	Comment Matrix - Final Draft Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR) Science Plan								
Commenter	Date Comment Received	Agency or Organization Represented	Comment Category	Comment Summary	SFWMD Response				
Summary of Commo	ents Received via	email, ASRWells@sfwm	d.gov (2/5/21 thro	ough 4/1/21)					
Mr. Roger Wood	2/5/2021	Private Citizen	General	The "cartoon" of injecting water polluted with nutrients into native ground water is proof of the failure of the design concept. This putrid noxious water is shown as a light blue. There is a buffer zone shown as medium blue, and then the native ground water is shown as dark blue. The lines separating the colors are sharp as if the colors won't mix. If you believe that, then your cream in your coffee won't mix together. Furthermore, the underground water table is not a confined lake. It is a flowing river. The polluted water injected to the water table will flow away. When water is needed to irrigate the crops, as the diagram shows, the water drawn back up will be pure native ground water. Somewhere else the bad water will rear it's ugly head. Maybe in someone's drinking water, or it may re-emerge as an underwater spring in the Gulf of Mexico where red tide will kill our fishing and tourist economies. This design concept is a ticking time bomb that will create a huge disaster in the future.	Thank you for your comment. The Science Plan calls for a phased implementation of ASR well testing, including the use of numerous geological, geochemical, geotechnical and geophysical studies to resolve the remaining few uncertainties regarding the use of this valuable option for better management of Lake levels and the reduction of harmful estuary discharges. The Science Plan also includes studies to assure the protection of water quality within the underground aquifers and the ecology of Lake Okeechobee when the water is recovered from the ASR wells.				
Dr. J. William Louda	2/6/2021	Florida Atlantic University	Arsenic	What safeguards will be put in place to ensure that when you pump oxygen containing waters down into the totally anoxic environment at 2000+/- feet, that you will not be bringing arsenic back up and putting that into the environment, including potential human usage? That is, arsenopyrites (AsFeS) release As when the redox potential goes to positive (oxidizing). I believe thathis was found in SW Florida ASRs ?? (<-I lost the reference ti that, hopefully you have it!)	While liberation of arsenic has been an issue at some ASR facilities, it remains to be seen to what extent arsenic will be liberated and recovered at the new test well locations. The Science Plan includes a robust evaluation of arsenic mobilization, including monitoring well sampling, geochemical modeling, appropriate treatment trains, and cycle testing.				
Ms. Diane Goldberg	1 ' '	St. Lucie Audobon Conservation	General	The spending of \$100 million on ASR wells is not a good idea especially since Florida needs to save money on this year's budget. This is supposed to be implemented north of Lake O, but over time, though not in the near future, this could cause sink holes and this polluted water to combine with water in our aquafers. Water is desperately needed by the Everglades, Florida Bay, Miccosukee Indian tribes, farms and residents south of the lake, so the water needs to be cleaned and sent south instead.	Thank you for your comment.				
Mr. Steve Schubert	2/7/2021	Mr. Steve Schubert	Manatees	Email attached here.	Thank you for your comment. The District, FWS, and FWC have been cooperatively working to address this concern. We will include representatives from the FWS and USFWS in formulation of protocols for ASR recovered water discharges. The Science Plan anticipates and includes design evaluations to minimize, diffuse and dillute the thermal effect of ASR discharges.				
Ms. Mary Lavelle	2/7/2021	Private Citizen	General	How about if the people who stand to benefit from this pay for it instead of the taxpayers? Water needs to be cleaned up and sent south to the Everglades. This does nothing to further that necessity.	Thank you for your comment.				

