

## **MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Governing Board Members

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

**DATE:** July 29, 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 implementation of Best Management Practices (BMPs) on the S.Y. Hartt Ranch located in Highlands County.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

Approve an Interagency Agreement between SWFWMD and SFWMD authorizing the SFWMD to issue an ERP determination for the proposed implementation of Best Management Practices (BMPs) in accordance with the Northern Everglades and Estuaries Protection Program (NEEPP) on the 7,760-acre S.Y. Hartt Ranch located in Highlands County.

### **BACKGROUND**

The subject property is presently improved pasture and citrus grove and is located in Highlands County along the western bank of Arbuckle Creek. The property is located within the jurisdiction of both SWFWMD and SFWMD. The subject property currently has two SFWMD ERPs within its boundary. ERP No. 28-00429-P was issued for the Yankee Bluffs Grove, for which the construction authorization has expired with no improvements constructed. ERP No. 28-00403-P was issued for a 500-acre silviculture operation. The implementation of the proposed BMPs will not occur within the areas under Permit No. 28-00429-P and Permit No. 28-00403-P.

The property drains via sheetflow, open ditches, and pumps to Arbuckle Creek, which is located in the Lake Okeechobee Watershed within the SFWMD. 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.

Subsection 373.046 (6), authorizes a water management district to designate through an interagency agreement, regulatory responsibility to another water management district over a project which crosses the jurisdictional boundaries of both districts. 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 S.Y. Hartt Ranch Project. Both Districts propose to enter into an Interagency Agreement, directing the SFWMD to process and regulate ERP determinations under Part IV of Chapter 373, F.S., for those activities associated with the environmental restoration of the S.Y. Hartt Ranch in Highlands County.

