



## **2012 Caloosahatchee and St. Lucie River Watershed Protection Plan Updates- Public Comments and Final Plans**

**Water Resources Advisory Committee  
Meeting – January 5, 2012**

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## Recent Milestones



- Released draft 2012 River Watershed Protection Plan (RWPP) updates for public comment on October 21, 2011
  - *Included as Appendix 10-1 (St. Lucie) and 10-2 (Caloosahatchee) of the 2012 consolidated South Florida Environmental Report*
- Incorporated public comments into the Final RWPP updates



## Caloosahatchee and St. Lucie River Watershed Protection Plan Updates - Highlights

- FDEP's adoption of estuary TMDLs
  - St. Lucie estuary and Caloosahatchee tidal estuary TMDLs- adopted
  - Caloosahatchee freshwater TMDL is under development
- FDEP's Basin Management Action Plan Development
- Include 36 local water quality/storage and habitat restoration projects in Caloosahatchee and 25 local projects in St. Lucie



## RWPP Updates - Highlights

- Activities to support regulatory nutrient source control program development
- Dispersed Water Management Program expansion
  - 131,539 acre-feet in Northern Everglades; 5,625 ac-ft in Caloosahatchee Watershed and 7,117 ac-ft in St. Lucie
  - Implementation of water farming pilot projects
  - Utilization of publicly owned lands for interim water retention until large regional projects are built in Caloosahatchee Basin
  - Nicodemus Slough project initiated



# RWPP Updates- Highlights

- Alternative Technologies
- Research and Water Quality Monitoring
- Caloosahatchee:
  - Storage and Treatment Initiative - \$19M identified to design/construct facilities in Caloosahatchee
  - Spanish Creek/Four Corners Initiative
  - C-43 Water Quality Treatment and Demonstration Project
- St. Lucie:
  - C-44 Reservoir and STA



# Outreach Activities

## Meetings held:

- Northern Everglades Interagency
  - 6 meetings (May, July, August, September, November, December)
- Water Resources Advisory Committee (WRAC)
- Individual Stakeholders





# Comments Received on Draft River Watershed Protection Plan Updates



- Caloosahatchee RWPP Update
  - Lee County
  - US Fish and Wildlife Service
  - Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program
- St. Lucie RWPP Update - no public comments received



# CRWPP Update – Public Comments Categories



- Source Control
- Research and Water Quality Monitoring
- Others



# Public Comments/Responses - Source Control

- **BMP implementation rates/assumptions- unrealistic**

## Responses:

- BMP implementation rates for planning purposes - 80% near-term rate only applied to S-4, West and East Sub-watersheds where the current implementation rates are between 55-76%
- FDACS BMP implementation assurance process is in place for compliance
- Revisions to the 40E-61 SFWMD Regulatory Source Control Program will further strengthen BMP implementation and compliance





# Public Comments/Responses - Source Control

- Delay in proposed revisions to the regulatory programs

## Responses:

- SFWMD 40E-61: Completed key technical activities; Coordinate with Office of Fiscal Accountability and Regulatory Reform (OFARR) regarding rule development initiation in the near-term
- FDEP proposing Statewide Environmental Resource Permit Legislation
- Northern Everglades Basin Rule - no longer proposed





# Public Comments/Responses- Source Control



- Lack of progress regarding Comprehensive Planning and Growth Management

## Response:

- DEP and SFWMD are committed to continue providing technical and regulatory guidance for local and regional planning activities consistent with recent growth management legislative changes



# Public Comments/Responses - Research and Water Quality Monitoring



- Need more robust sampling and analysis upstream of S-79
- SFWMD's non-participation in the CHNEP's monitoring network/Bias in the fixed station sampling

## Responses:

- Upstream synoptic monitoring conducted/permanent flow sites identified
- District conducted evaluations of its monitoring network through re-engineering effort - *fixed stations meets the District needs; increased from 4 to 7 stations*



# Public Comments/Responses- Research and Water Quality Monitoring



- Representation of Minimum Flow and Level (MFL) compliance
- Accounting of the Caloosahatchee Water Reservation as regulatory activity

## Responses:

- MFL compliance is not an explicit goal of the CRWPP/Lower West Coast Water Supply Plan includes the information on MFLs and recovery strategy
- Text is added to draft plan to capture the Caloosahatchee Estuary water reservation effort



# Public Comments/Responses - Others



- Coordination on TMDL/BMAP – Development and Need for Greater SFWMD Involvement
- TMDL/BMAP related issues (i.e accounting of Lake O Flows, allocation of loads)

## Responses:

- SFWMD has been and will continue to be fully engaged in TMDL/BMAP process
- TMDL for tidal estuary addressed total loads at the estuary
- BMAP-agriculture receives an allocation



# Public Comments/Responses - Others



- Inclusion of local governments and special districts as part of Coordinating Agencies
- Identification of plan implementation priorities

## Responses:

- Text is added to address the comment
- CRWPP identified preferred plan including projects that meet the storage and water quality goals
  - NE Annual Work Plan; District's strategic planning and budget process; Stakeholder process for identification of projects



# Public Comments/Responses- Others

- Overall, a great update to the Plan! Many valuable projects put forth.

## Response

- Thank you for your input and support!!





## Next Steps



- Present the Final 2012 CRWPP Update and Comments
  - Governing Board Meeting - January 12, 2012
- Submit the Final 2012 River Watershed Protection Plan Updates to the legislature
  - Mid-January 2012



**Questions?**



<https://my.sfwmd.gov/northerneverglades>

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