SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

Strategic Plan
2019 – 2024

This document provides the South Florida Water Management District and the public it serves with the blueprint for successfully meeting the water resource management regional priorities for the next five years and beyond. It acts to focus the agency's efforts on its core mission functions of flood control, water supply, natural systems/water quality to put these commitments and strategies into action to help make a difference in South Florida's future.

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Federico Fernandez

Governing Board Members

Federico Fernandez
Chairman

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Brandon Tucker

Jaime Weisinger

Over 127 professional engineers and 225 scientists, including 74 PhDs, have dedicated their careers to the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD). This agency is staffed by more qualified experts on flood protection, water supply and enhancing water quality through ecosystem restoration than any other organization operating within the same sectors. These committed professionals give us an advantage over all others trying to influence decisions over regional water resources. Most importantly, our staff's efforts put the state of Florida in the best position to win, not in 50 years, but now.

While geography makes living in South Florida extraordinarily susceptible to the effects of rainfall, the wet and dry extremes of our weather would be impossible to endure were it not for the protections and benefits offered by SFWMD's (flood control/water management/etc.) system. Our agency's core mission of ensuring flood control for South Florida residents by operating one of the largest water management systems in the world cannot be accomplished without adequate funding and legislative authorization. Other missions are arguably flashier from a press standpoint, but I must reiterate that our primary responsibility is to keep Florida families and businesses safe during Mother Nature's harshest events. Canals and levees crisscross the southern peninsula with mammoth pumps providing water when there is not enough and taking it away when there is too much. SFWMD is constantly seeking to improve our ability to effectively operate the flood control and water management features in place to maximize benefit for the entire 16-county region and its population of 8.1 million, as well as the diverse ecosystems that stretch 240 miles from Orlando to the Florida Keys. As more projects and water management tools come online, our agency's flexibility and operational capacity increases, directly improving SFWMD's ability to "send water south" to where it is needed most and does the least amount of damage to the environment and stakeholder communities alike.

The need for coordination between state and federal officials and SFWMD goes beyond the realm of flood control. Today, our responsibilities have expanded to improving water quality through projects that restore and protect ecosystems, including America's Everglades. Our restoration initiatives are state of the art, requiring herculean efforts from our employees to design, build and operate. The environmental restoration work performed by this agency is critical for expanding water storage and improving water treatment in the northern and southern Everglades, including Lake Okeechobee and the St. Lucie and Caloosahatchee estuaries. With the wind of the state Legislature at our backs, this agency is designing and building projects that will provide the appropriate quality, quantity and

timing of water to meet the needs of the environment, businesses and urban areas.

Our agency has made strides in support of environmental restoration but cannot get across the finish line without direct assistance. The State of Florida has never failed to live up to and satisfy its water management funding commitments. The partnership created under the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan requires the federal government to pay for an equal share of the costs associated with construction, operation and maintenance of CERP projects. Unfortunately, at this very moment, the state is approximately $1 billion ahead of its federal partners on the cost share ledger. Therefore, at no point since CERP's authorization in 2009, has the need for coordination between our state leaders and our agency been greater. Achieving accountability on the part of our federal partners will not be possible without their influence and authority.

South Florida is also "Ground Zero" for sea level rise with water levels manifesting current operational challenges. In Miami-Dade County, areas east of flood control structures commonly experience King Tide or "sunny day" flooding during high tides. Rising sea levels also cause saltwater intrusion in municipal wellfields that provide drinking water and natural areas that provide critical habitat. Our agency will continue to work with other state, federal and local governments to address the potential impacts of rising seas and to help plan for current and future needs.

District staff continue to demonstrate the knowledge and agility required for the daily challenges of managing water while also staying the course to complete a multitude of large restoration projects that are underway. Our Governing Board is focused and committed to reliable and proficient decision-making, utilizing sound science to determine how best to provide for the current water resource needs of the region and meet future demands. However, all this cannot come to fruition without your support, and for that, I wholeheartedly thank you.

MESSAGE from the EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Ernie Marks

Guided by the strategic direction of our Governing Board, the South Florida Water Management District manages Central & South Florida water resources for over 8.1 million residents. Without question, balancing the agency's multiple missions of delivering dependable flood control, managing regional water supplies and improving natural systems can be challenging. Fortunately, these responsibilities also provide us with countless opportunities to make a lasting difference in the daily lives of the citizens of South Florida and its visitors.

