

**DEP and District Recommended Priorities**  
**Recommendations to Principals of the Consent Decree (July 24, 2003)**

**A. Controlling Phosphorus Loads to the Refuge - *HIGHEST PRIORITY***

1. Continue to develop and implement strategies to operate the STAs within their design range. That should include review of baseline hydrologic data sets used for STA design and updating to reflect current regional water management. *Priority 2; UNDERWAY - District lead; \$4.2 million plus TBD.*
2. Review the long-term plan to determine whether additional measures are appropriate for optimizing phosphorus reduction. Implement such measures as necessary to achieve the long-term levels. *Priority 3; UNDERWAY- District lead; \$83.2 million.*
3. Refine operational strategies to reduce short-term peak loads to and from the STAs. *Priority 4; UNDERWAY- District lead; \$8 million.*
4. Review of regional water management decisions affecting STA operations and performance. *Priority 5; UNDERWAY - District lead for Long-term Plan projects \$1.9 million; Corps lead on regional evaluation (Susan Sylvester volunteered to lead this effort at February TOC meeting); TBD for USACE efforts.*

**B. Enhancing Monitoring of the Refuge - *LOWEST PRIORITY***

1. Design and implement an enhanced monitoring program to improve spatial and temporal understanding of factors related to phosphorus dynamics. *Priority 8; USDO lead and funding \$100,000.*

**C. Modeling of the Refuge - *MEDIUM PRIORITY (except C2)***

1. Develop a water quality/hydraulic model for the Refuge with a phosphorus cycling component. *Priority 6; District lead (\$1.5 million); recommend USDO provide \$300,000 for expert assistance for refinement of ELM in lieu of new model and \$50,000 to refine RSM model of Refuge.*
2. Evaluate issues associated with phosphorus loads and transports within the L-40 and L-7 canals. *Priority 1; USACE lead; recommend federal efforts should focus on removing phosphorus loads from the Refuge by dredging the L-40 borrow canal with USDO funding \$500,000.*
3. Develop and track a simple phosphorus mass-balance for the Refuge. *Priority 7; USDO lead; \$50,000 to develop simple black box mass balance model of Refuge.*