

**CONSOLIDATED EVERGLADES ANNUAL REPORT**  
*February 22, 1999 Executive Council Meeting*

**THE CONCEPT: FEWER REPORTS AND INTEGRATED RESULTS**

Reporting / Chapter Topics	Mandate Reports being Consolidated	EFA §13	EFA §4(d)6	EFA §9(d)	EFA §9(k)	§404	NPDES	JLCEO
		Annual Report	Research & Monitoring Report	Permits (G) (ECP)	Permit (Non-ECP)	Permit (G) (Corps)	Permit	
Construction Status		X			X	X		X
Land Acquisition Update					X	X		X
Actual & Projected Revenue								X
Water Quality Compliance		X	X	X	X	X	X	
Everglades Mercury Issues		X	X	X	X	X	X	
STA Effectiveness and Optimization		X	X	X			X	X
Supplemental Technologies Research			X	X	X	X		X
BMP Effectiveness Initiatives		X	X					
Exotic Species Control		X						
Regulatory Action Strategy					X			
Everglades Ecological & Hydrological Needs		X				X		
C & SF Restudy			X					?
LEC Water Supply Plan			X					?

**JUSTIFICATIONS FOR THE CONSOLIDATED REPORT**

**Efficiency:** *Less duplication of effort* in production of individual reports – opportunity gain.

**Consistency:** *Synthesis of agency views* in single document, avoiding inconsistency.

**Quality:** *Editorial and peer review* results in higher quality report.

**Feedback:** Single document *encourages public and regulatory agency review* and comment.

**Experience:** Successful completion of the 1999 Interim Report and high praise.

**Compliance:** Single document eases development of EFA's 2003 *Long Term Compliance Plan*.

**PEER REVIEW: INTERNAL, EXTERNAL AND PUBLIC REVIEW**

**Internal Review**

- Entire report circulated for *inter-departmental review*; authors responsible for content.
- *Technical Editorial Team* reviews entire document for quality, responsiveness and consistency, and writes Findings and Implications in cooperation with the chapter authors.
- *Copy Editors* are responsible for grammatical consistency of entire document.
- *Production Editors* responsible for physical production and publication of document.

**External Peer Review by Panel**

- *Author assistance* with location of peer-reviewers.
- Designation of a *primary peer-reviewer* for each chapter who screens other questions.
- Development of a *scope of review* for the peer-review panel, including written report.
- Re-appointing some panel members to *improve continuity*.

**Public Review**

- District may *hold public workshop*; will publish on the WWW and via copy circulation.

**QUESTIONS FOR EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

1. *Support for the concept* of a Consolidated Report?
2. *Conceptual agreement to commit interdepartmental resources*, including editorial teams?  
 Example: departments allocate portion of person's time for editorial roles.
3. *Endorsement of public hearing* as part of peer-review process?

# Consolidated Everglades Annual Report

## Vision for a Consolidated Report

The Consolidated Everglades Annual Report will be a high quality, self-explanatory synthesis of data and findings on topics required by statute or permit. It will be edited by a District team, peer reviewed, subject to open criticism at a public workshop and published in a professional format similar to that used in the Everglades Interim Report. By reducing staff time spent on *duplicative* reporting requirements, and by providing a single document for public and regulatory agencies to review, the value of the Consolidated Report to the District and its clients should be far greater than the sum of the individual reports upon which it is based.

## The Approach to Producing a Consolidated Report

Building on the positive response to the Everglades Interim Report, staff recommends that several other reports be melded into the January 1, 2000 Everglades Report and that this consolidated report be developed using the same cross-department team approach and peer review process used for the Everglades Interim Report. The Consolidated Everglades Annual Report will provide an integrated synthesis *annual* reporting requirements in the Everglades Forever Act (EFA), Joint Legislative Oversight Committee and state and federal permits. These permits include the federal dredge and fill and NPDES permits for the Everglades Construction Project (404 and ECP) and the state EFA permit for the ECP and the Everglades Stormwater Program. The Report will be edited and integrated by an editorial team of District staff and will include both a thorough summary and a section on findings and implications for decision-makers.

The proposed report will address key Everglades reporting requirements, while it eliminates overlap between multiple Everglades reports due at various times during the year. The consolidation process helps to avoid redundant staff, publication and distribution efforts and will achieve cost reductions. The coalesced document presents an opportunity for peer-review of technical aspects of the entire Everglades restoration effort and allows more time for meaningful analysis of data and findings. The process of developing such a report also helps to ensure consistent data interpretation and reporting between departments leading to agency-wide, interdepartmental conclusions.

## Peer Review of a Consolidated Report

Peer review of the Consolidated Report will be patterned after that applied to the Everglades Interim Report. Reviewers will be selected by District staff using the same guidelines of expertise and objectiveness as done for previous reviews. Authors are welcome to provide Curriculum Vitae of prospective reviewers for their chapters and these reviewers will be considered by staff along with other prospective candidates. However, the final decision on reviewers can not rest with authors in accordance with common practice in peer review. As done previously, chapter authors will be given an opportunity to comment upon and add to the scope of work and questions to be addressed

by the panel. This may include areas that are not subject to review and should be taken as a condition or assumption during the review process.