The next five years promise to be exciting ones. True to the District's almost 70 year history as a flood control agency, we continue the ongoing work of operating and maintaining South Florida's massive water management infrastructure. Key multi-year capital improvement projects include Pump Station S5A refurbishment in Western Palm Beach County, continuation of C-43 and C-44 Reservoirs, Bolles & Cross Canal conveyance improvement, and refurbishment of the S-9/S-9A pump station in Broward County. Investment in our flood control system ensures that we can continue to efficiently and effectively provide the required flood control and water supply for the region, especially during South Florida's unpredictable weather extremes.

The District has vastly improved the quality of water flowing into America's Everglades. The District will continue to implement the framework of ecosystem restoration programs to restore, protect and preserve the water resources of Central and South Florida to achieve ultra-low water quality requirements in the Everglades. In addition to improving water quality through ecosystem restoration projects, the agency remains a full partner in restoration of the Kissimmee River and implementation of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan and Northern Everglades and Estuaries Protection Program. These collaborations with our Federal and State partners are a testament to our shared vision for a restored South Florida ecosystem — from the Kissimmee Chain of Lakes to the Everglades and Florida Bay.

As we make progress each year towards our long-term restoration initiatives, we are also realizing near-term strategies, such as our innovative dispersed water management program. We remain committed to sound science — the foundation of all successful restoration. With focused research and targeted monitoring, we can ensure that science consistently informs our decision making and supports priority restoration projects.

Lastly, the District will continue to diversify South Florida's water supply portfolio and, at the same time, work to protect existing supplies through conservation. Public-private partnerships, along with enhanced coordination between Florida's water management districts and the Department of Environmental Protection, are already strengthening our efforts to meet the water needs of the environment and the state's economy.

As we look to the years ahead, I am fully confident that the South Florida Water Management District has the capability to successfully carry out our Governing Board's strategic direction and to fulfill our mission responsibilities to the citizens we serve.

Headquartered in West Palm Beach, the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) is a regional governmental agency that oversees the water resources in 16 counties – from Orlando to the Florida Keys. With a population of 8.1 million, this region covers 17,930 square miles (31 percent of the entire state) and includes vast areas of agricultural lands, water conservation areas and urban development.

Operating for almost 70 years, the SFWMD is the oldest and largest of the state's five water management districts. State legislation further divides the District into two taxing basins: The Big Cypress Basin includes all of Collier County and a portion of mainland Monroe County; the larger Okeechobee Basin comprises the remaining area within SFWMD boundaries.

A nine-member Governing Board sets policy and provides overall direction for the entire district. Board members are appointed by the Governor, confirmed by the Florida Senate and generally serve four-year terms. The annual budget is funded by a combination of property taxes and other sources such as federal, state and local revenue, licenses, permit fees, grants, agricultural taxes, investment income and reserve balances.

The SFWMD is charged with safeguarding the region's water resources for today and for the future. This includes protecting water supplies and improving water quality. The agency also operates and maintains the Central and Southern Florida Project -- one of the world's largest water management systems, made up of an extensive network of canals, levees, water storage areas, pump stations and other water control structures. The highly engineered system was built through one of the most diverse ecosystems in the world: the interconnected greater Everglades, which the SFWMD is helping to protect and restore.

South Florida itself encompasses a mosaic of diversity – from landscapes and habitats to people and cultures. The District strives to ensure that the public is informed and engaged, and that both local and regional perspectives are considered and incorporated into decisions and actions.

In addition to the main office in West Palm Beach, three Regulatory Service Centers and eight Field Stations provide assistance and operational support on water management-related issues. The Big Cypress Basin office in Naples provides intergovernmental and project support for Collier County.

OUR MISSION

To manage and protect water resources of the region by balancing and improving flood control, water supply and water quality through restoration of natural systems.

