

August 2009 Team of the Month

Consumptive Use Permit Team

Office of Counsel

Beth Lewis
Beth Ross

Water Supply

John Lockwood
Donald Medellin
Richard Bower

Hydro & Environmental
Systems Modeling

Jeff Giddings
Hope Radin

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This team overcame a unique challenge -- evaluating an application proposing an increased allocation for a public water supply wellfield in light of the District's first water reservation rule for an Everglades restoration project. The evaluation had to be consistent with the new rule, although its implementation was being delayed due to an administrative challenge. The wellfield is located near the restoration project for Picayune Strand in Collier County.

Further complicating matters was a lack of groundwater data on which to base the analysis that had to be addressed even as pressure mounted to rapidly reach a conclusion. Resolution of the combined set of issues became a critical step in securing funding and moving forward with the restoration project. The team came up with a creative solution, requiring site specific well drilling and pump testing to fill the information gaps, which in turn allowed staff to use groundwater modeling tools and evaluate whether the additional allocation would impact restoration efforts. Staff continually updated and improved the analyses as the new data was provided to the District daily during the pump test.

The effort required every ounce of the team's professional experience and judgment. The result was doubly successful: First, the staff was able to successfully craft a permit which provided additional water supply for the utility while protecting the restoration project from impacts. Second, the information generated in the analysis was a key in resolving the legal challenge to the Picayune Strand water reservation rule.

These successes were accomplished thanks to the extraordinary efforts by dedicated District staff.