



SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

October 22, 2021

Shawn Hamilton, Secretary
Florida Department of Environmental Protection
3900 Commonwealth Blvd, MS 49
Marjory Stoneman Douglas Building
Tallahassee, FL 32399-3000

Subject: 2021 Priority Water Body List and Schedule

Dear Secretary Hamilton:

On behalf of the South Florida Water Management District's (District) Governing Board, I am pleased to submit the enclosed 2021 Priority Water Body List and Schedule for the establishment of Minimum Flows and Levels (MFLs) and Water Reservations. The list and schedule were approved by our Governing Board on October 14, 2021. The 2021 Priority Water Body List demonstrates the Board's continuing commitment to use sound science to protect our water resources.

We are proud to have recently adopted two water reservations, protecting the Everglades Agricultural Area (EAA) Reservoir and the Kissimmee River and Chain of Lakes. The science surrounding these important water reservations was technically sound; staff held multiple rule development workshops and addressed stakeholders' concerns by revising the draft rules and technical documents. The two water reservations became effective January 31, 2021 and March 21, 2021, respectively.

The 2021 Priority Water Body List includes continued development of the Water Control Plan (Project Operations Manual) for the C-43 Reservoir. This plan will be coordinated with federal and state partners and does not require additional rulemaking.

Rulemaking to support two restoration projects is included in this year's Priority List - the Loxahatchee River Watershed Restoration Project and the Lake Okeechobee Watershed Restoration Project. Both projects restore natural systems by modifying the overall quantity, quality, timing, and distribution of fresh water. Additionally, the District sent a letter to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, its federal partner in Everglades restoration, supporting authorization of both projects. To support these restoration projects, water reservations, restricted allocation area rules, or both will be developed or modified to protect the water resources.

There are no cross-boundary impacts associated with these priority waterbodies.

Secretary Shawn Hamilton
October 22, 2021
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We look forward to the Department's review of this year's Priority Water Body List. If you have any questions, please contact me or Lawrence Glenn, Water Resources Division Director at (561) 682-6499.

Sincerely,



Drew Bartlett
Executive Director

DB/sn

Enclosures:

Attachment A
Governing Board Resolution
Priority List Spreadsheet

c: Ed Smith, DEP
Stefani Weeks, DEP
Pam Flores, DEP

SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

Resolution No. 2021 - 1006

A Resolution of the Governing Board of the South Florida Water Management District to authorize submission of the proposed 2021 Priority Water Body List and Schedule for Minimum Flows and Levels and Water Reservations to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection for review and approval pursuant to Section 373.042(3), Florida Statutes; Providing an effective date.

WHEREAS, the South Florida Water Management District (District) is required by Section 373.042(3), Florida Statutes (F.S.), to submit an annual update of the Priority Water Body List for Minimum Flows and Levels and Water Reservations that reflects the District's water resource management priorities, the importance of the waters to the region, and the existence of, or potential for, significant harm to the water resources;

WHEREAS, the water management districts are required to forward the Priority Water Body List and Schedule to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection for its review and approval; and,

WHEREAS, the proposed 2021 Priority Water Body List and Schedule for Minimum Flows and Levels and Water Reservations considers the differing resource issues addressed by minimum flows and levels and water reservations based on staffing and technical resources to ensure successful completion of rulemaking.

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

Section 1. The District's Governing Board hereby authorizes transmittal of the 2021 Priority Water Body List and Schedule for Minimum Flows and Levels and Water Reservations to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection for review and approval pursuant to Section 373.042(3), F.S.

Section 2. The 2021 Priority Water Body List and Schedule for Minimum Flows and Levels and Water Reservations is attached hereto and made a part hereof.

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Resolution No. 2021 - 1006


PASSED and ADOPTED this 14th day of October, 2021.



Attest:


District Clerk/Secretary

SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT, BY ITS GOVERNING BOARD
By:


Chauncey P. Goss, II
Chairman

Legal form approved:

By: 
Office of Counsel

Print name:

Jennifer Brown

South Florida Water Management District
2021 Priority Water Body List and Schedule
Minimum Flows and Levels and Reservations

Minimum Flows and Levels:

- None at this time

Reservations:

2021 - 2024 – Water Control Plan for the C-43 Reservoir

- Continue development of the Project Operations Manual (aka Water Control Plan) for the C-43 Reservoir in coordination with federal and state partners
- Rulemaking is not required at this time

2022 - 2023 – Water Reservation or Restricted Allocation Area Rule for the Loxahatchee River Watershed Restoration Project

- Develop a water reservation or expand the boundary of existing restricted allocation area rule (Lower East Coast Regional Water Availability Rule)

2023 - 2024 – Water Reservation or Restricted Allocation Area Rule for the Lake Okeechobee Watershed Restoration Project

- Develop a water reservation or a restricted allocation area rule for the Lake Okeechobee Watershed Restoration Project

South Florida Water Management District Minimum Flows and Levels to be adopted in 2021

New or Re-Evaluation	Waterbody Name or Compliance Point ¹	System Name ²	Waterbody Type ³	County(s)	Voluntary Peer Review to be Completed?	Cross-Boundary Impacts from Adjacent WMD?	Latitude ⁴	Longitude ⁴	Rulemaking Status ⁵
None at this time									

South Florida Water Management District Minimum Flows and Levels to be adopted in 2022

New or Re-Evaluation	Waterbody Name or Compliance Point ¹	System Name ²	Waterbody Type ³	County(s)	Voluntary Peer Review to be Completed?	Cross-Boundary Impacts from Adjacent WMD?	Latitude ⁴	Longitude ⁴	Rulemaking Status ⁵
None at this time									