SFWMD Locations

Headquarters

West Palm Beach
(561) 686-8800 or (800) 432-2045

Service Centers

Big Cypress Basin
Naples: (239) 263-7615

Fort Myers
(239) 338-2929 or (800) 248-1201

Okeechobee
(863) 462-5260 or (800) 250-4200

Orlando
(407) 858-6100 or (800) 250-4250

Field Stations

Big Cypress Basin
(239) 348-7530

Clewiston
(863) 983-1431

Fort Lauderdale
(954) 452-4814

Homestead
(305) 242-5933

Miami
(305) 513-3420

Okeechobee
(863) 462-5280 or (800) 250-4200

St. Cloud
(407) 891-3550

West Palm Beach
(561) 791-4100

Toll-free numbers are Florida Only

Strategic Priority

Refurbish, replace, improve and manage the regional water management system by:

- Implementing flood control infrastructure refurbishment projects
- Incorporating new works into water management system operations
- Operating the water management system to meet flood control and water supply needs
- Coordinating with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers on infrastructure inspections and results
- Coordinating with state/federal partners and assisting local governments to determine level of flood protection
- Optimizing infrastructure maintenance by adhering to, or exceeding, industry standards and best practice

FLOOD CONTROL

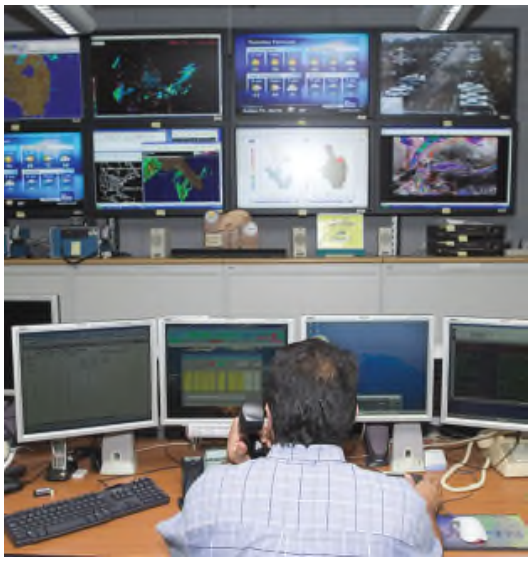
Ensuring and Managing Water Flow

Tempering South Florida's weather extremes of flood and drought was the impetus for creation of the agency in 1949. That principal directive continues today through effective operation, maintenance and management of the primary canals, water control structures, pump stations and District-owned lands as authorized by Chapter 373, Florida Statutes, and by agreement with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Eight field stations are located throughout the 16-county region to execute flood control operations.

Approximately 75% of the region's annual rainfall typically falls in the six-month period from May through October, when intense rainfall is common. Flood control is a critical responsibility; whereas, rainfall in South Florida averages 52 inches per year. Rainfall fluctuates annually and conditions move quickly from flooding to drought, or vice versa and the region is vulnerable to hurricanes and tropical storms. These weather extremes add to the challenges of water resource management. Highly variable rainfall coupled with flat topography necessitates flood protection for the region's 8.1 million residents. When the regional Central and Southern Florida Project was designed in the late 1940s, its primary function was flood control; although, there were additional benefits to water supply, fish and wildlife preservation and other functions. Since the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' construction of the public works project in the 1950s and '60s, the District's responsibilities as local sponsor of the federal flood control system expanded to emphasize these aspects of water resource management.

Today, the South Florida Water Management District operates and maintains more than 2,100 miles of canals and 2,000 miles of levee/berms, approximately 1,230 water control structures and 81 pump stations. The system is continuously expanding as new projects, such as the series of Stormwater Treatment Areas, are completed or expanded. Operation of the complex system of water management structures is capable of delivering 500 billion gallons annually to support the water supply needs of urban and agricultural locations.

Major flood control responsibilities include operations, maintenance and refurbishment of system-wide infrastructure, along with hydrological data collection, flow determination and hydrological basin management. The management and removal of nuisance aquatic vegetation is an ongoing initiative to ensure that water can flow unimpeded throughout the system. Improvements and upgrades include automation; pump station repair and restoration; gravity structure repair and restoration; levee inspections and repair; and canal conveyance dredging.



