



SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

November 2, 2017

Noah Valenstein, Secretary
Florida Department of Environmental Protection
3900 Commonwealth Blvd, MS 49
Marjory Stoneman Douglas Building
Tallahassee, FL 32399-3000

Subject: 2017 Priority Water Body List and Schedule

Dear Secretary Valenstein:

On behalf of the Governing Board, I am pleased to submit for your consideration the 2017 Priority Water Body List and Schedule for the establishment of Minimum Flows and Levels (MFLs) and Reservations as required by Section 373.042(3), Florida Statutes. The list and schedule was approved by our Governing Board on October 12, 2017 (see enclosures).

The 2017 Priority Water Body List demonstrates the Board's continuing commitment to utilize sound science in the protection of our water resources. The existing Caloosahatchee River Estuary MFL is being re-evaluated with updated data, studies and modeling information. A water reservation for the Kissimmee River, Floodplain and Upper Chain of Lakes is being developed to ensure that water will be available for the Kissimmee River, a regionally significant restoration project which is nearing completion.

Past Year Accomplishments:

During the past year the focus has been on the science evaluations for the Caloosahatchee MFL reevaluation to determine the minimum flow criteria. An integrated modeling approach was used to evaluate the recommended revised MFL criteria. All scientific data, methodologies, models and assumptions were consolidated into an MFL technical document that was reviewed by an independent scientific peer review panel. A public peer review session to allow public input into this process was conducted on August 17, 2017. Technical evaluations for the Kissimmee Basin reservation have continued to address wildlife and other stakeholder concerns.

Changes to the Priority List:

There are no changes to the priority list for this year.

Cross-boundary Impacts:

There are no cross-boundary impacts associated with these priority waterbodies.

Secretary Noah Valenstein
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We look forward to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's review and approval of this year's Priority Water Body List. If you have any questions, please contact me or Terrie Bates, Water Resources Division Director at (561) 682-6952.

Sincerely,



Ernie Marks
Executive Director

EM/dm

Enclosures:

Attachment A
Governing Board Resolution
Priority List Spreadsheet

c: Terrie Bates, SFWMD
Kristine Morris, DEP
Stephen James, DEP



Florida Department of Environmental Protection

Marjory Stoneman Douglas Building
3900 Commonwealth Boulevard
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-3000

Rick Scott
Governor

Carlos Lopez-Cantera
Lt. Governor

Noah Valenstein
Secretary

January 31, 2018

Ernie Marks
Executive Director
South Florida Water Management District
3301 Gun Club Road
West Palm Beach, FL 33406

Re: 2017-18 Minimum Flows and Levels Priority List and Schedule

Dear Mr. Marks:

Thank you for your letter, dated November 2, 2017, providing the District's 2017-18 minimum flows and minimum water levels (MFLs) priority list and schedule. The Office of Water Policy (Office) appreciates your efforts to submit this year's priority list in accordance with our format guidance provided late last year. This new format will assist the Department in tracking and reporting on MFLs into the future. We shared your list with multiple divisions within the Department, including the Florida Geological Survey, the Division of Environmental Assessment and Restoration, the Florida Coastal Office, and the Florida Parks Service. We received only minor questions and we appreciate your staff's helpful responses in clarifying historical information.

The District has adopted 40 MFLs and five water reservations. These MFLs and reservations comprise an area with a significant geographical extent. Over the past year, the District has continued its work on the Caloosahatchee MFL re-evaluation and we note that the governing board authorized rule development on this MFL at its December 14, 2017 board meeting. We look forward to the District's rule development in 2018.

The Kissimmee River and Basin Lakes reservation is also planned for adoption in 2018. We recognize that this is a substantial effort in that, in addition to the Kissimmee River and Floodplain, this reservation includes Lakes Myrtle, Preston, Joel, Hart, Mary Jane, East Tohopekaliga, Tohopekaliga, Alligator, Brock, Lizzie, Coon, Center, Trout, Gentry, Kissimmee, Cypress, and Hatchineha over a five-county region.

While we note that there are no MFLs planned for adoption in 2019 or 2020, the Kissimmee River and Basin Lakes reservation is a significant undertaking identified for adoption in Fiscal Year 2018-2019. In addition, the Department understands that the District will evaluate new

January 31, 2018

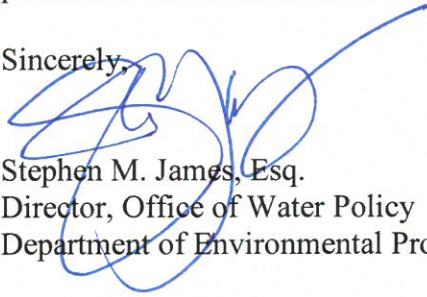
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opportunities for MFLs and Reservations as it continues to implement the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan. The Department requests that the District coordinate with the St. Johns River and Southwest Florida Water Management Districts as they evaluate MFLs or reservations within the Central Florida Water Initiative Planning Area.

Pursuant to Section 373.042(2), F.S., this letter constitutes approval of your 2017-18 MFL priority list and schedule.

The Department appreciates the District's efforts to keep us well informed of your progress and look forward to seeing the results of your efforts in these areas. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me directly or Pamela Flores at 850-245-3194.

