



March 1, 2023

The Honorable Ron DeSantis
Governor of Florida
The Capitol
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0001

The Honorable Kathleen Passidomo
President, Florida Senate
The Capitol
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

The Honorable Paul Renner
Speaker, Florida House of Representatives
The Capitol
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1300

Dear Governor DeSantis, President Passidomo, and Speaker Renner,

Under the leadership of Governor Ron DeSantis, the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) and Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) have made incredible progress on South Florida ecosystem restoration projects including significant advancements building water storage north, south, east and west of Lake Okeechobee while also enhancing the resiliency of the state's largest water management system. More than 50 significant restoration milestones have been achieved over the past four years for the benefit of more than 9 million Floridians and the communities in which we serve.

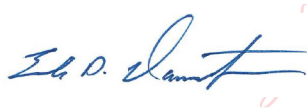
On behalf of the SFWMD and the DEP, we are pleased to provide you with the 2023 South Florida Environmental Report, a consolidated compilation of reports and information in accordance with Subsection 373.036(7), Florida Statutes.

This peer-reviewed, three-volume report provides the science and data used to drive decisions at the South Florida Water Management District. The report also documents restoration, water quality, scientific and engineering accomplishments in the Kissimmee Basin, Lake Okeechobee, Everglades and South Florida's coastal areas during the 2022 Water Year (WY).

The full report is available online and covers environmental information of WY 2022 (May 1, 2021-April 30, 2022) and project/budgetary information for the SFWMD Fiscal Year 2022 (Oct. 1, 2021-Sept. 30, 2022). A summary of highlights as well as previous consolidated reports are also available at [SFWMD.gov/SFER](https://www.sfwmd.gov/SFER).

Our agencies continue to focus on ensuring that environmental restoration and resiliency move forward as expeditiously as possible. The State of Florida's investments in our water management infrastructure help to preserve our natural resources, protect our water supplies and support the local economies of our coastal communities. Thank you for your support as we work together toward restoring the Florida Everglades and helping to keep Central and Southern Florida a great place to live, work, visit and raise families.

Respectfully,



Digitally signed by Shawn
Hamilton
Date: 2023.03.01 15:55:16
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Shawn Hamilton, Secretary
Florida Department of Environmental Protection



Drew Bartlett, Executive Director
South Florida Water Management District

cc: The Honorable Jeanette Núñez, Lieutenant Governor
Members, Florida Senate and Florida House of Representatives
SFWMD Governing Board

Attachment: 2023 South Florida Environmental Report Highlights