South Florida Water Management District Minimum Flows and Levels to be adopted in 2023

New or Re-Evaluation	Waterbody Name or Compliance Point ¹	System Name ²	Waterbody Type ³	County(s)	Voluntary Peer Review to be Completed?	Cross-Boundary Impacts from Adjacent WMD?	Latitude ⁴	Longitude ⁴	Rulemaking Status ⁵
None at this time									

South Florida Water Management District Minimum Flows and Levels to be adopted in 2024

New or Re-Evaluation	Waterbody Name or Compliance Point ¹	System Name ²	Waterbody Type ³	County(s)	Voluntary Peer Review to be Completed?	Cross-Boundary Impacts from Adjacent WMD?	Latitude ⁴	Longitude ⁴	Rulemaking Status ⁵
None at this time									

South Florida Water Management District Reservations Priority List

Waterbody Name	Waterbody Type	County(s)	Proposed Year	Rulemaking Status ⁵
Loxahatchee River Watershed Restoration Project	River and Wetlands	St. Lucie and Martin	2022	Not started
Caloosahatchee River (C-43) West Basin Storage Reservoir Project	River	Hendry, Lee Okeechobee, Martin, Palm Beach, Hendry, and Glades	2024	Not started
Lake Okeechobee Watershed Restoration Project	Lake and Wetlands		2024	Not started

¹ A spring with one vent should be labeled as "Example Spring." A spring with multiple associated vents should be labeled as "Example Springs." Multiple springs grouped together in a system should be labeled as "Example Spring Group." (Please refer to Florida Spring Classification System and Spring Glossary, Special Publication No. 52, for more details.) Include on individual lines, with specific names, if it is known at this time that there will be multiple waterbodies or compliance points (such as springs or multiple river gages) associated with the MFL.

² Include a system name if the waterbody (or compliance point) is a part of a larger system (i.e. river and spring waterbodies belong to one overall system, multiple priority springs represent individual MFLs but belong to one system). If not, then the Waterbody Name and System should be the same.

³ Aquifer, Estuary, Lake, River, River-Estuary, Spring-1, Spring-2, Spring-3, Wetland

⁴ For rivers, use the coordinates for the most upstream gage used to measure flow. For lakes, use the lake's center point. For springs, use the coordinates for the gage used to measure flow unless the gage is not located on the spring/spring run, in which case, use the spring's vent. For aquifers, wetlands, and estuaries, use the coordinates for the wells or gage used to measure the water source's level. Please use Decimal Degrees (DD) formatting.

⁵ Rulemaking Status would be the last action taken: Notice of Rule Development published; Notice of Proposed Rule published; Rule challenge pending; Rule adopted. Ratification not required; Rule adopted. Awaiting ratification; Rule adopted. Ratified. If formal rulemaking has not yet begun, enter N/A.

⁶ Develop a water reservation or restricted allocation area rule for the EAA Reservoir

Include all MFLs adopted since the previous priority list submittal.

Waterbody Name or Compliance Point ¹	System ²	Waterbody Type ³	County(s)	Year Adopted	Rule Number	Most Recent Re-Evaluation ⁴	MFL Status ⁵	RPS Title ⁶	Latitude ⁷	Longitude ⁷	Comments
None											

Include all Reservations adopted since the previous priority list submittal.

Waterbody Name	Waterbody Type ³	County(s)	Year Adopted
Kissimmee River and Chain of Lakes	River and Lakes	Orange, Osceola, Polk, Okeechobee, and Highlands Counties	2021
EAA Reservoir-Everglades	Wetland	Henry and Palm Beach	2021

¹ A spring with one vent should be labeled as "Example Spring." A spring with multiple associated vents should be labeled as "Example Springs." Multiple springs grouped together in a system should be labeled as "Example Spring Group." (Please refer to Florida Spring Classification System and Spring Glossary, Special Publication No. 52, for more details.) Include on individual lines, with specific names, if it is known at this time that there will be multiple waterbodies or compliance points (such as springs or multiple river gages) associated with the MFL.

² Include a system name if the waterbody (or compliance point) is a part of a larger system (i.e. river and spring waterbodies belong to one overall system, multiple priority springs represent individual MFLs but belong to one system). If not, then the Waterbody Name and System should be the same.

³ Aquifer, Estuary, Lake, River, River-Estuary, Spring-1, Spring-2, Spring-3, Wetland

⁴ Provide the most recent re-evaluation year. If there are older evaluations note in the comments "Prior re-evaluations in YYYY, YYYY..."

⁵ See guidance on MFL Grades associated with the CAR. The options are: Meeting, Prevention, Recovery 1, Recovery 2, or Recovery 3.

⁶ Include the name of the Recovery or Prevention Strategy, or indicate if there is none. The options are: "Under Development" if currently working on the strategy, "MFL Scheduled for Reevaluation" if MFL is on priority list for reevaluation and no strategy is being drafted at this time as a result, "N/A" if MFL was determined to be meeting at time of MFL adoption.

⁷ For rivers, use the coordinates for the most upstream gage used to measure flow. For lakes, use the lake's center point. For springs, use the coordinates for the gage used to measure flow unless the gage is not located on the spring/spring run, in which case, use the spring's vent. For aquifers, wetlands, and estuaries, use the coordinates for the wells or gauge used to measure the water source's level. Please use Decimal Degrees (DD) formatting.