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Mr. John Moffitt	2/8/2021	Private Citizen	General	Mr Simpson evidently has undisclosed interests pushing him away from a project that has been thoroughly vetted over many years. Let's check his PAC & contribution details. The wells may be an easy escape now, but all of our wonderful springs, which includes our drinking water, will eventually be impacted. Can we leave politics out of this and clean up our state. As we are presently learning, follow the science. Some people - especially politicians- will never learn.	1 ' '				
Ms. Becky Harris	2/8/2021	Private Citizen	General	Please do not waste 100 million dollars on an entity that could cause sink holes and send polluted water into our aquafers. Water is desperately needed by the Everglades, Florida Bay, Miccosukee Indian tribes, farms and residents south of the lake, so the water needs to be cleaned and sent south instead. Utilize those dollars on known entities like STA's and WCA's.	Thank you for your comment.				
Ms. Hilarie Davis	2/8/2021	Private Citizen	General	The spending of \$100 million on ASR wells is not a good idea especially since Florida needs to save money on this year's budget. This is supposed to be implemented north of Lake O, but over time, though not in the near future, this could cause sink holes and this polluted water will combine with water in our aquifers. Water is desperately needed by the Everglades, Florida Bay, Miccosukee Indian tribes, farms and residents south of the lake, so the water needs to be cleaned and sent south instead.	Thank you for your comment.				
Mr. Preston Robertson	2/9/2021	Florida Wildfire Federation, Inc.	General	The Florida Wildlife Federation, consisting of approximately 60,000 members and supporters of all political stripes, has grave concerns about the use of ASR technology. This seems to be another "cart before the horse" action in which the pollution is not addressed at the source, but is allowed to take place and then the rest of the taxpayers and environment have to deal with it. Secondly, the injection of pollutants into the source of our drinking water seems to be a most dubious action. It does not seem feasible for even the most well-intentioned agency to contain polluted water in our very porous karstic underground environment. Please act to stop the pollution at its source for our economy and our ecology.	Thank you for your comment.				
Ms. June Downs	2/9/2021	Private Citizen	General	For the health of Floridians affected by toxic algae and our environment . You must use EAA for the purpose they were intended only!	Thank you for your comment.				

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Mr. Gary Coton	2/9/2021	Private Citizen	General	I will not matter what I or the general public has to say because BIG SUGAR has your ear. We all know the real problem is the sugar discharge in to the lake. But please do not take dollars form the EAA reservoir. To take money from the project would be devastating. Please do not give in to Simpson and the sugar companies. Do not let big SUGAR and Simpson make your decisions. The EAA reservoir must not be compromised. We all know the real problem is the "run Off" of the sugar fields, but it seems that their money can change good judgement.	Thank you for your comment.					
Ms. Karessa Kernan	2/9/2021	Private Citizen	General	Please rethink the ASR wells plan! The money spent on storing water that is desperately needed south is just wasteful let alone dangerous to anyone near the storage sites! Would you live over or near such a large unstable pocket or use water on your family that was near the stored water?! Please just SEND THE WATER SOUTH. The spending of \$100 million on ASR wells is not a good idea especially since Florida needs to save money on this year's budget. This is supposed to be implemented north of Lake O, but over time, though not in the near future this could cause sink holes and this polluted water to combine with water in our aquafers. Water is desperately needed by the Everglades, Florida Bay, Miccosukee Indian tribes, farms and residents south of the lake, so the water needs to be cleaned and sent south instead.	Thank you for your comment.					
Mr. Brian McGann		Private Citizen	General	Stop the taking of money from our reservoir! The spending of \$100 million on ASR wells is not a good idea especially since Florida needs to save money on this year's budget. This is supposed to be implemented north of Lake O, but over time, though not in the near future this could cause sink holes and this polluted water to combine with water in our aquafers. Water is desperately needed by the Everglades, Florida Bay, Miccosukee Indian tribes, farms and residents south of the lake, so the water needs to be cleaned and sent south instead.	Thank you for your comment.					
Mr. Joe Gilio	2/9/2021	Private Citizen	Storage	Email attached here	Responses provided here.					
Mr. J. Harvey Alligood	2/9/2021	The Admiral at Island Dunes	General	Yes, water flowing into Lake O from where ever north of it needs to be "cleaned" and as "natural" as possible. Concerning plans for wells north of Lake O, A phased approach closely monitored and evaluated is of utmost importance to ensure the long term health and viability of Florida's aquifer and drinking water. Water from Lake O needs to flow south to preserve and nourish the Everglades, instead of dumped east creating yet more problems. Please, no "undoing" or even delaying of the planned EAA reservoirs south of Lake O.	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·					

