

MEMORANDUM

TO: Governing Board Members

FROM: Deena Reppen, Deputy Executive Director, Regulatory and Public Affairs

DATE: July 6, 2010

SUBJECT: Approve an Interagency Agreement between the Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD) and the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) authorizing the SFWMD to issue an Environmental Resource Permit (ERP) for the proposed environmental restoration of the Murphy Ranch Project located in Highlands County.

RECOMMENDATION

Approve an Interagency Agreement between the SWFWMD and the SFWMD authorizing the SFWMD to issue an ERP for the proposed implementation of Best Management Practices (BMPs) in accordance with the Northern Everglades and Estuaries Protection Program (NEEPP) on the 695-acre Murphy Ranch located in Highlands County. BMPs will consist of water control structures to be placed throughout the Project. Please refer to Exhibits 1 – 3 for general, detailed and proposed water control structure location maps, respectively.

BACKGROUND

The subject property is presently improved pasture located in Highlands County along the located in all or parts of Section 27, Township 33 South, Range 27 East. The property is located within the jurisdiction of the SWFWMD. The property drains via sheetflow and open ditches to Arbuckle Creek, which is located in the Lake Okeechobee Watershed within the SFWMD. The Lake Okeechobee Watershed is one of only three watersheds that constitute the boundaries of the NEEPP.

Section 373.4595, Florida Statute defines the SFWMD as the only water management district delegated as a “Coordinating Agency”, along with the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP), charged with the implementation of the NEEPP. For efficiency and effectiveness, the applicant and both districts desire to designate SFWMD as the water management district with all regulatory responsibilities under Part IV of Chapter 373, F.S., for the Murphy Ranch Project. Both Districts propose to enter into an Interagency Agreement, directing the SFWMD to process and regulate environmental resource permits under Part IV of Chapter 373, F.S., for those activities associated with the environmental restoration of the Murphy Ranch in Highlands County.

Staff Contacts: **Benita Whalen, P.E., Deputy Department Director**
Environmental Resource Regulation Department (561) 682- 2957

