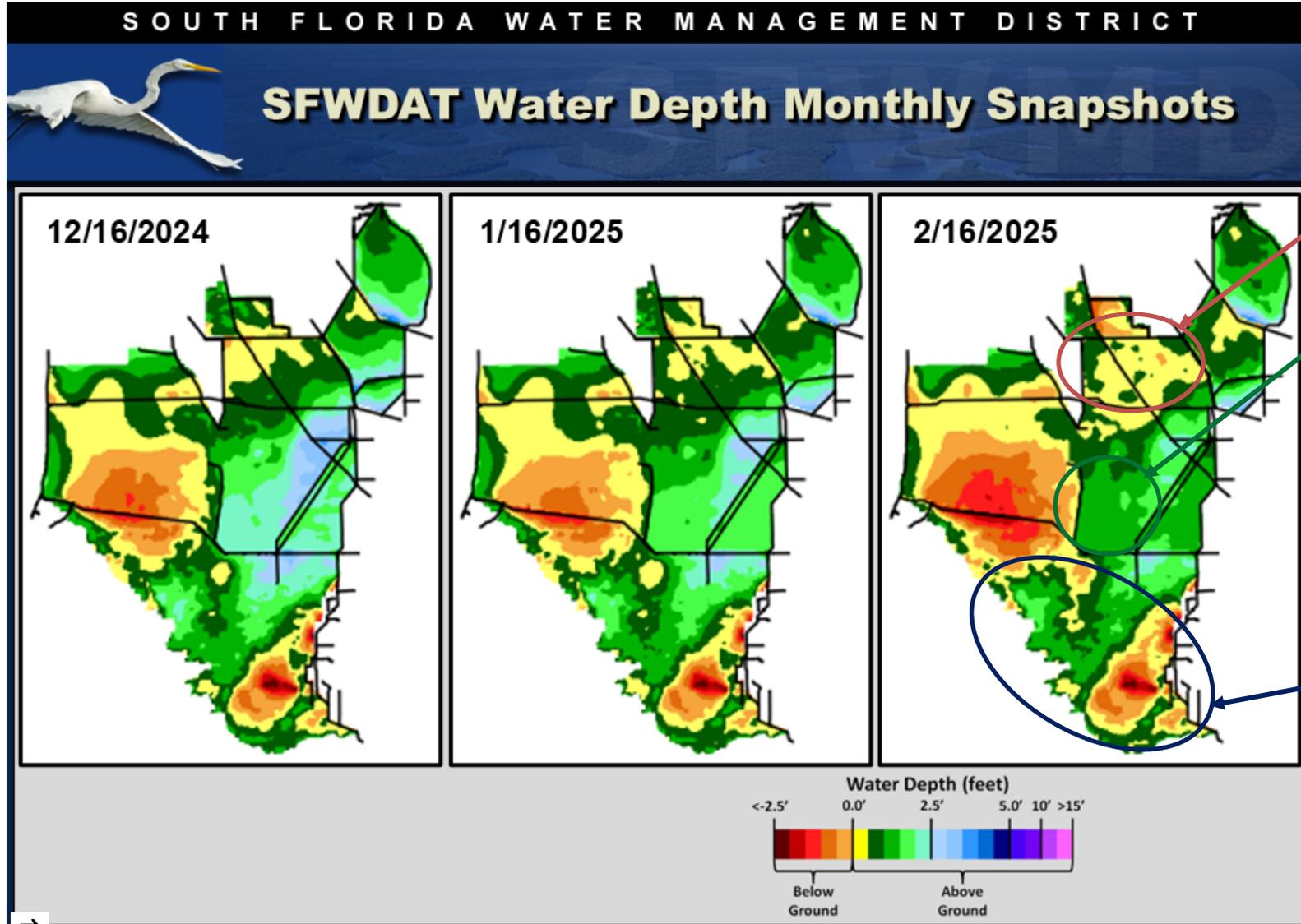
Lake Okeechobee stage is in the middle third of Zone D (Zone D2 of the PA25 simulation) of the LOSOM. LOSOM RO release guidance Up to 1,400 cfs total to S-80, S-97, S-49, and Gordy Road combined, Up to 300 cfs at S-271 or S-352, Up to 2,100 cfs at S-79, and Maximum practical at S-351 and S-354.



For this week, the Tamiami Trail Flow Formula calls 796 cfs releases from WCA-3A to NESRS. Current L-29 stage constraint is at 6.7 feet NAVD (8.3 feet NGVD). South Dade Conveyance System is stable. S-335 is open and S-338 is closed. S356 and S357 are secured and do not need to pump due to dry conditions. G-211 is open. S-332D is pumping as needed. S-176 and S177 are closed. S-18C and S-197 are closed. LPG-2 stage at 8.5 SMA is below ground. S199 and S200 are pumping as needed to maintain the stage in the canal within range.

WCA-1 stage is near regulation schedule in Zone B; WCA-2A stage is above regulation schedule and receding towards the schedule ; WCA-3A stage is below regulation schedule in Zone B. S-10s and S-11s are closed. S12C is closed and S12D is opened ~80. S-333 and S-333N are open ~ 600 cfs. S-343 A/B and S-344 are closed. Interior structures to WCA-3A S-339 and S-340 are closed.

Everglades Water Depths



The SFWDAT model output for February 16, 2025, illustrates shallower conditions across WCA-3A. Northern WCA-3A continues to dry out and approaches the soil surface.

The ponded conditions in southern WCA3A are now absent.

Most of the Big Cypress Basin, both to the north and south of Tamiami trail, is below soil surface, with some areas now significantly so.

Hydrologic connectivity within the major sloughs of ENP has diminished over the past two months, especially in the west, but remains conducive for water flow to the south.

Everglades Gauge Data Color Trend: Weekly Change and Depth

Weekly Change		12/16/24	12/23/24	12/30/24	1/6/25	1/13/25	1/20/25	1/27/25	2/3/25	2/10/25	2/17/25
WCA-1	1-7	-0.02	0.03	0.01	-0.04	-0.04	-0.01	0.01	-0.03	-0.04	-0.07
	1-9	0.00	0.01	0.00	-0.04	-0.04	-0.01	0.04	-0.06	-0.05	-0.06
	1-8T	-0.04	0.04	-0.01	-0.05	-0.02	0.01	0.00	-0.06	-0.02	-0.06
WCA-2A	2-17	-0.06	-0.07	-0.09	-0.14	-0.13	-0.08	-0.06	-0.09	-0.09	-0.14
	99	-0.14	-0.06	0.16	0.10	0.09	0.15	0.09	0.02	0.00	-0.22
WCA-2B	EDEN-13	-0.13	0.00	0.21	0.06	0.07	0.12	0.02	0.10	-0.04	-0.17
	WCA-3A	62 NW	-0.13	0.01	0.04	-0.06	-0.05	-0.03	-0.03	-0.05	-0.06
63 NE		-0.17	-0.08	-0.04	-0.10	-0.08	-0.07	-0.03	-0.07	-0.07	-0.06
64 central		-0.16	-0.14	-0.01	-0.15	-0.12	-0.06	-0.12	-0.10	-0.10	-0.10
65 southern		-0.13	-0.11	0.01	-0.14	-0.13	-0.08	-0.09	-0.10	-0.11	-0.12
76		-0.10	-0.09	0.00	-0.08	-0.11	-0.04	-0.07	-0.06	-0.08	-0.08
WCA-3B	71	-0.08	-0.07	0.01	-0.09	-0.08	-0.06	-0.05	-0.09	-0.09	-0.10
	SRS1	-0.09	-0.06	0.04	-0.10	-0.13	-0.04	-0.06	-0.09	-0.09	
ENP	NESRS2	-0.03	-0.01	0.04	-0.05	-0.08	-0.03	0.00	-0.05	-0.13	-0.14

Depth		12/16/24	12/23/24	12/30/24	1/6/25	1/13/25	1/20/25	1/27/25	2/3/25	2/10/25	2/17/25
WCA-1	1-7	1.63	1.66	1.67	1.63	1.59	1.58	1.59	1.56	1.52	1.45
	1-9	1.97	1.98	1.98	1.94	1.90	1.89	1.93	1.87	1.82	1.76
	1-8T										
WCA-2A	2-17	2.14	2.07	1.98	1.84	1.71	1.63	1.57	1.48	1.39	1.25
	WCA-3A	62 NW	1.09	1.10	1.14	1.08	1.03	1.00	0.97	0.92	0.86
63 NE		1.29	1.21	1.17	1.07	0.99	0.92	0.89	0.82	0.75	0.69
64 central		1.91	1.77	1.76	1.61	1.49	1.43	1.31	1.21	1.11	1.01
65 southern		2.41	2.30	2.31	2.17	2.04	1.96	1.87	1.77	1.66	1.54
76		1.84	1.75	1.75	1.67	1.56	1.52	1.45	1.39	1.31	1.23
WCA-3B	71	1.92	1.85	1.86	1.77	1.69	1.63	1.58	1.49	1.40	1.30
	SRS1	2.13	2.07	2.11	2.01	1.88	1.84	1.78	1.69	1.60	
ENP	NESRS2	2.35	2.34	2.38	2.33	2.25	2.22	2.22	2.17	2.04	1.90

Recession rate ecological characterization criteria: WY25 dry season (feet/week)