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Not Provided	2/10/2021	Private Citizen	Deep Injection Wells/General	Please consider the history of sinkholes when approaching the injection into the earth. While I believe the water into estuaries and Lake O needs to be cleaned and correct salinity before entering, there needs to be deep thought on the deep injection wells.							
Mr. Bernard J. Lacroix	2/10/2021	Private Citizen	General		Thank you for you comment.						
Mr. Jeremy McBryan	2/10/2021	Palm Beach County Water Resources Manager	General	However, SFWMD does not always provide responses to comments	SFWMD will provide responses to comments received on the ASR Science Plan. The responses will be posted on the District's ASR Project-dedicated website.						
Ms. Janet Pacella	2/11/2021	Private Citizen	General	I am against the Lake Okeechobee Watershed Restoration Project. I am not a scientist nor do I have a scientific background, but as a concerned citizen of Florida I have read various articles and studies involving the project and even I can see that there is not enough evidence that it would have minimal negative impact on our ecosystems. I think congressional approval should be denied at this time.	Thank you for your comment.						
Mr. Chris Davison	2/11/2021	Private Citizen	General	Email attached here.	Thank you for your comment. The Science Plan has been formulated to address specific technical and scientific uncertainties associated with ASR.						
Mr. Sam Hay	2/12/2021	Private Citizen	General	Please oppose any proposals for building ASR wells north of Lake Okeechobee. The money for this kind of project could be better spent elsewhere. More importantly, these wells could ultimately cause sinkholes and contaminate our aquifers. The water reaching Lake O should instead be cleaned and sent south to Florida Bay the Everglades where it is desperately needed.	Thank you for your comment.						
Mr. Robert Barbeau	2/12/2021	Private Citizen	General	I do not support spending 100 million of our already short budget to build something (ASR wells) that could compromise Florida's most valuable resource which is our water supply, please do not support this.	Thank you for your comment.						

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Mr. James Packer	2/13/2021	Private Citizen	General/Water Quality	ASR wells as a solution to water storage north of Lake O strikes me as another blunder in the long list of blunders that Florida has made with watershed. I am all for removing the sources of nutrient pollution before they enter the lake, so lets address that problem; not hide the pollution in a deep well where it will endanger future generations. Stopping farm and industrial point-source pollution north of the lake by asking polluters to follow "current best practices" is simply dodging the problem. SFWMD should resolve this issue first. Furthermore, the fresh water needs to flow south to replenish the aquifer, feed the everglades, and irrigate farms. So the southern reservoir and marsh that we finally have under construction must continue with all haste, but diverting and reducing/eliminating polluted inflows into the lake from the north is very important as well; but lets solve the problem not hide it in a deep well.					
Ms. Lizbeth Piel	2/15/2021	Private Citizen	General	The Aquifer Storage and Recovery Plan for digging 80 wells north of Lake Okeechobee, in an area of wetlands and prairie, could cause an ecological disaster. After the wells are dug, it would need 3600 acres of wetland restoration and 1200 acres to restore the Kissimmee River Center. Like fracking, these wells could create seismic problems and create sink holes, and pollute water in aquafers. The wells could reduce the water for Lake O and the water needed for the Everglades, Florida Bay, Miccosukee tribes, farms and residents south of the lake. This would effect fish spawning, the lives of manatees, and effect the population of apple snails, the main food of the Florida Snail Kite and effect saltwater intrusion. This Aquifer Storage plan should be rejected as the ecological fall out could be disastrous.					