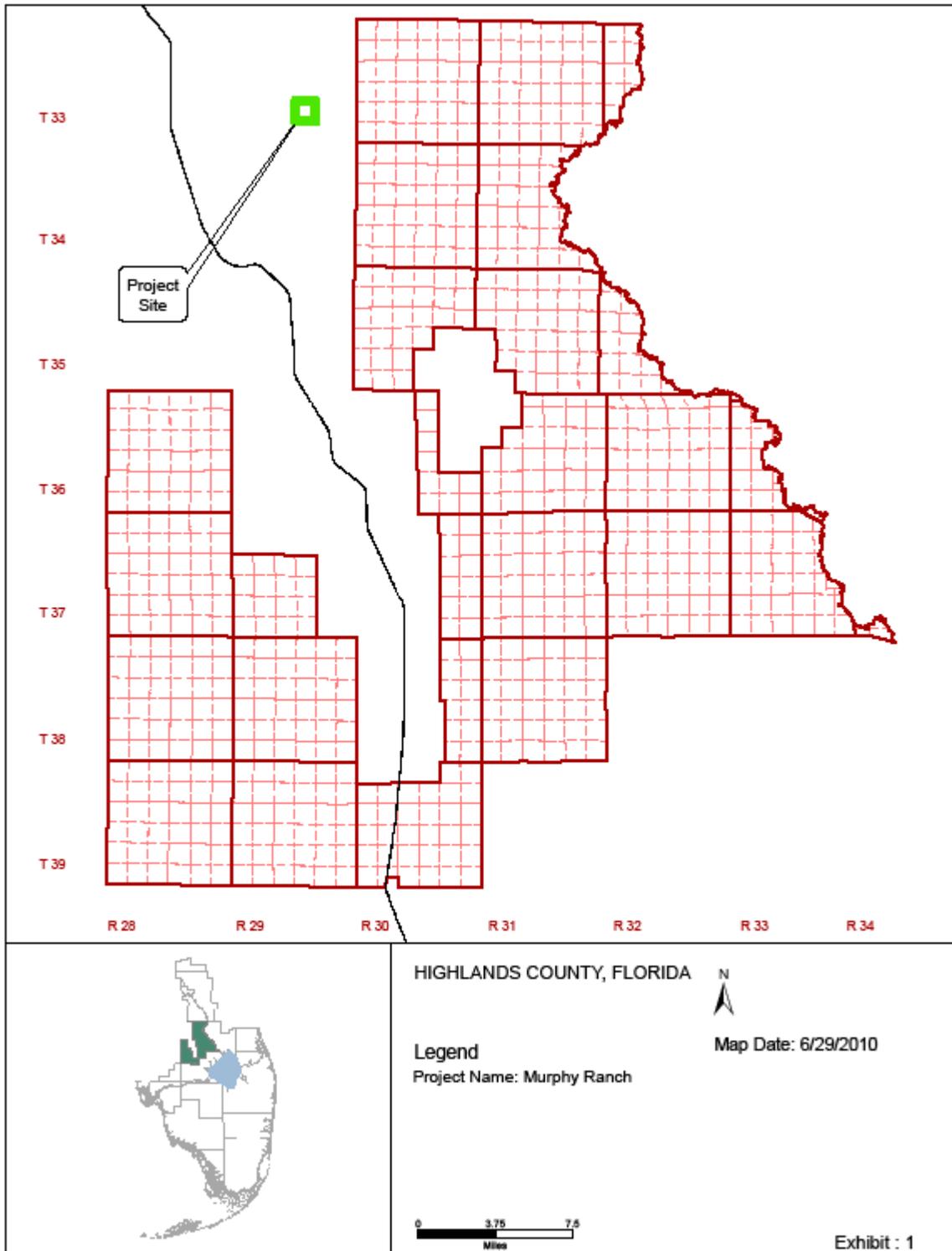
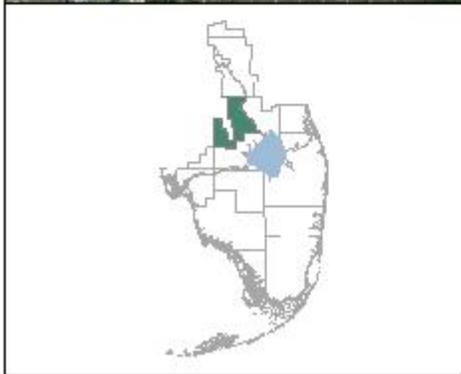
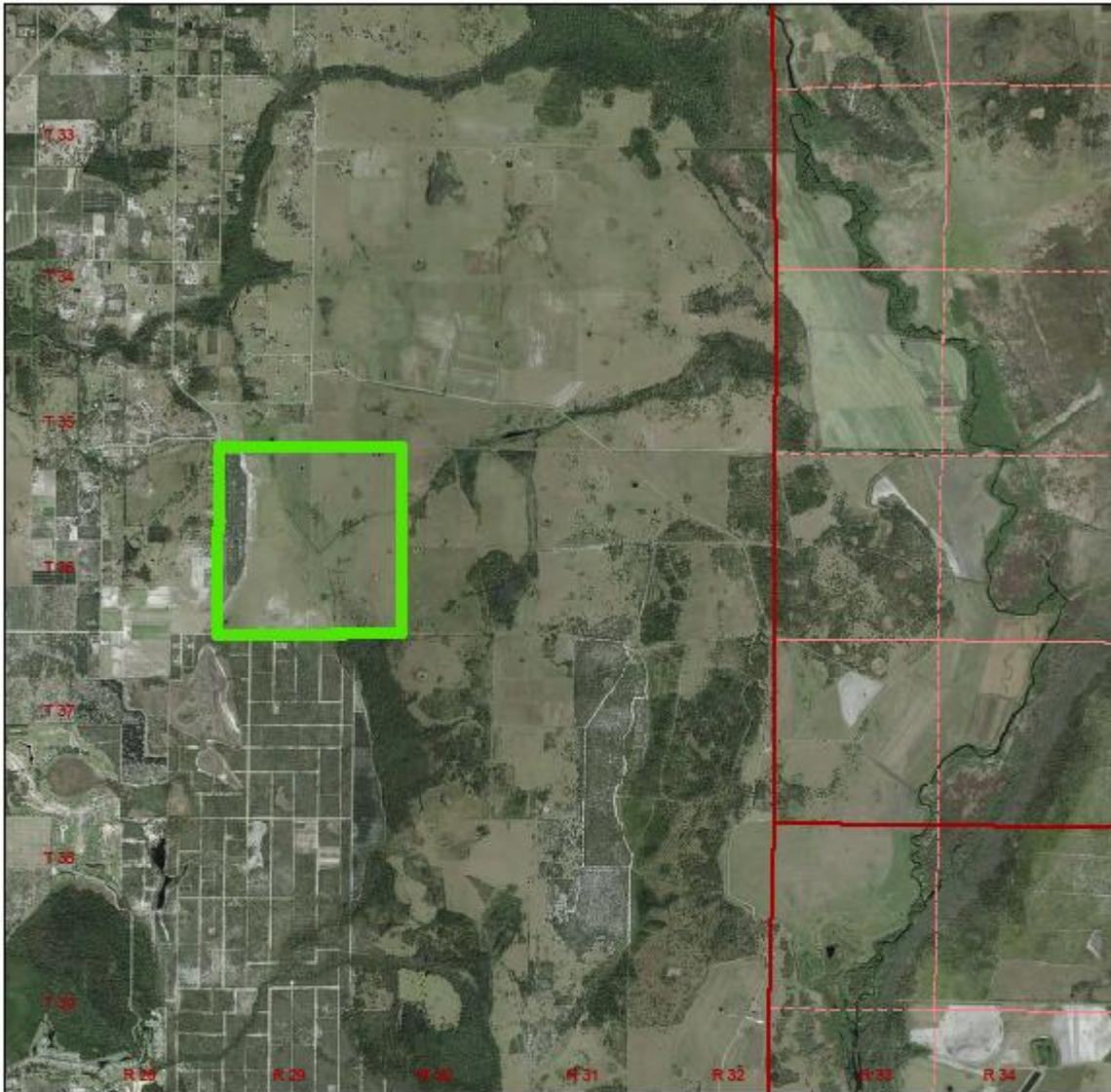