Poor or fair: ascension based on region

Good: 0.0' to -0.12' per week

Fair: greater than -0.12' to less than -0.18

Poor: a recession faster than -0.19

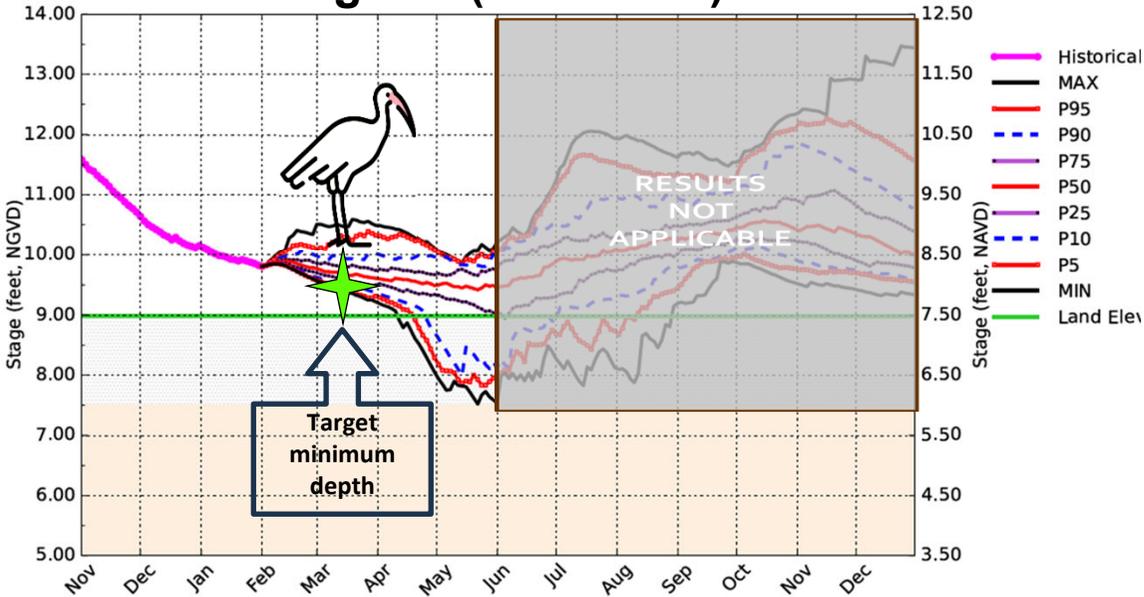
The current characterization for stage change is based on rates that are beneficial for wetland ecology and wading bird foraging success. Rates of stage change were fair to good over the last week across the WCAs and Northeastern Shark River Slough. Recession rates in **WCA-South** (an important region for wading bird foraging later in the dry season) remain some of the fastest rates of stage change across the EPA over the last month.

Depths are the lowest in **northern WCA-3A** with the depths at both gauges in that region well below 1.0 foot and deepest in NESRS at just under 2.0 feet.

DEPTH
Shades of blue to brown = Deep to Shallow

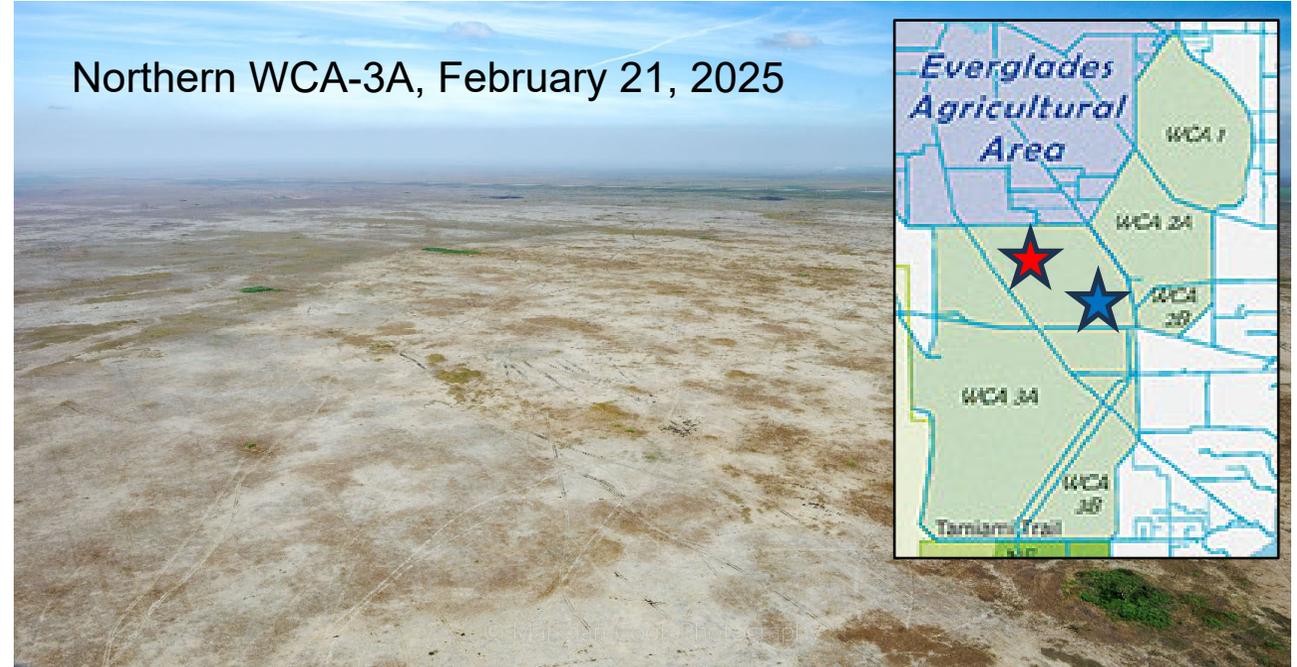
Wading Bird Update: WCA-3A North

Dynamic Position Analysis Modeling for Gage 63 (WCA-3AN)



Stage at gage 63 needs to be >9.4 ft NGVD on March 15 (start of White Ibis nesting) to trigger nesting at the Alley North colony.

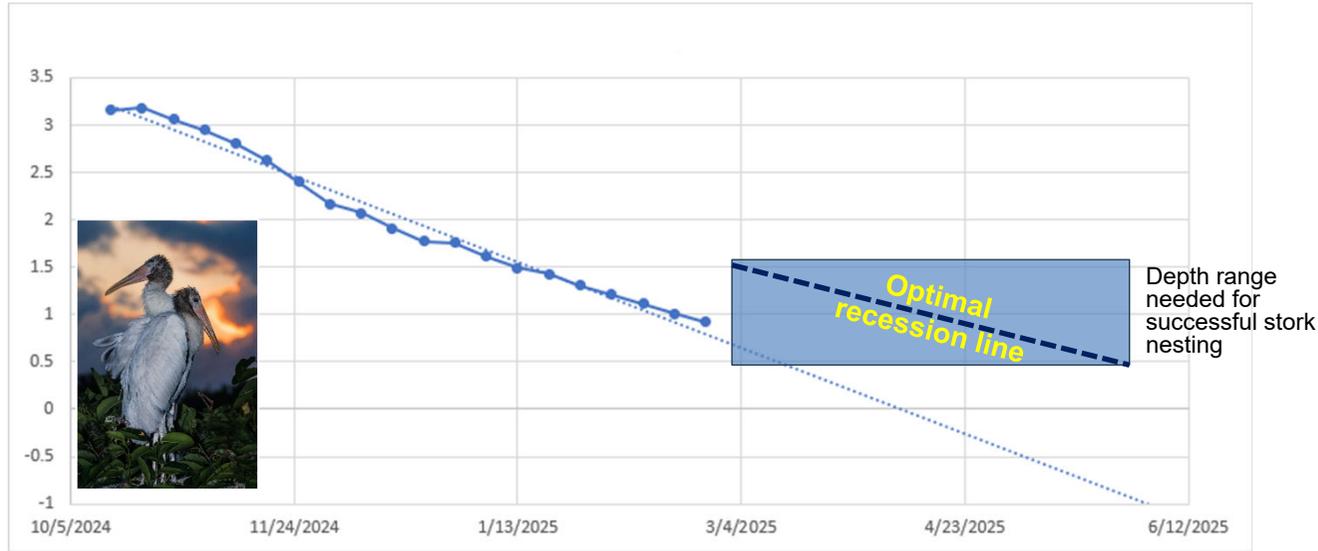
Predicted depths are suitable for triggering white ibis nesting at the Alley North colony. However, stages dropped faster and earlier than usual resulting in a relatively dry landscape with limited foraging opportunities and increased probability of peat oxidation and wildfire. Limited nesting is expected here in 2025.