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Ms. Barabara Bishop	2/15/2021	Private Citizen	General	Don't know how much laymen comments mean, but after reading Max Chesnes article I have these comments. What are the technical uncertainties regarding the regional effects of using the ASR wells on a LARGE scale? The uncertainties are what should be addressed. What "fatal flaws" were not found? The concerns addressed are numerous. The main concern that should be addressed is WHAT HAPPENS IF THEY FAIL? Personally I don't think the idea of drilling wells into Florida aquifer is a good idea. Why can't the escalation of cleaning up the stormwater runoff from "north" of the lake be addressed. Address the septic tanks still being used, fertilizers, etc. With climate change rapidly happening and our coasts slowly being eroded, saltwater intrusion into the aquifer is inevitable. What happens then? The whole state will be using desalination systems and think how much that will cost. I won't be around to see the final judgement to what man has done but we can't keep extending civilization into the Everglades and believe that "man" can fix it. Sometimes nature is the best fix. It's too bad we screwed it up to begin with!!! Thanks for the opportunity to vent!	ASRs have been used in Florida since 1983. The Science Plan was formulated to address the few specific remaining uncertainties enurmated by the National Research Council (NRC) upon its review of the 2015 CERP ASR Regional Study Final Report. The conclusions of that report, which NRC concurred with, indictated that there were no "fatal flaws" with implementation of ASR technology. The Science Plan includes tasks intended to resolve the oustanding areas that warrant further evaluation.					
Mr. Pedro Ruiz	2/17/2021	Private Citizen	General	Water storage - we should do everything within our power to store water north of the lake.	Thank you for your comment.					
Mr. John Pope	2/17/2021	Private Citizen	General	I cannot agree in any form to the proposed underground wells. Taking polluted surface water and forcing it underground to further pollute ground water cannot not be good. Find a surface solution for the surface polluted water.	Thank you for your comment.					
Ms. Kathy	2/17/2021	Private Citizen	General	I am very much for the water storage solution. I have been saying for years that something like that was needed. Also when there's a drought some of the water could be released back into the lake.	Thank you for your comment.					
Ms. Carmen Patti	2/17/2021	Private Citizen	General	I'm writing to show support for the ASR wells for storing water north of the lake. ASR wells will help slow the flow into the lake and help decrease releases to each coast. Thank you for the opportunity to express my thoughts on this project.	Thank you for your comment.					

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Mr. Henry Shumate	2/17/2021	Private Citizen	General	Please just use some common since Please FWC. I live here in Highlands County and you should be totally ashamed of what you have done to our fisheries by totally eliminating all of our grass in our lakes, and worse yet 6 years later no grass coming back. You have even made a silly attempt at trying to plant eel grass back after you killed it all. Very simple what once was a forest is now a parking lot. Nothing lives in the parking lot. I am not just one individual I speak for all the anglers.	Thank you for your comment.					
Mr. Charles Flynn	2/17/2021	Private Citizen	General	Please give these wells your consideration in order to help save Lake O.	Thank you for your comment.					
Mr. George Mrozinski	2/17/2021	Private Citizen	General	As a fishing guide in south Florida I have seen the ups and downs of lake Okeechobee . The lake needs storage to the north and controlled spraying not weed obliteration . The Headwaters lake in Fellsmere is a prime example of proper weed management. The lake cannot filter all the water it gets from the north, especially without submerged vegetation like hydrilla. I support the ASR storage wells .	Thank you for your comment.					
Ms. Lois Warner	2/17/2021	Private Citizen	General	My husband and I fully support the ASRWells north of the lake. It is most important To control the lake levels and use the water wisely. We have already done enough damage by channelizing the river, let's now try to undo some of the damage we have done. Water control in Lake Okeechobee is in the best interest of everyone.	Thank you for your comment.					
Mr. Roy Singer	2/17/2021	Private Citizen	General	I support the utilization of ASR Wells North of Lake O.	Thank you for your comment.					
Mr. Darin Lyons	2/17/2021	Private Citizen	General	I fully support the ASR wells projects north of Lake Okeechobee. Please listen to our voices.						
Mr. David Pyne	2/17/2021	ASR Systems, LLC		Email attached here.	Responses provided here.					
Mr. Liam Tons	2/18/2021	Private Citizen	General	We need to help the health of Lake Okeechobee and it's coastal estuaries!	Thank you for your comment.					
Ms. Victoria Maisch Rumer	2/18/2021	Private Citizen	General	Please stop the spraying of Lake O. Also begin the process to create the ASR and holding of water north of the lake. We need the lake to be clean again and for the vegetation to grow.	Thank you for your comment.					
Unknown	2/18/2021	Private Citizen	General	I support ASR wells. We can't keep doing the same thing and expect different results.	Thank you for your comment.					
Unknown	2/22/2021	Private Citizen	General	I support Lake Okeechobee. I believe that water storage and treatment north of Lake O is essential to protecting the Lake and will help stop discharges to Florida's east and west coasts.	Thank you for your comment.					