Reviewers will evaluate the report as an interactive panel and may participate in a public workshop on the report. The District seeks continuity in panel composition between years to improve the effectiveness of the review, but will compose the panel each year to provide an appropriate review of the current document. The review panel will provide a final report to the District and as in the past, the review of each chapter will be written by a lead reviewer; comments by other panelists are welcome, but will be screened through this lead reviewer. The Panel Chairperson will handle disagreements on the content of the final report.

## **Outline**

### **Consolidated Everglades Annual Report**

#### **Findings and Implications**

*Suggested Authors: Editorial Team in close cooperation with chapter authors*

- A. Identify agency conclusions based upon entire report.

#### **Report Summary**

*Suggested Authors: Authors, edited extensively by Editorial Team*

- A. Report summary edited by Editorial Team and used in Annual Report

### **I. Introduction**

*Suggested Authors: Editorial Team*

Legal basis for each chapter, peer review process, the geographical and agency setting of the report needed to set the stage for the Consolidated Report.

- A. Hydrologic Needs of the Everglades
- B. Ecological Needs of the Everglades
- C. Water Quality Criteria – Status of Compliance
- D. Effectiveness of Best Management Practices (annual requirement)
- E. Effectiveness and Optimization of STAs for P Removal
- F. The Everglades Mercury Problem
- G. Supplemental Technologies for Treating (annual requirement)
- H. Lower East Coast Regional Water Supply Plan
- I. The Everglades Stormwater Program
  - 1. Regulatory Action Report (annual requirement)
  - 2. ESP Strategy Report (2000 Report, annual updates only if needed)
- J. Land Acquisition Report
- K. Revenue Report
- L. Exotic Species Control Report (annual requirement)
- M. Long-Term Compliance Strategy (annual until 2003 plans)

### **II. Hydrologic Needs: The Effects of Altered Hydrology on the Everglades**

*Primary Author: Fred Sklar*

### **III. Ecological Needs of the Everglades**

*Primary Author: Paul McCormick*

**IV. Water Quality Criteria – Status of Compliance**

*Primary Author: Tim Bechtel*

*Meets Non-ECP, EFA §4(d)6., §13, and 404 permitting requirements*

- A. Data Evaluation (2000 Report only) *Meets Non-ECP permit requirements*
  - 1. Everglades Protection Area baseline
  - 2. Compare baseline to water quality standards
- B. Annual Analysis (ongoing obligation)  
*Meets Non-ECP, EFA §4(d)6. and §13*
  - 1. Analyze data: April 98 – April 99 (available July 99)
- C. Mass Balance Report (2000 report only)  
*Meets 404 permit and EFA §4(d)6. requirements*
  - 1. For phosphorus (TP) and nitrogen (TN):
- D. Status of the Everglades Protection Area (Interim Report Update)  
*Meets 404 permit and EFA §10 requirements*
  - 1. Up-dated *into v. within* structure analysis
  - 2. Status of impacted areas

**V. Effectiveness of Best Management Practices**

*Primary Author: Benita Whalen*

- A. Everglades BMP Regulatory Program, performance summary
- B. Project Updates on other BMP Initiatives

**VI. Effectiveness and Optimization of STAs for Phosphorus Removal**

*Primary Author: Mike Chimney*

- A. Update on STA optimization project
- B. Status of STA in operation and findings for future operations
  - 1. STA-1W, 2. STA-1E, 3. STA-2, 4. STA-3/4, 5. STA-5, 6. STA-6

**VII. The Everglades Mercury Problem**

*Primary Author: Larry Fink*

*Meets 404 permit, Non-ECP permit, and EFA §4(d)6. and §13*

- A. Identify useful data / create baseline if possible
  - 1. Graphically display District, USEPA and USGS data
- B. Data Analysis
  - 1. Compare District data with federal data and WQS
  - 2. Evaluate trends in mercury bioaccumulation and environmental factors.
- C. Mercury Assessment Program, update.

**VIII. Supplemental Technologies for Treating Stormwater Discharges into the EPA**

*Primary Author: Susan Gray*

- A. Project Updates of Supplemental Technology Projects

**IX. Lower East Coast Regional Water Supply Plan**

*Primary Author: Murray Miller*

- A. Project Updates; relate to Restudy

**X. The C&SF Restudy**

*Primary Author: Agnes McLean*

- A. Restudy status and needs

**XI. Everglades Stormwater Program**

*Primary Authors: Ron Bearzotti and Sharon Trost*

- A. Regulatory Action Strategy
  - 1. Briefly restate WQ status of *into* locations
  - 2. Basins requiring continued or upstream monitoring
  - 3. Upstream monitoring, District enforcement or other efforts
- B. ESP Restoration Strategies
  - 1. ESP Program Plan with cross-references to other programs

**XII. Land Acquisition Report**

*Primary Author: Blair Littlejohn*

- A. Completed land acquisitions
- B. Land acquisition underway
- C. Future land acquisition

**XIII. Revenue Report**

*Primary Author: Joe Moore*

*Meets JLCEO Requirements*

- A. Cost estimates
- B. Funding mechanisms

**IXV. Exotic Species Control**

*Primary Author: Dan Thayer*

- A. Control Efforts
- B. Status of affected areas

**XV. Long-Term Compliance Strategy**

*Primary Author: Gary Goforth*

- A. Update interim report chapter 12
- B. Meet 404 permit requirements