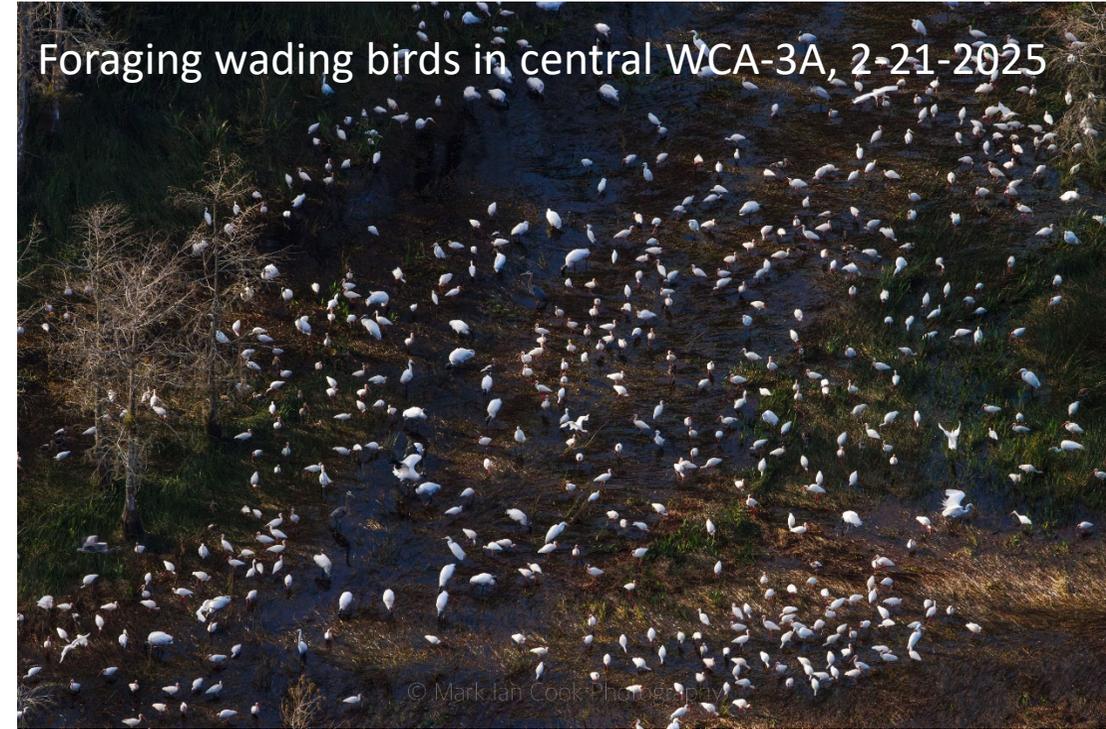
Much of the critical habitat in WCA-3A North is already too dry to support foraging birds. Stars in inset map show locations of photo (red) and gage 64 (blue).

Wading Bird Update: WCA-3A South

Depths at Gage 64 (Central WCA-3AS) in Relation to Requisite Depth Range for Successful Stork Nesting

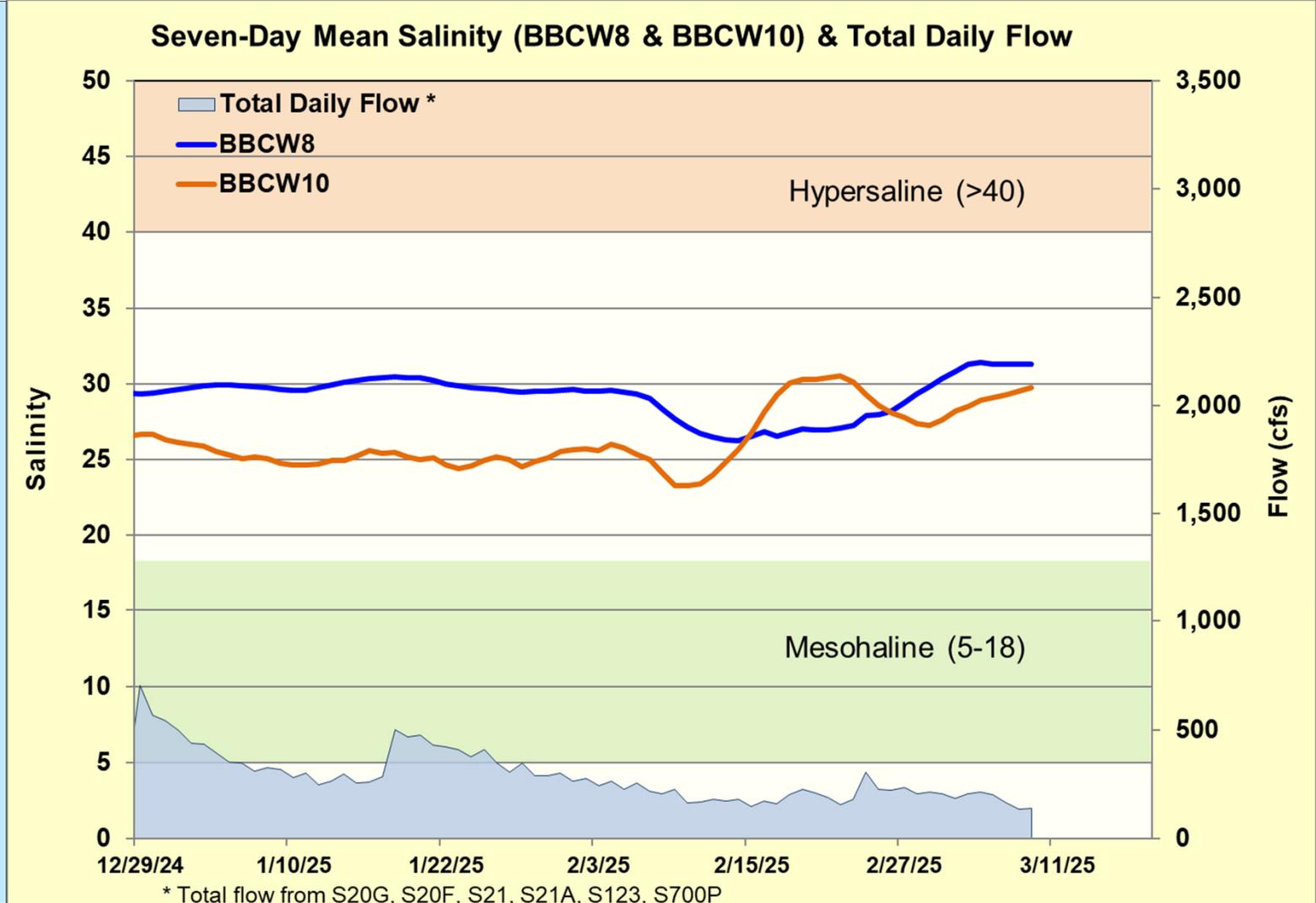
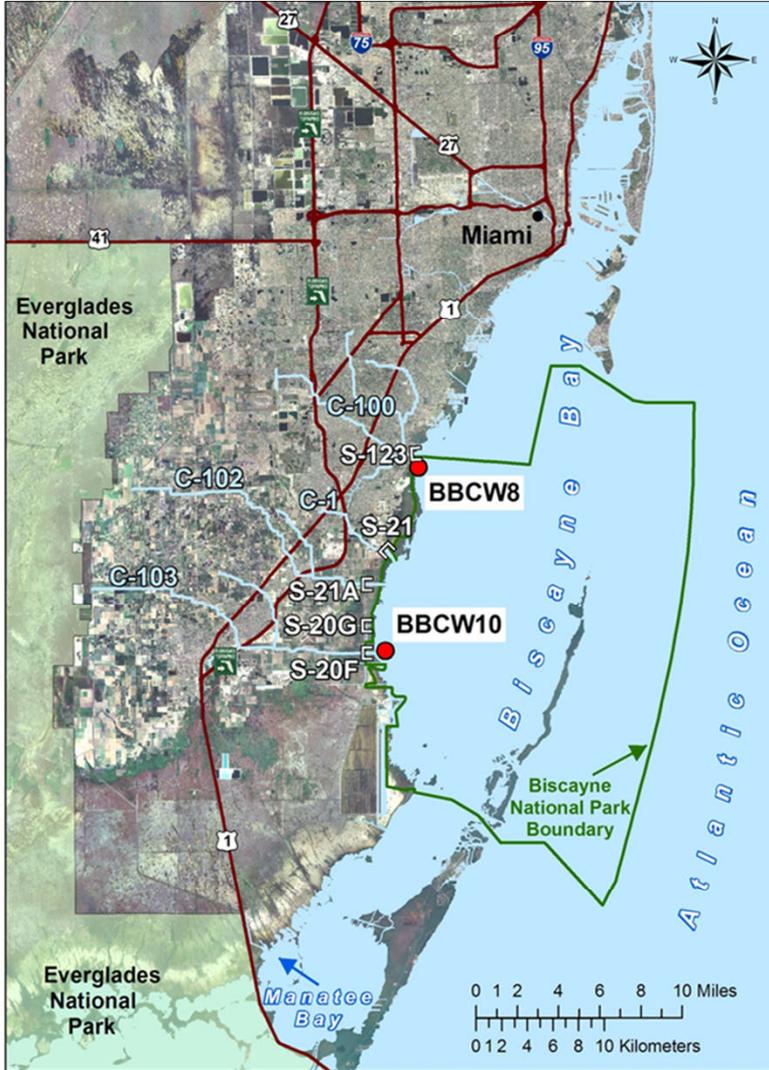


Depths in central WCA-3A need to be between 1.5 – 0.5 ft from March through the end of the dry season to support successful Wood Stork nesting.