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Mr. Thomas Vranek	2/24/2021	Private Citizen	General	The Aquifer Storage and Recovery plan would more accurately be called the Aquifer contamination plan. After pumping contaminated water into the earth there is no recovery. Palm Beach County and south Florida depend on the aquifer for life supporting water. South Florida and the Everglades need clean water to survive. Water cannot be supplied if it is disposed of by injecting it into the earth. The ASR plan is really a land grab by the sugar corporations. Taxpayers were required to purchase the land for (EAA) the Everglades Agricultural Area reservoir project. The goal was to clean the water south of Lake Okeechobee sent to the everglades. The sugar companies are allowed to plant cane on this land while the project is underway. If the money is diverted from this project to the new Aquifer Storage plan, the land taxpayers were told was to be used to clean the water will be used to further contaminate the water with nitrogen which promotes the growth of sugar cane to further profit the sugar corporations.						
Ms. Patty Duncan	2/24/2021	Private Citizen	General/Aquifer		The Science Plan includes numerous hydraulic, geotechnical and geophysical investigations to monitor and confirm that ASR operations will not fracture the Floridan aquifer or endanger the shallow aquifers. Furthermore, the District must comply with all statutes and regulations that safeguard against cross-contamination of the aquifers.					
Mr. Bernard Albrecht	2/24/2021	Private Citizen	Genral/Water Quality	Email attached here	Thank you for your comment.					
Mr. Mark McNeal	2/24/2021	ASRus, LLC.	Technical/UIC Permit/Water Recovery/Water Quality/Costs	Email attached here.	Responses provided here.					

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Ms. Barbara Butler	2/27/2021	Private Citizen	General	As a resident of Clewiston,FI for over 55 years, I fully support the ASR Wells. If the Kissimmee River had been left alone many years ago we would not be facing this problem today. The water was being filtered naturally and being held when the water table was getting too high for the Lake. I believe the ASR Wells will help tremendously with this process now.	Thank you for your comment.				
Mr. David Urich	3/3/2021	Responsible Growth Management Coalition, Inc.	Water Supply/Recovery	E-mail attached here.	Thank you for your comment.				
Ms. Nikki Descoteaux	3/4/2021	Private Citizen	General	I am writing to oppose the large scale building of ASR wells (80) north of Lake Okeechobee. In reading about the ASR wells, studies said there were no fatal flaws to using ASR wells. That is hardly comforting. At this point, we can't be experimenting and seeing if a major flaw appears and is impactful. CERP is rightfully committed to water storage and filtering. The EAA reservoir is a case in point. Continue on with that project. Do not put it in jeopardy by trying to build the ASR wells which, in any case, won't provide the water storage needed for the goal. NRC comments in your ASR Science plan are unsettling. They ask for more research on so many levels: water quality, disinfection technology, toxicology research, nutrient removal mechanisms needed, etc. This indicates that building ASR wells as in the plan is not ready for prime time. Slow it down, do the due diligence and only then, move forward.	The Science Plan calls for a phased implementation of ASR well testing, including the use of numerous geological, geochemical, geotechnical and geophysical studies to resolve the remaining few uncertainties regarding the use of this valuable option for better management of Lake levels and the reduction of harmful estuary discharges.				
Ms. Kathy Combass//Mr. Randy Martin	3/5/2021	City of Clewiston	Letter of Support	E-mail attached here.	Thank you for you comment.				
Ms. Angela Chelette	3/5/2021	Florida Department of	Project Schedule/Data Management/Trea tment Technology	E-mail attached here.	Responses provided here.				