Exhibit 1



HIGHLANDS COUNTY, FLORIDA



Legend
Project Name: Murphy Ranch

Map Date: 6/29/2010



Exhibit : 1

Exhibit 2

MURPHY RANCH - Drainage & Structures

REVISIONS: 06/02/2010 MS

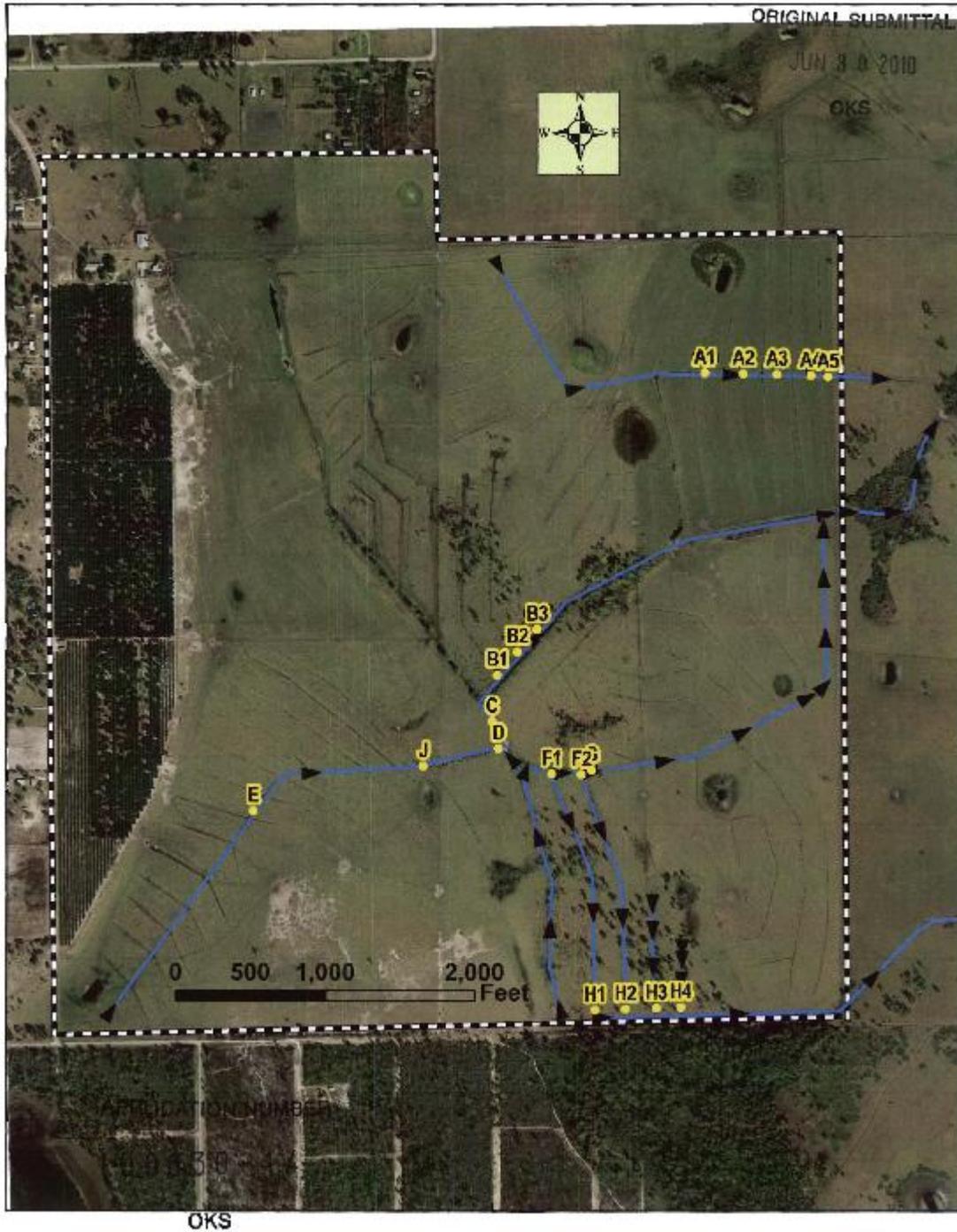


Exhibit 3