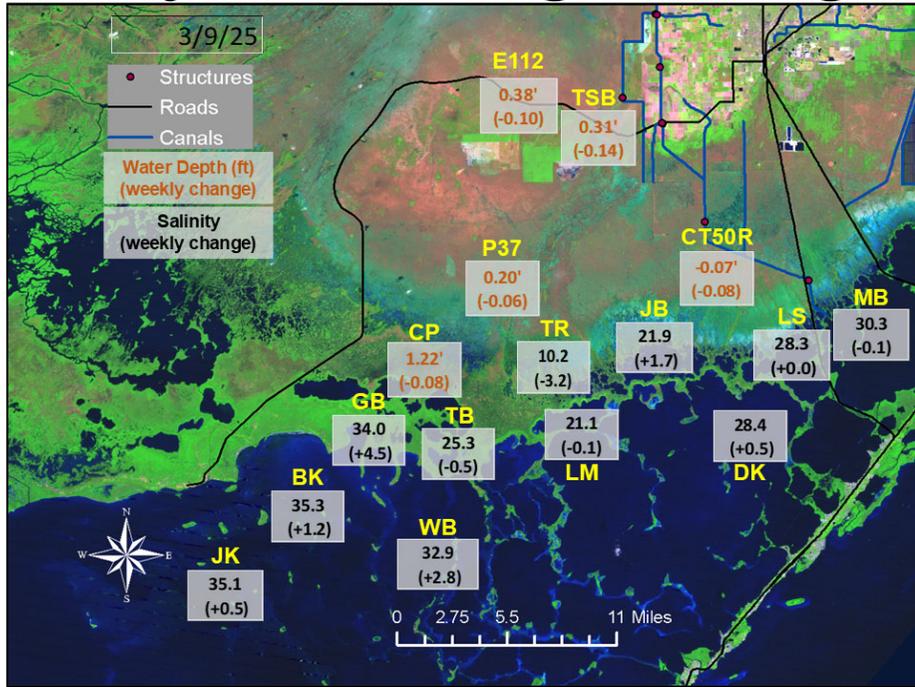


Long hydroperiods & shallow depths in central & western WCA-3AS have triggered wood stork foraging and nesting (about 325 pairs/nests in WCA-3A). However, this is probably an ecological trap; depths here are too shallow too soon & foraging is unlikely to be sustainable for the remainder of the nesting season given current recession rates.

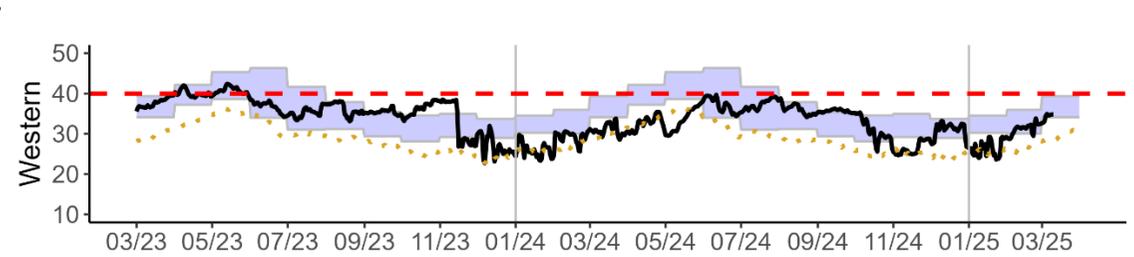
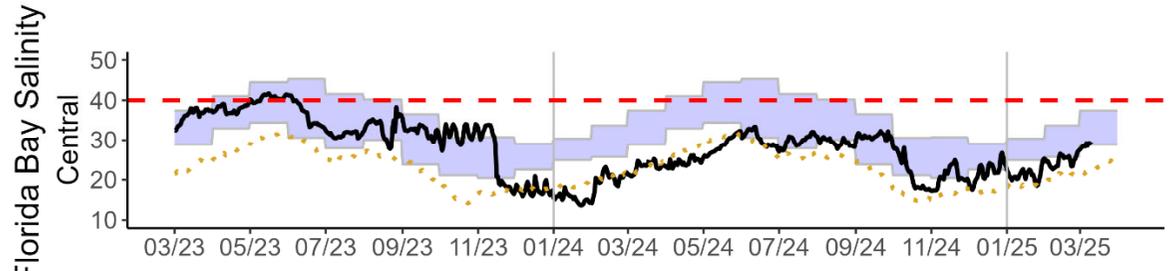
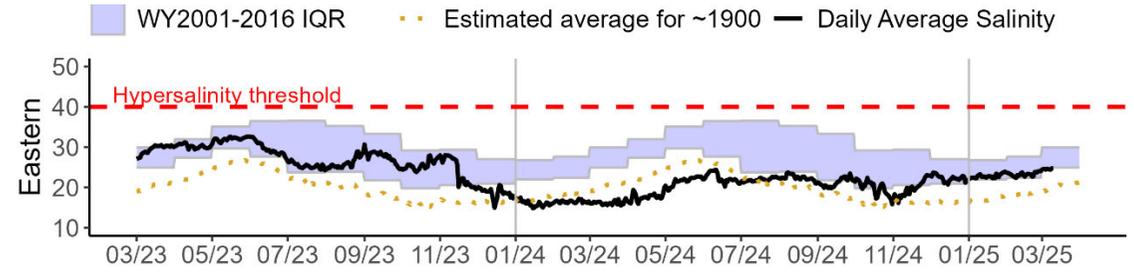
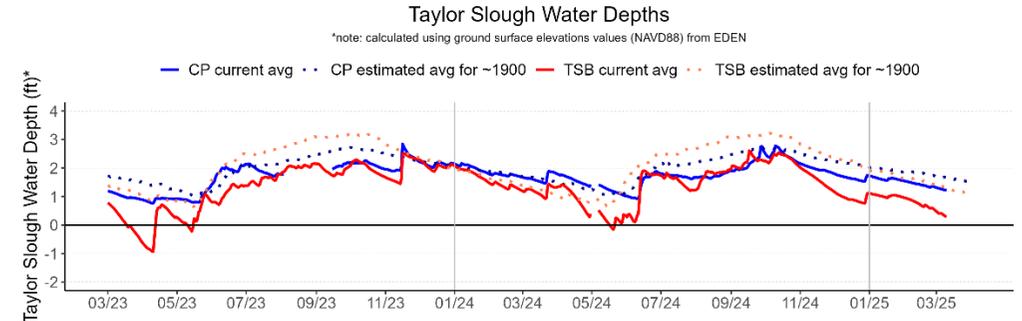
Biscayne Bay Salinity Conditions



Taylor Slough Stages and Florida Bay Salinity



- All stages across Taylor Slough decreased over the past week
- Taylor Slough water levels remain above the recent average for this time of year
- Salinity is above the historical comparison (estimated average for 1900) and at the WY2001-2016 IQR 25th percentile in all three regions
- Salinity remains below its recent average for this time of year