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Mr. Jerry Smith	3/9/2021	Private Citizen	O&M Concerns	E-mail attached here.	The most recent O&M costs were provided during the LOWRP planning effort and documented in the Final Revised PIR and EIS that was released in August 2020 by USACE. Details pertaining to costs can be found in the Report on the USACE website. The ASR Science Plan has been formulated specific uncertainties highlighted by the NRC related to the implementation of ASR technology in south Florida. The uncertainties include hydrogeologic, geochemical, water quality, ecologic, and operational. Comparative evaluation of the benefits of the cost of ASR relative to other storage options can be conducted after selection of the preferred treatment process is formalized. Members of the USFWS will have participation of the subteam that will formulate ecologic experiments to addrss the NRC comments. RECOVER will likely provide review of annual reports and updates to the ASR Scidnce Plan as results from the first few tasks become available. All of the data, analyses and reports that is collected and generated as the project unfolds will be made available through a publicly accessable, curated, validated data management warehouse that is currently under development.					
Mr. Jeremy McBryan	3/9/2021	County Water Resources Manager, Palm Beach County	Letter of Support	Letter attached here.	Thank you for you comment. Answers to public comments will be posted on the ASR Project dedicated website.					
Mr. Geoffrey Mullins	3/19/2021	Chief of Staff & Director of Operations, The Everglades Foundation	Scale of ASR Well Program, Cost	Letter attached here.	Thank you for your comment.					
Mr. Tom Walker	3/21/2021	Former Director of Engineering and Executive Direct, Florida Keys Aqueduct Authority	Cost	Letter attached here.	The ASR Science Plan has been formulated to address specific uncertainties highlighted by the NRC related to the implementation of ASR technology in south Florida. The uncertainties include topics such as hydrogeology, water quality, geochemistry, ecologic effects, and operational dynamics and efficiencies. Of course, cost analyses and evaluations for implementation of ASR for the LOWRP must be weighed against the benefits that are provided by the technology. Costs for capital and operation/maintenance of ASR water treatment systems are an important element of the project. However, at this time the specific treatment process and regulatory approach to permitting the facilities has yet to be determined. Cost estimates provided thus far are at an early conceptual planning level, and will be refined in subsequent years, following the installation of test/exploratory wells and wellfield design efforts are undertaken.					

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Mr. Kevin Cunniff	3/22/2021	Director of Environmental Resource Management Department, Seminole Tribe of Florida	NAS Recomendations	Letter attached here.	Thank you for you comment.					
Mr. Daniel Andrews	3/22/2021	Executive Director, Captains for Clean Water	Scale of ASR Well Program, Ecological Risks, Water Quality, Cost	Letter attached here.	Thank you for you comment.					
Mr. James Evans	3/22/2021	Environmental Policy Director, Sanibel Captiva Conservation Foundation	Scale of ASR Well Program, Water Quality, Project Benefits/Performa nce	Letter attached here.	The ASR Science Plan has been formulated to address specific uncertainties highlighted by the NRC related to the implementation of ASR technology in south Florida. Performance of an "ASR only" version of the LOWRP will be conducted in the coming year, to asses benefits of the project without the WAF. Evaluations will take place to determine the potential for nutrient reduction and impacts to groundwater quality during the design/testing phase of the project and will be included in future iterations of the Science Plan, as it evolves annually. Costs and benefits of ASR technology relative to other water storage features will be forthcoming upon determination of treatment technology processes and wellfield design, which will be undertaken in future phases of the LOWRP. However, it is worth remembering that ASR and surface reservoirs operate and function differently, so "apples to apples" comparisons have limited applicability.					
Dr. Paul Gray	3/22/2021	Science Coordinator, Everglades Restoration Program, Audobon Florida	Letter of Support	Letter attached here.	Thank you for you comment. One of the potential LOWRP well clusters is located near the Lakeside Ranch STA, which might be utilized to assist in the performance of that STA.					
Ms. Kellie Ralston	3/22/2021	Southeast Fisheries Policy Director, American Sportfishing Association	Letter of Support	Letter attached here.	Thank you for you comment.					

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Mr. Richard Weisskoff		Professor and Economist, University of Miami	Cost, Water Quality	E-mail attached here.	Thank you for the comment. The ASR Science Plan has been formulated to address specific scientific uncertainties highlighted by the NRC related to the implementation of ASR technology in south Florida. Capital and operation/maintenance cost estimates for treatment technology at this time are preliminary and will be forthcoming upon completion of design evaluations.					
Yogeh Khare	4/1/2021	Everglades Foundation	Water Quality	Email attached here.	Responses provided here.					
Rejendra Paudel	4/1/2021	Everglades Foundation	Operations	Email attached here.	Responses provided here.					