



March 1, 2017

The Honorable Rick Scott
Governor of Florida
PL05, The Capitol
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0001

The Honorable Joe Negron
President, The Florida Senate
409, The Capitol
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1100

The Honorable Richard Corcoran
Speaker, Florida House of Representatives
420, The Capitol
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1300

Dear Governor Scott, President Negron and Speaker Corcoran:

On behalf of the South Florida Water Management District and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, we are pleased to provide you with the *2017 South Florida Environmental Report*, a report consolidation in accordance with Subsection 373.036(7), Florida Statutes. Overall, this peer-reviewed, three-volume report unifies more than 80 individual documents, meets multiple legal requirements and efficiently distributes important information about South Florida's ecosystem.

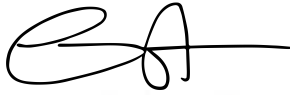
Significant progress toward building projects that will help restore South Florida's ecosystem from the Kissimmee River to Florida Bay and all points in between -- plus managing unprecedented levels of water brought by historic amounts of rainfall throughout most of the South Florida region in 2016 -- marked the highlights of this year's report.

In April, Governor Rick Scott signed the Legacy Florida bill, a notable event punctuating the end of the 2016 Water Year. This legislation creates a dedicated source of funding to protect Florida's environment, including at least \$200 million annually for South Florida ecosystem restoration.

Online versions of the 2,380-page report, an eight-page summary of highlights, as well as all previous consolidated reports are available at www.sfwmd.gov/sfer.

Our agencies continue to focus on ensuring that environmental restoration moves forward by adhering to schedules and completing projects in a measurable and cost-effective way. Thank you for your leadership and support as we work together toward reviving America's Everglades and helping keep South Florida a great place to live, work and raise families.

Sincerely,



Ryan E. Matthews, Esq., Interim Secretary
Florida Department of Environmental Protection

Sincerely,



Dan O'Keefe, Chairman, Governing Board
South Florida Water Management District

c: The Honorable Carlos Lopez-Cantera, Lieutenant Governor
Members, Florida Senate and Florida House of Representatives
Members, SFWMD Governing Board
Drew Bartlett, FDEP, Deputy Secretary, Ecosystem Restoration
Edward C. Smith, FDEP, Director, Office of Ecosystem Projects
Ernie Marks, SFWMD, Director, Everglades Policy and Coordination

Attachment: *2017 South Florida Environmental Report Highlights*