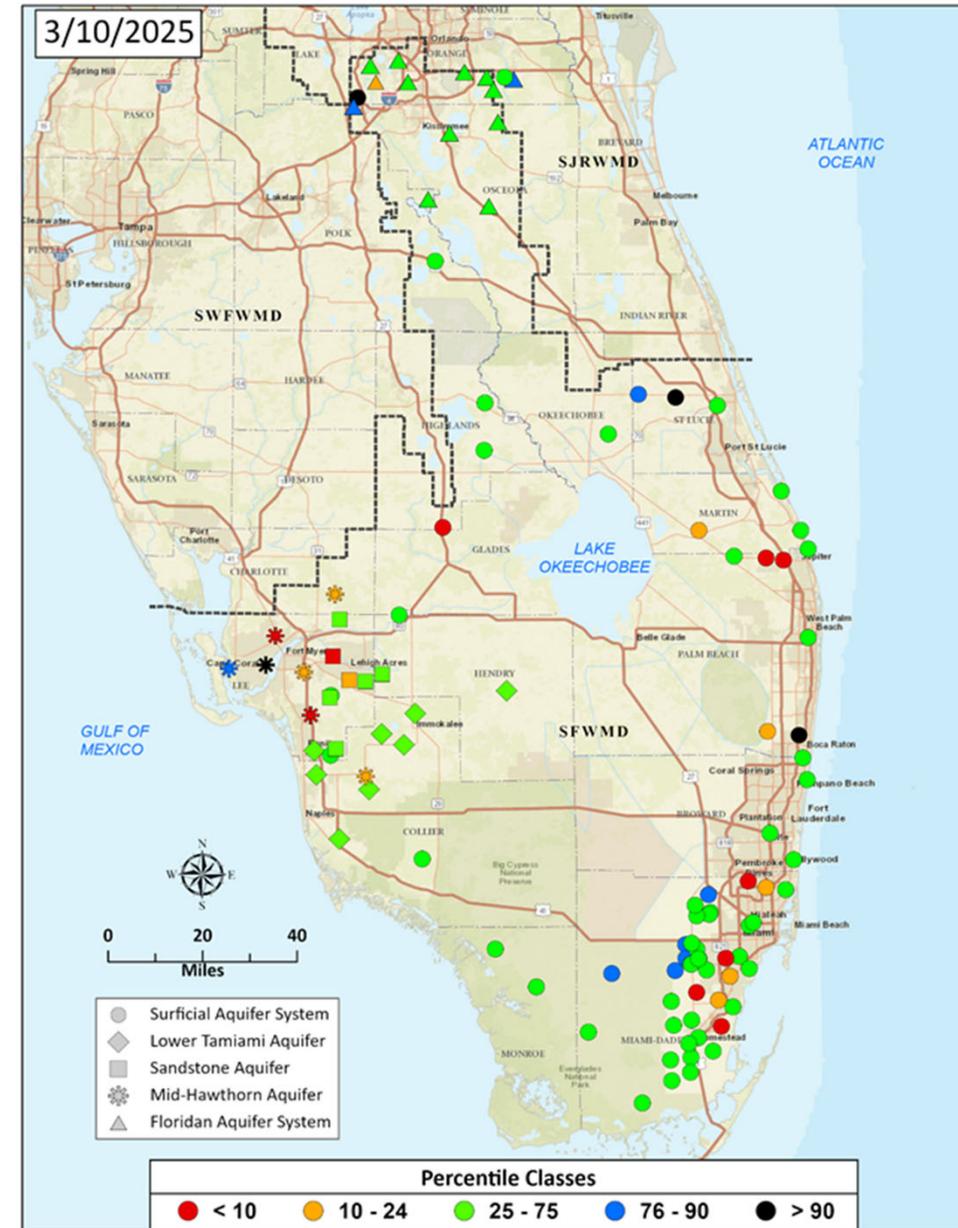


Status of Groundwater Conditions

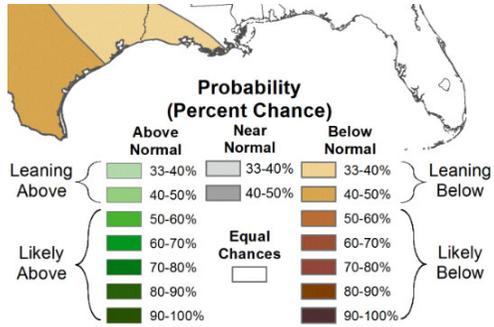
- Approximately 10% of the Floridan aquifer wells in the Upper Kissimmee Basin are in the lower percentile ranges for this time of year. None of the surficial aquifer wells in the Upper Kissimmee Basin are in the lower percentile ranges. 25% of the surficial aquifer wells in the Lower Kissimmee Basin are in the lower percentile ranges.
- Upper East Coast groundwater water levels decreased during the last week. Approximately 20% of the UEC wells are in the lower percentile ranges for this time of year.
- 85% of the surface and groundwater stations in the Lower East Coast recorded decreasing water levels over the last week. About 20% of the LEC surficial aquifer system stations are in the lower percentile ranges for this time of year.
- Groundwater levels decreased in all of the Lower West Coast (LWC) stations over the last week. None of the surficial aquifer wells are in the lower percentile ranges for this time of the year. None of Lower Tamiami aquifer wells are in the lower percentile ranges for this time of year. Approximately 30% of the Sandstone aquifer wells are in the lower percentile ranges for this time of year. Approximately 70% of the Mid-Hawthorn aquifer wells are in the lower percentile ranges for this time of year.

The map to the right shows a statistical comparison between current groundwater levels and long term monthly average groundwater levels:

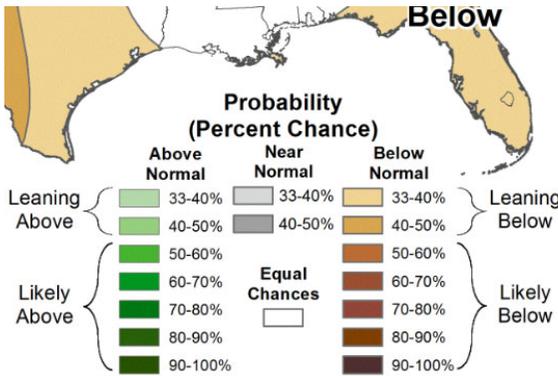
- Each colored symbol represents a monitoring well that continuously records groundwater levels.
- Color coding represents a statistical comparison of current water levels to long-term monthly historical water levels for this time of the year. The percentile rankings are based on monthly long-term groundwater level averages. The red symbols represents water levels that are in the lowest 10th percentile range, orange 10th to 24th percentile range, green the median range, blue is the 76th to 90th percentile range and black shows those stations about the 90th percentile range.



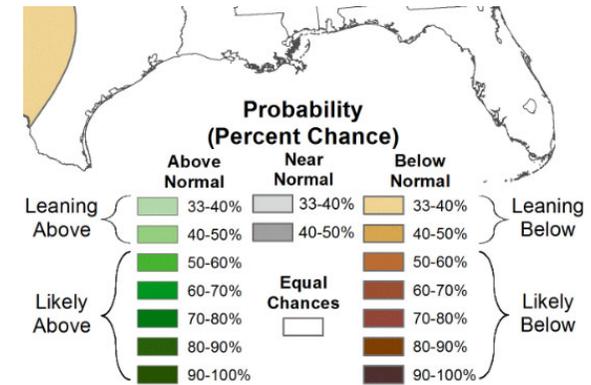
CPC Precipitation Outlook for South Florida



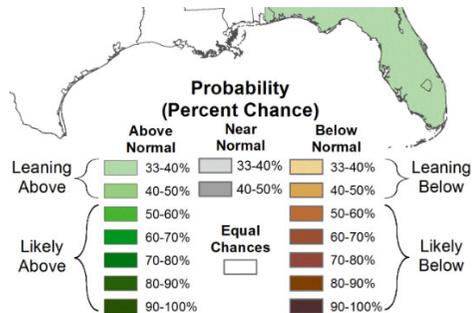
Mar 2025



May 2025 – May 2025



Apr 2025 – Jun 2025

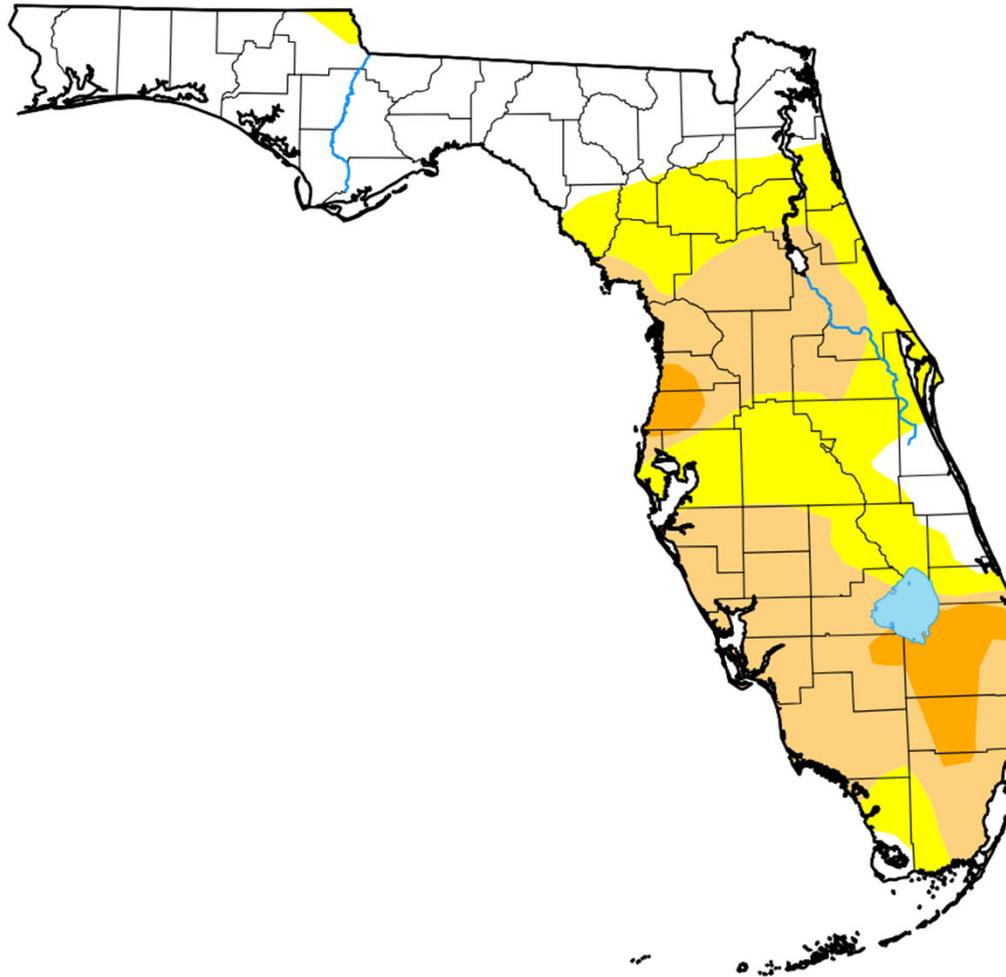


Jun 2025 – Aug 2025

- The most recent CPC precipitation outlook for Mar 2025 is equal chances of below, normal and above normal rainfall (EC) for south Florida.
- The 3-month window of Mar 2025 – May 2025 shows slightly increased chances (33-40%) of below normal rainfall for the entire District.
- The 3-month window of Apr 2025 – Jun 2025 shows outlooks for equal chances of below, normal and above normal rainfall (EC) for south Florida.
- All the 3-month windows from May 2025 – Jul 2025 to Dec 2025 – Feb 2026 indicate slightly increased chances (33-40%) of above normal rainfall for south Florida.
- The 3-month windows of Jan 2026 – Mar 2026 to Mar 2026 – May 2026 signal equal chances of below, normal and above normal rainfall (EC) for south Florida.