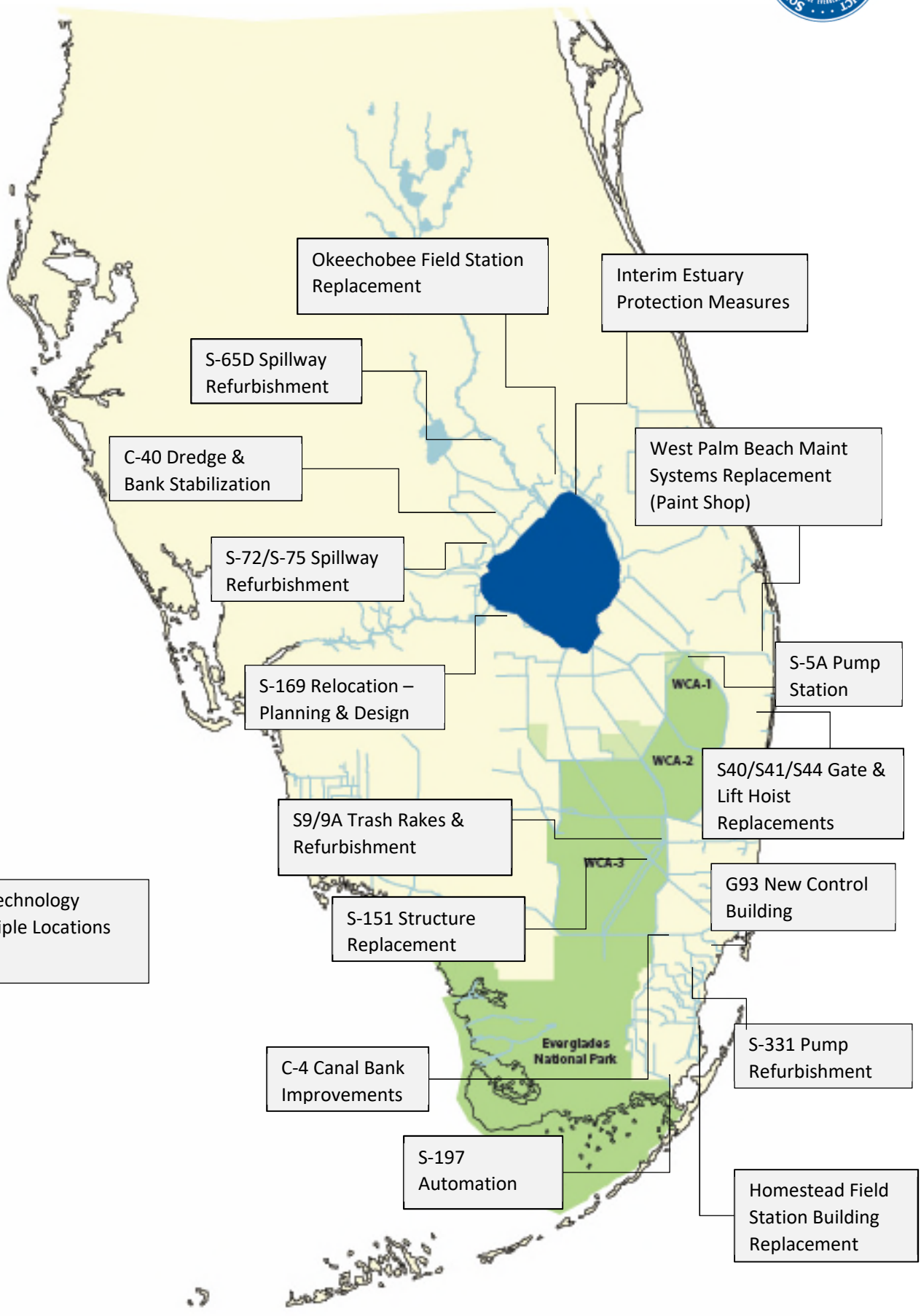
Regional System Expansion and Enhancements

Moving water is central to the District's mission of flood control. A well-maintained water management infrastructure assures the public that District facilities are operating at peak efficiency. The District commits to setting aside specific funds each year to implement the Capital Improvement Plan for repairing, refurbishing and upgrading canals, water control structures levees and water storage areas. In addition, construction of new facilities requires an increase in operations and maintenance responsibilities. This includes managing new District-built facilities as well as restoration projects being constructed by the federal government that will ultimately be turned over to the District.