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

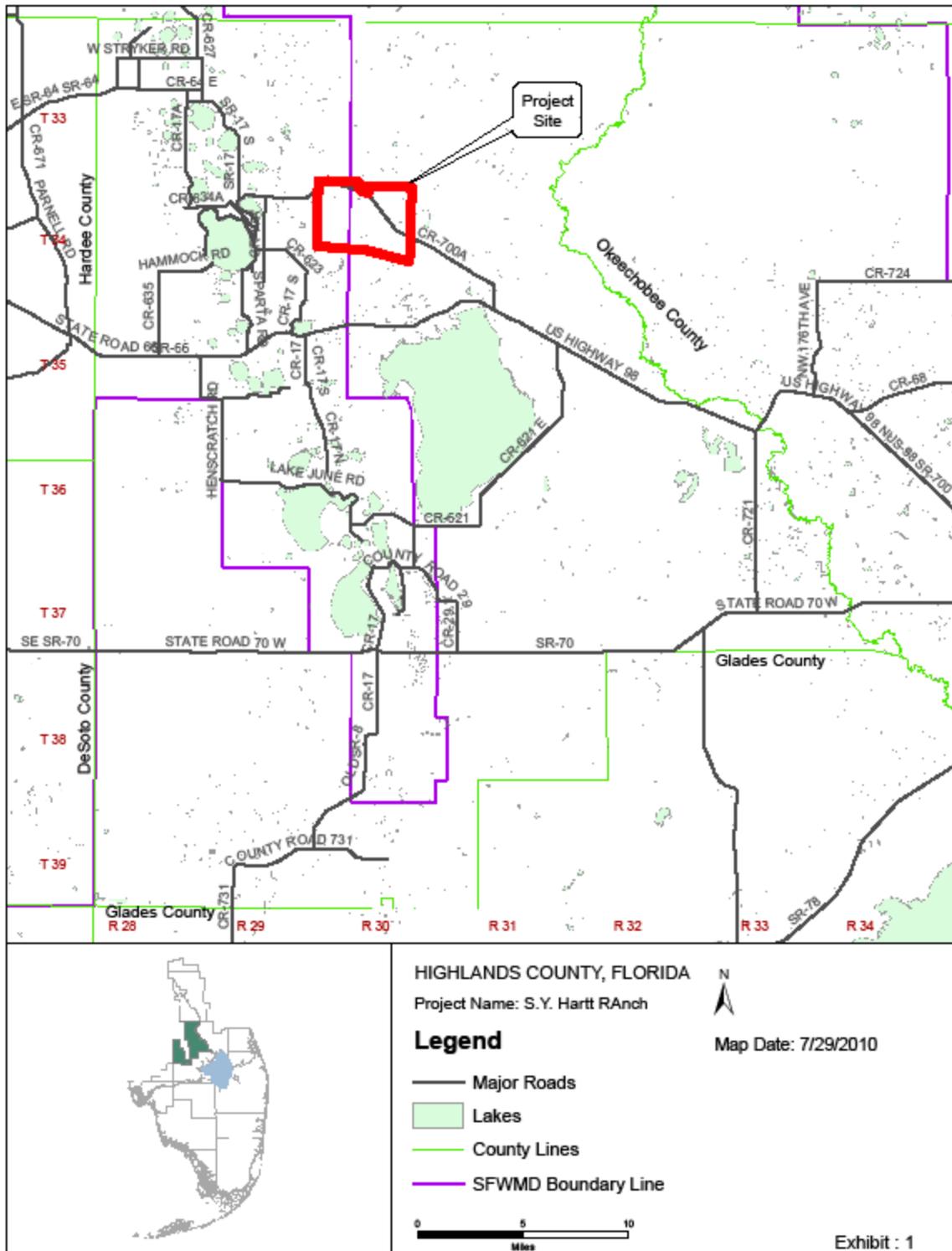


Exhibit 1

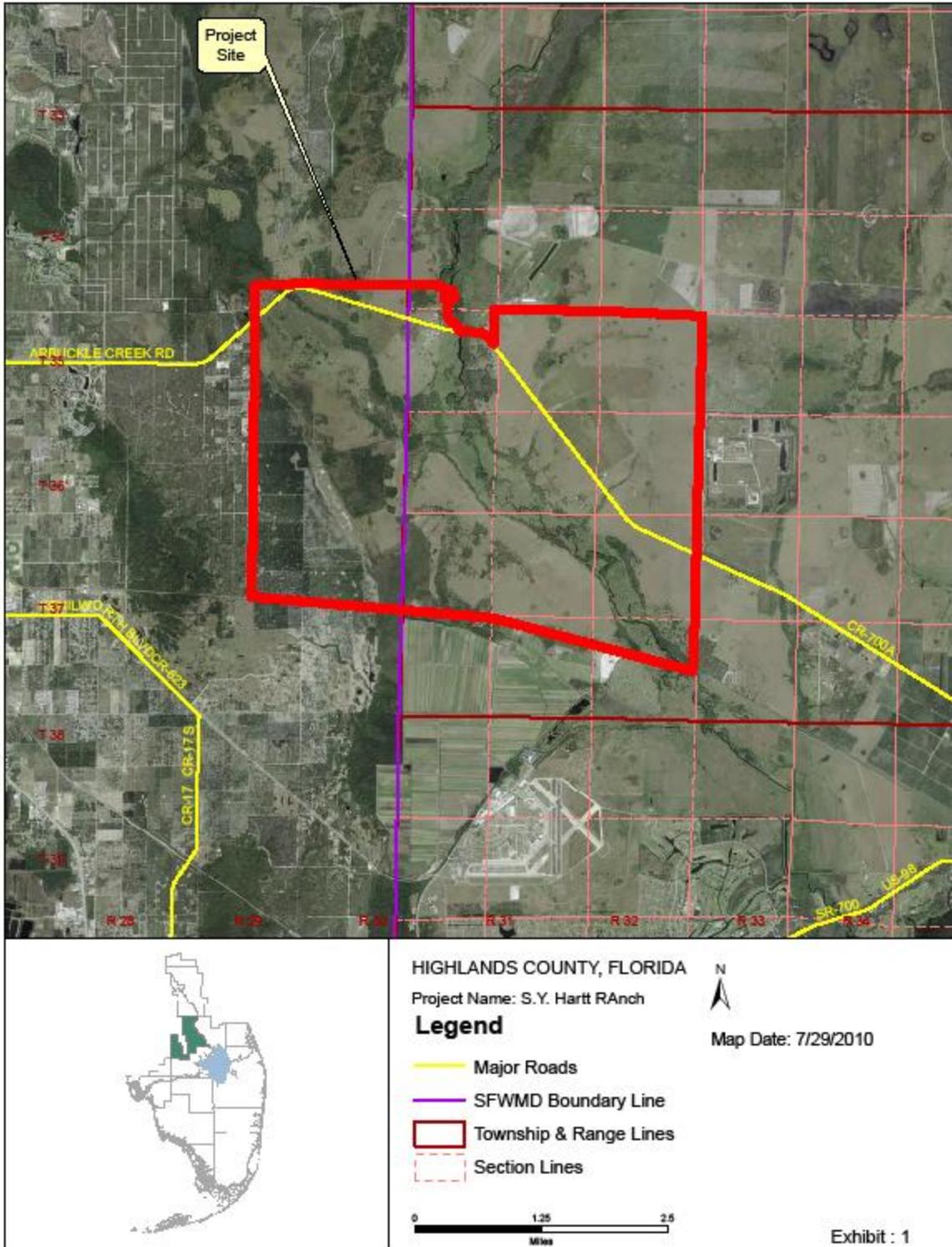
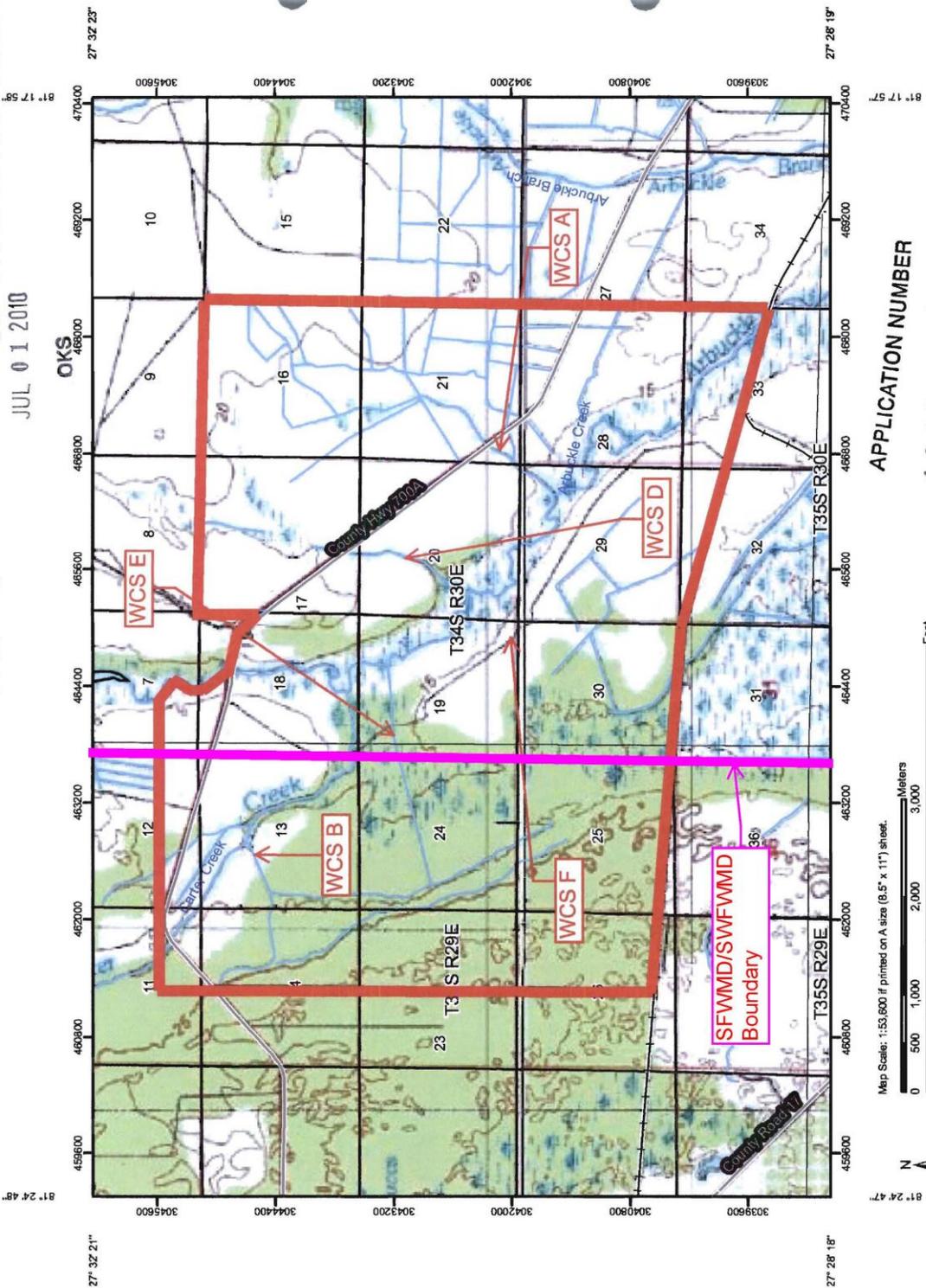


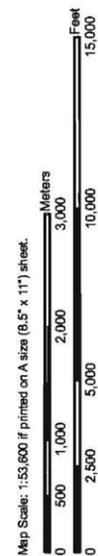
Exhibit 2

ORIGINAL SUBMITTAL  
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Soil Map—Highlands County, Florida  
 (Topographic Map)



APPLICATION NUMBER  
 100701-4



6/10/2010  
 Page 1 of 3

Web Soil Survey  
 National Cooperative Soil Survey



OKS

Exhibit 3