Updated Feb 20, 2025

Intensifying Drought



Map released: Thurs. March 6, 2025

Data valid: March 4, 2025 at 7 a.m. EST

Intensity

- None
- D0 (Abnormally Dry)
- D1 (Moderate Drought)
- D2 (Severe Drought)
- D3 (Extreme Drought)
- D4 (Exceptional Drought)
- No Data

Authors

United States and Puerto Rico Author(s):

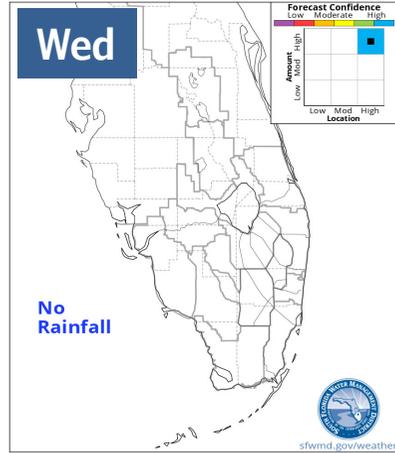
[Curtis Riganti](#), National Drought Mitigation Center

Pacific Islands and Virgin Islands Author(s):

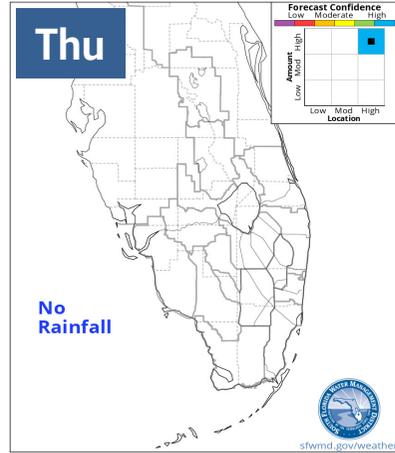
[Brad Rippey](#), U.S. Department of Agriculture

Short-, Medium-, & Extended-Range Outlooks

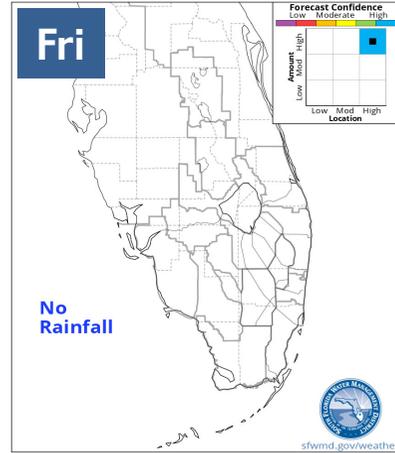
SFWMD Quantitative Precipitation Forecast (QPF)
Day 1 24-Hour Period Beginning 8am EDT Wednesday



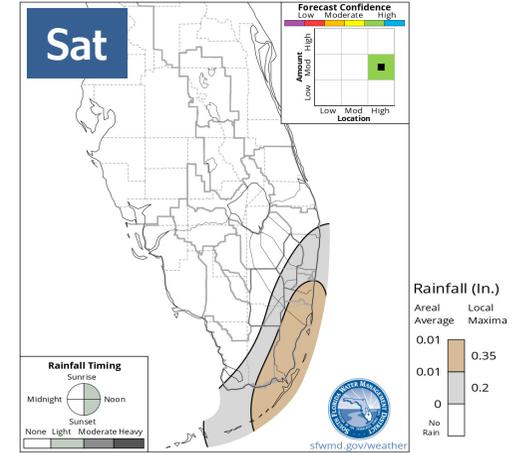
SFWMD Quantitative Precipitation Forecast (QPF)
Day 2 24-Hour Period Beginning 8am EDT Thursday



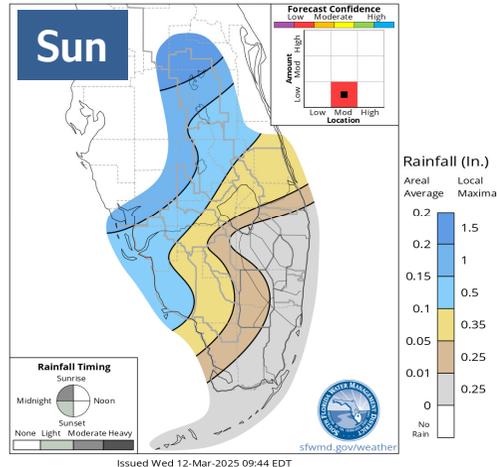
SFWMD Quantitative Precipitation Forecast (QPF)
Day 3 24-Hour Period Beginning 8am EDT Friday



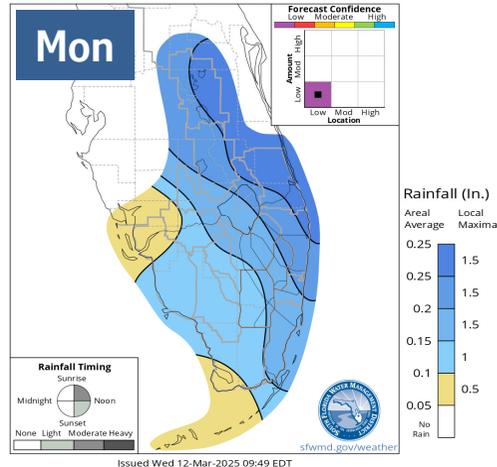
SFWMD Quantitative Precipitation Forecast (QPF)
Day 4 24-Hour Period Beginning 8am EDT Saturday



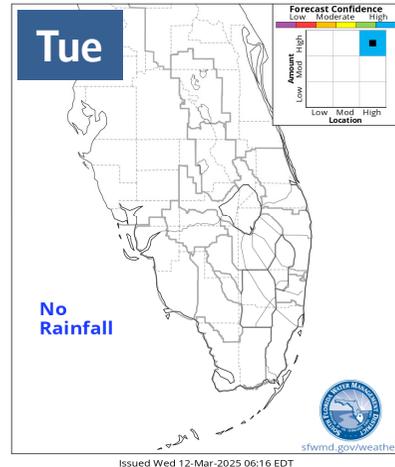
SFWMD Quantitative Precipitation Forecast (QPF)
Day 5 24-Hour Period Beginning 8am EDT Sunday



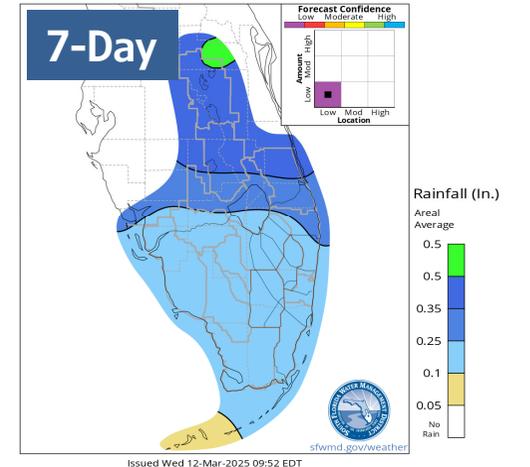
SFWMD Quantitative Precipitation Forecast (QPF)
Day 6 24-Hour Period Beginning 8am EDT Monday



SFWMD Quantitative Precipitation Forecast (QPF)
Day 7 24-Hour Period Beginning 8am EDT Tuesday



SFWMD Quantitative Precipitation Forecast (QPF)
Days 1-7 Total Accumulated Precipitation



Weekly Summary

Week 1 (Historical Avg: 0.60"): Below normal
Week 2 (Historical Avg: 0.61"): Below normal



EAA Reservoir and STA

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. This is the final component of the Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands Project.

Status: Construction.

- Contract 6A – Pump Station S-701 under construction.
- Contract 6B – Conveyance channel under construction.

Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands – L-31 East Flowway

Lead Agency: USACE

Anticipated Completion Year: 2025

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.

- Contract 5C – Pump Stations S-710 and S-711, Seepage Canal C-711W: Construction work is progressing on Pump Stations S-710 and S-711. Seepage canal berm and spreader canal construction are substantially complete. S-711 control building is complete. Electrical work continues at S-710 control building. Permanent power work by FPL is complete at S-711 and S-710. The project is scheduled to finish construction by December 2025.



Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands Project

Biscayne Bay and Southeastern Everglades Ecosystem Restoration (BBSEER)

Lead Agency: USACE

Anticipated Completion Year: TBD

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; The acting Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works granted a partial approval (\$5M federal budget; 3.8M in FY25 and \$1.2M in FY26 in federal funding) to resume the planning study to make meaningful progress toward the Tentatively Selected Plan milestone. To ensure vertical alignment within USACE and legal and policy compliance, an in-progress review to the acting Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works shall be provided no later than June 30, 2025. Any additional time and resources will be considered based on the results of the in-progress review.

Next Milestone: Targeting a Tentatively Selected Plan in Spring 2026.

Broward County Water Preserve Areas

Lead Agency: USACE

Anticipated Completion Year: 2035

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 and 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 and 3B.

Status: Construction; Design.

- Contract 2.1 – Initial land clearing and grubbing contract awarded September 24, 2024.
- Contract 2.2 – C-11 Impoundment Embankment: The design for the C-11 Impoundment and Mitigation Area A was updated in December to include a seepage wall and a revised levee toe. Preparations continue to advertise the construction contract by April 11, 2025, with a contract award forecasted for September 2025.
- Contract 3 – C-11 Impoundment Pump Station: Design is in progress and was updated to reflect the seepage wall and revised levee toe design changes, and the construction award is expected towards the end of FY2026.
- Contract 4 – WCA3A Seepage Management Area: Design to begin in 2025.
- Contract 5 – C-9 Impoundment: Design to begin in 2026.

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.

Status: Construction.