Sincerely,



Stephen M. James, Esq.
Director, Office of Water Policy
Department of Environmental Protection

Secretary Noah Valenstein
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bc: Jennifer Brown
Maria Clemente
Toni Edwards
Lawrence Glenn
Susan Gray
Don Medellin

**South Florida Water Management District
2017 Priority Water Body List and Schedule
Minimum Flows and Levels and Reservations**

Minimum Flows and Levels:

Caloosahatchee River – MFL Reevaluation

- Complete peer review in 2017
- Finalize MFL technical document in 2017
- Seek public policy input from Governing Board
- Request authorization for rule development in 2017
- If rule development is authorized, adopt revised MFL rule in 2018

Reservations:

Kissimmee Basin

- Reservation water bodies include:
 - Lakes Myrtle–Preston–Joel
 - Lakes Hart–Mary Jane
 - East Lake Tohopekaliga
 - Lake Tohopekaliga
 - Alligator Chain of Lakes (Alligator, Brick, Lizzie, Coon, Center and Trout)
 - Lake Gentry
 - Headwaters Revitalization Lakes (Lakes Kissimmee, Cypress and Hatchineha)
 - Kissimmee River and Floodplain
- Peer review completed in 2009
- Complete technical analysis and revise technical document in 2018
- Incorporate technical information into rulemaking process in 2018
- Hold additional public workshops in 2018
- Adopt rule in 2018

SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

Resolution No. 2017 - 1010

A Resolution of the Governing Board of the South Florida Water Management District to authorize submission of the proposed 2017 Priority Water Body List and Schedule for Minimum Flows and Levels and Water Reservations to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection for review and approval pursuant to Section 373.042(3), Florida Statutes; providing an effective date.

WHEREAS, the South Florida Water Management District (District) is required by Section 373.042(3), Florida Statutes (F.S.), to submit an annual update of the Priority Water Body List for Minimum Flows and Levels and Water Reservations that reflects the District's water resource management priorities, the importance of the waters to the region, and the existence of, or potential for, significant harm to the water resources; and

WHEREAS, the water management districts are required to forward the Priority Water Body List and Schedule to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection for its review and approval; and

WHEREAS, the proposed 2017 Priority Water Body List and Schedule for Minimum Flows and Levels and Water Reservations considers the differing resource issues addressed by minimum flows and levels and water reservations based on staffing and technical resources to ensure successful completion of rulemaking.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BOARD OF THE SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT:

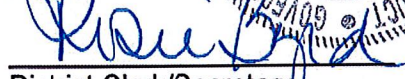
Section 1. The District's Governing Board hereby approves submission of the proposed 2017 Priority Water Body List and Schedule for Minimum Flows and Levels and Water Reservations to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection for review and approval pursuant to Section 373.042(3), F.S.

Section 2. The proposed 2017 Priority Water Body List and Schedule for Minimum Flows and Levels and Water Reservations is attached hereto and made a part hereof.

PASSED and ADOPTED this 12th day of October, 2017.



Attest:


District Clerk/Secretary

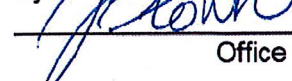
SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT, BY ITS GOVERNING BOARD

By:


Chairman

Legal form approved:

By:


Office of Counsel

Print name:


Jennifer Brown

South Florida Water Management District Minimum Flows and Levels to be adopted in 2018

New or Re-Evaluation	Waterbody Name *	Waterbody Type**	County(s)	Voluntary Peer Review to be Completed?	Cross-Boundary Impacts?	Latitude***	Longitude
Reevaluation	Caloosahatchee River Estuary	Estuary	Lee	Yes	No	26° 43' 20.58"	81° 41' 34.96"

South Florida Water Management District Minimum Flows and Levels to be adopted in 2019

New or Re-Evaluation	Waterbody Name	Waterbody Type	County(s)	Voluntary Peer Review to be Completed?	Cross-Boundary Impacts?	Latitude	Longitude
None Proposed							

South Florida Water Management District Minimum Flows and Levels to be adopted in 2020

New or Re-Evaluation	Waterbody Name	Waterbody Type	County(s)	Voluntary Peer Review to be Completed?	Cross-Boundary Impacts?	Latitude	Longitude
None Proposed							

South Florida Water Management District Reservations Priority List

Waterbody Name	Waterbody Type	County(s)	Voluntary Peer Review to be Completed?	Proposed Year
Kissimmee River and Floodplain, Headwater Revitalization Lakes, Upper Kissimmee Chain of Lakes	River and Lakes	Orange, Osceola, Polk, Highlands, and Okechobee	Yes	FY2018-2019

* A spring with one vent should be labeled as "Example Spring." A spring with multiple associated vents should be labeled as "Example Springs." Multiple springs grouped together in a system should be labeled as "Example Spring Group." (Please refer to Florida Spring Classification System and Spring Glossary, Special Publication No. 52, for more details.)

**River, Lake, Spring- Magnitude, Wetland, Aquifer

***For rivers, use the coordinates for the most upstream gage used to measure flow. For lakes, use the lake's center point. For springs, use the coordinates for the gage used to measure flow unless the gage is not located on the spring/spring run, in which case, use the spring's center point. For aquifers, wetlands, and estuaries, use the coordinates for the wells or gauge used to measure the water source's level. Please use Decimal Degrees (DD) formatting.