Flood Control – Success Indicators

- Complete projects on time and on budget (earned value), including basin flood protection studies
- Commission 100 percent of new works on schedule, prior to project close out
- Maintain operating water levels within the regulation schedule target range
- Achieve passing rating for annual inspection of District infrastructure and provide results to US Army Corps of Engineers
- Reduce the average risk rating of District infrastructure through structure inspections and improvements
- Ensure that 90 percent of field station repairs are completed within one year of SIP report
- Resolve Right of Way unpermitted encroachments
- Perform at least 80 percent of all field maintenance work activities as planned work; no more than 20 percent as unplanned
- Expend no more than 20 percent of field maintenance funds for unplanned work

FLOOD CONTROL - KEY PROJECTS



Strategic Priority

Meet the current and future demands of water users and the environment by:

- Diversifying water supply options and encouraging development of alternative water supply projects
- Developing and implementing regional water supply plans in coordination with local governments and the public
- Promoting water conservation measures
- Utilizing regulatory permitting and compliance authority
- Using water reservation and minimum flow & minimum water level authorities to protect water for natural systems

WATER SUPPLY

Safeguarding and Expanding Water Resources

Water in the State of Florida is a public resource, so strategies that expand water supplies are in the public interest. The District utilizes a variety of tools and technologies to help ensure a reliable and sustainable supply of water for South Florida's citizens, environment and economy.

Water supply needs are continually evaluated by the District and appropriate programs are developed to achieve sustainable water resources and related natural systems pursuant to the Florida Water Resources Act (Chapter 373, Florida Statutes). Data, computer modeling and analysis are used to evaluate water source conditions for current and projected uses. Land use changes have resulted in higher demands for water supply over time and are projected to continue to increase into the future. Planning for a growing water demand must be balanced with ensuring water is available for natural systems. Changing climate patterns, such as increased rainfall variability, increased evapotranspiration and warmer air temperatures, may affect water supply demands and sources and need to be taken into consideration in future water supply plans. Although the rate and magnitude of future sea level rise is uncertain, freshwater aquifers in coastal counties remain vulnerable to saltwater intrusion. Therefore, coordinated efforts with local governments and other agencies are needed to evaluate existing salinity monitoring networks and enhance where necessary to better track movement of the saltwater interface over time.

To meet Florida's future demands, the state's water management districts and water users are diversifying the water supply portfolio to maximize use of traditional sources while also promoting the development of alternative sources. Water management strategies include sound planning and permitting; demand reduction through water conservation; development of alternative water sources such as new surface water storage, reclaimed water and desalination of brackish and saline water; and restoring the Everglades. All will result in sustainable water supply for environmental, urban and agricultural users.

Water supply plans are updated in collaboration with stakeholders every 5 years. Based on at least a 20-year outlook, these plans include water demand estimates and projections; an evaluation of regional water resources; identification of water supply-related issues and options; water resource and water supply development components, including funding strategies; and recommendations for meeting projected demands. Alternative water supplies, regional solutions and water conservation are encouraged through regulatory, voluntary and financial incentives.

The agency regulates and manages the consumptive use of water through Water Use Permits. These permits ensure that proposed uses are reasonable and beneficial, will not interfere with any current existing legal users and are consistent with the public interest. Other rules are in place for protecting Florida's water bodies, especially wetlands, from harm that could result from water supply over-pumping. In addition, the state's Water Reservations authority allow for water to be set aside in an ecosystem for the protection of fish and wildlife. This is an important tool in Everglades restoration.