- Package 1 – Embankment preloading at six 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. Ribbon cutting event held on December 19, 2023.
- Package 4 – Reservoir: Soil cement (buttress) 20.9 of 21 miles completed, soil cement (slope) 19.75 of 21 miles completed. 11 of 16 miles of wave wall installed. Sand column relief manifold (north reach) is 45% complete and the southern 3 reaches are now in production. Phase II soil bentonite wall complete except cell 2 access gap east of S-473, work will be completed in April 2025. S-475 gate installation commenced with three sill plates poured and vertical rails are underway. Gate rails and sill plate installation has commenced at S-471. S-475 gate hoist mechanism to be delivered March 13, 2025. S-471 gates are in transit to the Caloosahatchee (C-43) Reservoir site. Sod on the embankment is nearly completed as the west side was sodded this month. Piezometer installation is presently 50% complete. Townsend canal dredging is complete at intake canal interface with marine mattress installation occurring over the next 8 weeks.

Central Everglades Planning Project (CEPP) Everglades Agricultural Area (EAA) Reservoir

Lead Agency: USACE

Anticipated Completion Year: 2034

Project Description: CEPP includes four phases of projects that help restore the natural flow of water south from Lake Okeechobee to 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: Construction; Design.

- Contract 10A – Seepage Inflow/Outflow Canal: De-mucking, clearing, and grubbing activities are about 99% complete. Excavation of the canal footprint continues and is 94% complete. Seepage canal and inflow/outflow canal blasting is about 98% complete. Embankment construction began and is about 28% complete. Forecasting completion date of July 2025.
- Contract 11A – Foundation Preparation & Cutoff Wall: Contractor has completed Demonstration Section 1 and is in the testing phase. Demonstration Section 3 and 4A are also complete and will begin the testing phase, while Demonstration Section 4B is nearing completion. Drilling and blasting of borrow area 3 is 50% complete. Contractor is estimating final contract completion in 2029.

- Contract 11B – Embankment, outlet structures and spillway: Final design completed in November 2023 and construction contract awarded September 27, 2024. The bid was not protested. Notice to Proceed was issued on December 2, 2024. This is the largest contract in USACE Jacksonville District's history and is the largest USACE Civil Works stand-alone contract this year. The scope of work includes clearing, excavation, and processing of materials to construct a 17.75-mile embankment dam up to 38 feet high, as well as four gated outlet structures, one un-gated overflow spillway, one multi-bay gated inline spillway, rock foundation preparation, and installation of a seepage cutoff wall. Contractor is expected to mobilize and begin construction in March 2025.
- Contract 11C – S-636 Seepage Pump Station: Design began in March 2023, and the construction award is expected in September 2026.
- Contract 12 – S-623 Reservoir Inflow Pump Station: The microwave tower portion of the project is in design and is expected to be awarded for construction by SFWMD in Q4 FY2025.

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: Construction; Design

- Contract 9A – EAA North New River Canal Improvements: Construction Notice to Proceed issued on June 20, 2024. Dredge Material Management Area is fully complete and mechanical excavation and hydraulic dredging are underway.
- Contract 9A – EAA Miami River Canal Improvements Phase I: Design is ongoing and construction award by Q3 FY2025.
- Contract 9A – EAA Miami River Canal Improvements Phase 2: Design is ongoing and construction award in FY2025.

Central Everglades Planning Project (CEPP) North Phase

Lead Agency: SFWMD

Anticipated Completion Year: 2032

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 CEPP North features include the backfilling of approximately 13 miles of the Miami Canal, modifications to the S-8 pump station complex, construction of seven new structures and one new canal as well as improving approximately 18 miles of existing canal.

Status: Design; Construction.

- Contract 7A – L-6 Diversion: A groundbreaking for S-620 was held in May 2023 and construction is almost complete. S-622 design is complete and contract award is planned in Q2 FY2025.
- Contract 7A – L-4 Canal Improvements & Distribution Features & S-630 Gated Culverts are in design.
- Contract 7B – S-8 Pump Station Modifications Phase 1 construction contract Notice to Proceed was issued on April 8, 2024. S-8 Pump Station Modifications Phase 2 design is complete. Contract award is planned in Q2 FY2025.
- Contract 8A – L-5 Canal Improvements will be constructed in two packages and design is complete. Contract award for Package 1 is planned in Q2 FY2025. Package 2 design will be combined with Contract 8B once its design is complete.
- Contract 8B – Miami Canal Backfill and Vegetated Hammocks survey is complete and design is underway.

Central Everglades Planning Project (CEPP) South Phase

Lead Agency: USACE

Anticipated Completion Year: 2033

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: Work continues at the S-631, S-632, and S-633 sites. There were delays with the contractor as they managed mechanical and equipment issues. Progress and quality assurance meetings were held to address delays. Work is progressing again with all three culverts under construction. Contractor is forecasting a construction completion date of December 2026.
- Contract 2A – Pump Station S-356E and S-334E Gated Spillway: Project design is complete and the land acquisition phase is finalizing. Updated Real Estate needs should conclude with a new real estate agreement and review of that agreement forecasted to complete in June 2025. Contract advertisement is scheduled for February 2026 and contract award anticipated in July 2026.
- Contract 3B – S-355W Gated Spillway in L-29 Canal: Final design is complete. To expedite the CEPP South implementation schedule, the SFWMD is proposing to accept the USACE request to take on construction of the S-355W gated spillway structure. This structure is a critical component in construction sequencing for CEPP South. Contract award is planned in Q4 FY2025.
- Contract 5 – Blue Shanty Flowway: Final design is scheduled to be complete in FY2026, and the contract award is also anticipated for FY2026. The USACE and the SFWMD are coordinating on the most efficient way to incorporate design refinements into this contract based on science recommendations from the Decomp Physical Model.
- Contract 6 – L-29 Levee Removal: Design is scheduled to begin in FY2025, and the contract award is scheduled for FY2028.

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; S-457 Pump Station wall pours have reached an elevation of 30 feet NAVD88. Pouring control building floor slab this month. Canal excavation in Segment 1 is 95% and Segment 3 is 99% complete, Segment 2 canal excavation 95%, box culvert under Coca-Cola Road is approximately 95% complete. Commenced installation of S-458 Box Culvert under State Road 714/Martin Highway in February 2025.

Indian River Lagoon South – C-23/24 North Reservoir

Lead Agency: USACE

Anticipated Completion Year: 2031

Project Description: The C-23/24 North Reservoir is a component of the Indian River Lagoon South Project, encompassing more than 2,000 acres. Once completed, it will store approximately 32,000 acre-feet of water.

Status: Design.

- Contract 4A – S-426 Pump Station, S-425 Culvert, PC-37 Canal and Structure: Contract awarded on September 30, 2024, with Notice to Proceed issued on October 29, 2024. The contractor has mobilized to the site and begun construction. The contractor is forecasting a completion date of April 2028.
- Contract 4B – S-425 Sag Culvert, S-426 Afterbay and Reservoir Embankment Construction: The final design is scheduled to be complete in December 2025.

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 Indian River Lagoon 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. Package 1 of the canal and structure construction contract was approved by the SFWMD Governing Board in April 2024, and Package 2 – Reservoir construction contract will be awarded in FY2025.

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; Stormwater Treatment Areas (STAs) Cells 1 and 2 are 99% complete. Cell 3, 4, and 5 are all progressing with construction work on foundations, berms, and canals. All 17 water control structures are underway as well as the pump stations. The project is forecasted to complete construction in April 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. Project features include an 803-acre reservoir with 5,176 acre-feet of storage, a 532-acre STA, and a 250 cfs pump station.

Status: Construction; Package 1 for Site Preparation contract awarded in August 2024. Design; Package 2 is in design, estimated contract award is Q4 FY2025.

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 Indian River Lagoon 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 Watershed Restoration Project (LOWRP)

Lead Agency: USACE

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 Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR) Science Plan. There is ongoing planning coordination between USACE and SFWMD to develop the best course of action to mitigate any delays in the project. A request for additional time and funding has been submitted to allow the planning study to continue.

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 FY2025.
- 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. All three pump stations, Miller Tram and the road removal are complete.

- Southwest Protection Feature Levee: Six of seven lifts for the full seven miles are complete and the seventh lift is in progress. Embankment work is expected to be complete by end of March 2025. Construction is expected to be complete in July 2025.
- Conveyance Features (Design/Build Contract): The construction of the US-41 culvert was completed in May 2024. CR-92 culvert was completed in December 2024. The conveyance features began their Operational Testing and Monitoring Period in January 2025 after removal of the stoplogs.
- Canal Plugging: The Faka Union Canal plugging was completed in May 2024. The Miller Canal plugging began on January 17, 2025 and is progressing.

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 study is scheduled to begin the planning phase 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, 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, Design & Construction; The draft Project Implementation Report (PIR) and draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) were released for public comment on December 15, 2023. A series of “open house” public meetings were held to discuss the project. In-person and virtual National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Public Meetings were held January 17 & 18, 2024. The review period for the final PIR/EIS began on September 27, 2024 and closed on October 28, 2024, and the Record of Decision was signed. The project was authorized in the 2024 Water Resources Development Act. Efforts are underway to implement the project.

- Region 4 Design and Construction – L-28 Culverts under construction, Notice to Proceed issued in April 2024. Modeling complete, geotechnical work ongoing and design commenced for 11-Mile Road, US-41 and Loop Road Culverts. A groundbreaking was held on July 10, 2024 for the first major feature of the Western Everglades Restoration Project, the L-28 South Culverts, which will support Everglades restoration.

