

Introduction to the *2008 South Florida Environmental Report*



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Contents of the 2008 SFER – Volume I

- Everglades Forever Act (EFA), Chapters 1-9
 - Water quality and mercury/sulfur
 - Regional ecology and hydrology
 - Agricultural Best Management Practices and Stormwater Treatment Areas
 - Long-Term Plan and Exotic Species
- Lake Okeechobee, the Kissimmee Basin, and Coastal Ecosystems in Chapters 10, 11, 12
- CERP/RECOVER is included in Chapters 7A and 7B
- EFA Annual Financial Report is covered in Chapter 13

Overall Objectives of the 2008 SFER – Volume I

- Summarizes available data and findings from monitoring and research for Water Year 2007 (May 1, 2006 - April 30, 2007)
- Reports financial information for Everglades Forever Act, Lake Okeechobee and CERP for Fiscal Year 2007 (October 1, 2006 - September 30, 2007)
- Consolidates over 50 reports, including
 - *Everglades Forever Act Reports*
 - *Permit annual reports (Clean Water Act, Stormwater Treatment Areas, Lake Okeechobee Operations, etc.)*

Responses to Last Year's Panel Recommendations

- Added 2008 Integrative Chapter 1B:
Strategies for Reengineering Water Quality Monitoring in South Florida
- Revised Chapter 3B (includes sulfur section):
Mercury and Sulfur Monitoring, Research and Environmental Assessment in South Florida; authored jointly by FDEP/ District
- Added Special Section on Agency Outreach:
Public Information, Media and Outreach Activities
- Published Data Disclosure Policy:
All SFER data must be available from contributing authors

Peer-Review Process

Specified by the Everglades Forever Act for Chapters 1-9

“...issue a peer-reviewed report... that summarizes all data and findings.”

- Review 2008 Draft SFER including special reviews; participate in public workshop; write a final report
- Provide comments at all three levels of review: technical, accountability and programmatic
- Continue to provide guidance on optimizing the reporting and peer-review process

Peer-Review Panelists

- **Jeffrey Jordan**, Panel Chair, *University of Georgia*
- **Neal Armstrong**, *University of Texas at Austin*
- **Joanna Burger**, *Rutgers University*
- **JoAnn Burkholder**, *North Carolina State University*
- **Ellen von Donk**, *Netherlands Institute of Ecology*
- **Richard Meganck**, *United Nations University for Water Science and Education, The Netherlands*
- **Otto Stein**, *Montana State University*
- **Robert Ward**, *Colorado State University (emeritus)*

Contents of the 2008 SFER – Volume II

- Eight annual reports done by all five districts
(Annual Work Plan Report; Minimum Flows & Levels Priority List & Schedule Capital Improvements Plan; Five-Year Water Resource Development Work Program; Alternative Water Supply; Florida Forever Work Plan Annual Update; Land Stewardship; Mitigation Donation)
- Includes ***Five-Year Water Resource Development Work Program***
 - Money to be spent on Water Resource Development component of Water Supply Plans over the next five years
 - Reviewed by Florida Department of Environmental Protection
- Includes ***Florida Forever Annual Report, 2008 Update***
 - Separately adopted in December 2007
 - Proposed changes to Florida Forever eligibility list
 - Update of land acquisition activity

Chapter 5A: Five-Year Water Resource Development Work Program

- Required to be prepared by Florida Statute
- Update of District's implementation strategy for the water resource development component of each regional water supply plan
- \$4.5 Million allocated in Fiscal Year 2008 (FY2008) for water resource development projects
- \$17.6 Million to be spent over the next five years (FY2008-FY2012)

Chapter 6A: Florida Forever Work Plan, 2008 Annual Update

- 54 eligible projects
- 1 project added – Caloosahatchee River Basin Water Quality Treatment and Testing Facility to be located in Glades County
(Note: This project is a recommended addition to the current 2007 Florida Forever Work Plan)
- Forecasted five -year expenditures total \$581 million (FY2008-FY2012)
- Forecasted five -year funding totals \$637 million
 - Senate Bill 392 renewed \$100 million/year funding for 10 years to purchase land for CERP; and an additional \$26.6 million has been committed in FY2008 to acquire land in the Northern Everglades
 - \$56 million was used to fund land acquisitions in the last quarter of FY2007
- 7,331 acres of land totaling \$84.7 million acquired in FY2007
 - \$50.6 million funded by SOETF and \$2.2 million funded by Florida Forever funds

2008 SFER Milestones

- ***September 2007***: Public & Panel Review
- ***October 2-4, 2007***: Peer Review & Public Workshop
- ***October 26, 2007***: Panel *Final* Report posted on web
- ***November 14, 2007***: Panel Chair addresses Governing Board
- ***March 1, 2008***: Final 2008 SFER publication released



Dr. Jeffrey Jordan, Panel Chair
*Peer Review Panel Findings and Recommendations
on the 2008 SFER – Volume I*



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