PROJECTS/FEATURES WITH CONSTRUCTION COMPLETED SINCE 2019

- ▶ CEPP New Water Seepage Barrier Wall
- ▶ BBCW L-31E Flowway Pump Stations S-703, S-705 and S-709
- ▶ EAA A-2 Stormwater Treatment Area
- ▶ C-44 Stormwater Treatment Area
- ▶ C-44 Reservoir and Pump Station
- ▶ CEPP South Old Tamiami Trail Removal
- ▶ CEPP South S-333N Gated Spillway
- ▶ Picayune Strand Miller Pump Station
- ▶ Broward County Water Preserve Areas Mitigation Area A Berm



Northern Everglades and Estuaries Protection Program (NEEPP)

Progress Update – March 2025

SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT PROGRESS UPDATE

In accordance with NEEPP (§373.4595(6), Florida Statutes), the NEEPP Annual Progress Report in Chapter 8A of the *Final 2025 South Florida Environmental Report (SFER), Volume I*, along with the Watershed Protection Plan 5-Year Updates for Lake Okeechobee Watershed (Chapter 8B), St. Lucie River Watershed (Chapter 8C), and Caloosahatchee River Watershed (Chapter 8D), were published by the SFWMD on March 1, 2025 at [SFWMD.gov/SFER](https://sfwmd.gov/SFER).

Chapter 8A was prepared by the SFWMD in collaboration with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) to also report on the most recent updates on the state's progress of the Basin Management Action Plans (BMAP) and Best Management Practices (BMPs) in the Northern Everglades. This year's NEEPP reporting also comprises 11 associated appendices with supporting information on the research and water quality monitoring efforts (including long-term trend analyses and watershed basin assessments) as well as the Northern Everglades and Estuaries Protection Plan Regional Simulation Model Update (Appendix 8A-1).

This year's consolidated reporting includes both the SFER and the SFER Highlights that showcase our agencies' notable achievements and successes over the past year covered in the full 3,125-page, three-volume publication. Moreover, this captures our project milestones accomplished during 2024 across the Northern Everglades – including NEEPP priorities outlined in Governor DeSantis' Executive Order 23-06: *Achieving Even More Now for Florida's Environment* (see Chapter 8A project spotlights in map and table below).

Northern Everglades Watersheds



Lake Okeechobee Watershed; Abington Preserve Monitoring.

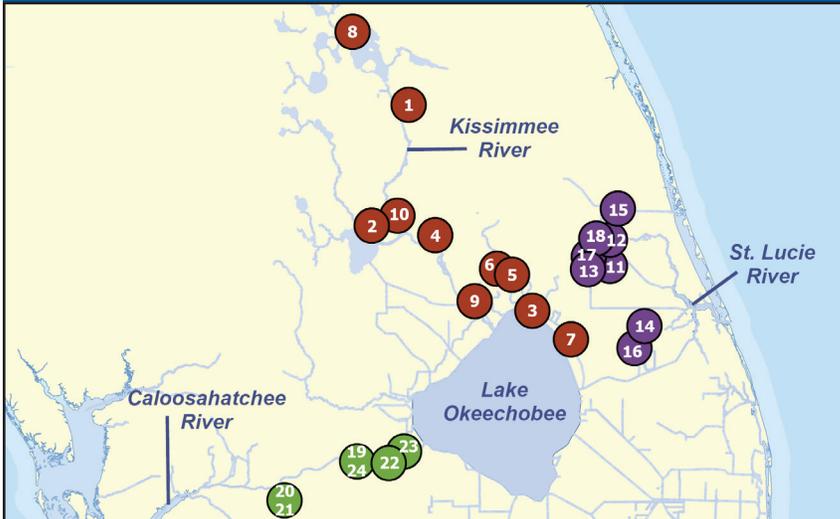


St. Lucie River Watershed; Scott Water Farm Aerial.



Caloosahatchee River Watershed; C-43 Water Quality Treatment & Testing Facility – Phase II, Test Cells, Aerial.

SFWMD-Led Watershed Construction Projects, and FY2024 Accomplishments



PROJECT #	FY2024 ACCOMPLISHMENT	COMPLETION YEAR (EST.)
LAKE OKEECHOBEE WATERSHED		
1. El Maximo Ranch	Completed Construction and Initiated Operations	2024
2. Aquaculture – Lake Istokpoga	Completed Design and Initiated Operations	2024
3. S-191 Innovative Treatment Technologies	Completed Construction and Initiated Operations	2024
4. Basinger Dairy Legacy Phosphorus Removal	Initiated Preliminary Design & Study Monitoring	2026
5. TCNS 214 Storage and Treatment	Continued Planning and Design Efforts	2026
6. Grassy Island Flow Equalization Basin	Continued Conceptual Design	2026
7. Brady Ranch Flow Equalization Basin	Continued Conceptual Design	2027
8. Kissimmee River Headwaters Revitalization Schedule*	Approved and Implemented First Phase of Schedule (known as HRS Increment 1 Deviation)	2027
9. Lower Kissimmee Basin STA	Continued Planning and Design Efforts	2029
10. Kissimmee River Restoration – Operations*	Continued Restoration Evaluation Efforts	2031
ST. LUCIE RIVER WATERSHED		
11. Ideal 1000	Under Development/Planning	TBD
12. C-23/C-24 STA*	Advanced Construction	2025
13. C-23/C-24 District Lands Hydrologic Enhancements	Continued Planning	2026
14. C-23 Estuary Discharge Diversion*	Advanced Construction	2026
15. C-25 Reservoir and STA*	Initiated Construction	2029
16. C-44 Reservoir and STA*	Continued Operational Testing & Monitoring	2030
17. C-23/C-24 South Reservoir*	Initiated Construction	2030
18. C-23/C-24 North Reservoir*	Completed Design	2033
CALOOSAHATCHEE RIVER WATERSHED		
19. C-43 Water Quality Treatment & Testing Facility – Phase II, Test Cells	Continued Construction	2025
20. C-43 Reservoir Water Quality Component*	Completed Design and Initiated Construction	2025
21. C-43 West Basin Storage Reservoir*	Advanced Construction	2025
22. Roadrunner C-43 Nutrient Load Reduction	Under Development/Planning	2026
23. Lake Hipchochee Expansion, Phase II*	Continued Design	
24. Boma Flow Equalization Basin	Continued Design	

*Priority Projects under Executive Order 19-12, Achieving More Now for Florida's Environment

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION PROGRESS UPDATE

DEP is continuing to work through the verification process for updated project information from stakeholders through December 31, 2024, in support of the 2024 *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, 2025. This comprehensive annual report provides updates on 6,000+ water quality restoration projects being implemented in over 30 active BMAPs across the state. For additional information regarding the annual STAR, visit DEP's website at floridadep.gov/STAR.

As part of the Clean Waterways Act (Chapter 2020-150, Laws of Florida), nutrient BMAPs are required to be updated and adopted by July 1, 2025. These updates will incorporate numerous recent legislative requirements, including the wastewater and onsite sewage treatment and disposal systems remediation plans. DEP will hold virtual meetings to present these updates to stakeholders as follows:

- ♦ [Caloosahatchee River and Estuary and Everglades West Coast](#) – April 8, 2025 at 10:00 a.m.
- ♦ [St. Lucie River and Estuary](#) – April 8, 2025 at 2:00 p.m.
- ♦ [Lake Okeechobee](#) – April 9, 2025 at 10:00 a.m.

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND CONSUMER SERVICES PROGRESS UPDATE

As of February 1, 2025, FDACS has completed 92% of required implementation verifications (IVs) for agricultural operations within the NEEPP boundary. FDACS continues to collect and retain required nutrient application records as IVs are conducted.

Nine Florida agricultural BMP manuals have been updated and one new manual, *Best Management Practices for Florida Small Farms and Specialty Livestock Operations*, has been adopted. Of these 10 manuals, six are in effect at the end of February and the remaining four will be in effect as of March 12, 2025. All the new manuals are available on the BMP webpage at fdacs.gov/Agriculture-Industry/Water/Agricultural-Best-Management-Practices.

FDACS plans to provide approximately \$12.5 million in funding to three dairies in the Lake Okeechobee Basin (Taylor Creek/Nubbin Slough and Lake Istokpoga subwatersheds) to transition grazing pastures to field crops and construct free stall barns, reducing nutrient runoff, and improving regional water quality in the area.

Wetland plants growing in the newly constructed C-43 Water Quality Treatment and Testing Project – Phase II, Test Cells at the Boma property.



A LOOK AHEAD

March 12 and 13, 2025

2025 SFER Open House

An Open House to showcase informational posters by the report authors and contributors of the 2025 SFER will be held for two days from 1:00-3:00 p.m. at SFWMD Headquarters in West Palm Beach.

Visit SFWMD.gov/Meetings for more information.

April 8 and 9, 2025

Public Meetings for Draft 2025 BMAP Updates

DEP will hold virtual meetings on the 2025 BMAP Updates for the Caloosahatchee River and Estuary and Everglades West Coast, St. Lucie River and Estuary, and Lake Okeechobee BMAPs. DEP anticipates that the Draft BMAP updates for public review will be available prior to the virtual meetings.

Visit FloridaDEP.gov/BMAPs for more information on upcoming meetings.

For more information on Northern Everglades and Estuaries Protection Program Watershed Protection Plans, visit

SFWMD.gov/WPPs