Planning, Regulation and Conservation

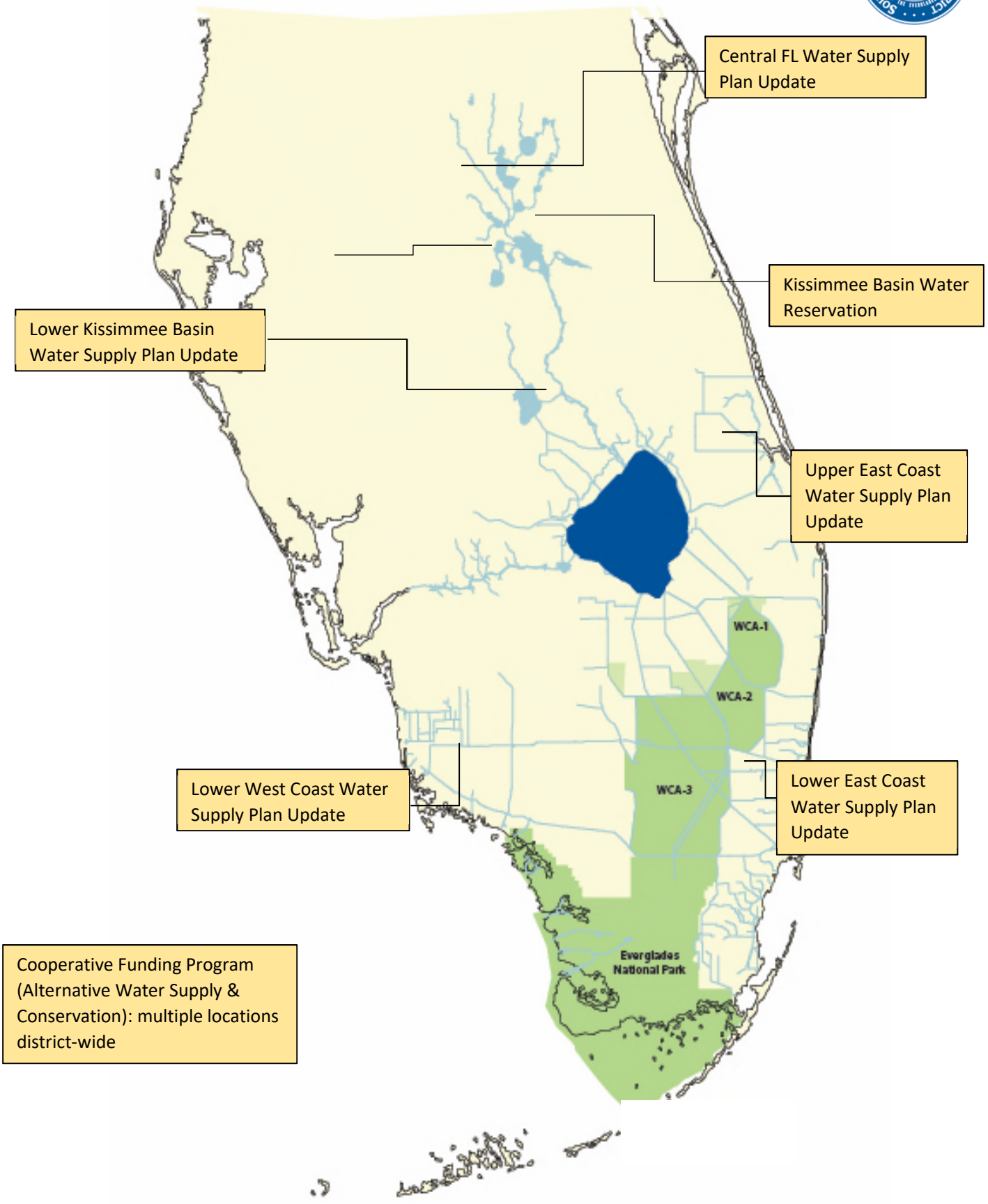
Effective planning and permitting, along with diversification and conservation, are key to ensuring that communities are less susceptible to water supply challenges. South Florida's primary water supply challenges include the need for storage, saline water intrusion, unpredictable weather extremes and a growing demand coupled with competing uses.

Finding and implementing cost-effective solutions to resource protection and water supply availability issues requires a collaborative approach. Water supply development projects that support the reuse of treated wastewater are included in regional water supply plans, and its beneficial use is encouraged.

Water Supply - Success Indicators

- Cumulative percentage of the 2015-2040 increase in public supply demand met by planning region
- Approval of 5-year water supply plan updates on schedule
- Percentage of local Water Facility Work Plans in compliance with 18-month deadline
- Gallons of alternative water supplies created per dollar invested annually
- Gallons of water conserved per dollar invested annually
- Annual water supply uniform gross per capita water use (public water supply) is less than 135 gallons per capita daily
- Process Consumptive Use Permits in less than 33 days (median time), excluding Requests for Additional Information time/legal challenge, for closed individually processed applications ≥ 0.1 MGD.
- Maintain percentage of open Consumptive Use individually processed applications to less than 15 percent in-house six months or longer, including Requests for Additional Information time/legal challenge.
- Complete reservations/minimum flow and minimum water levels analyses on schedule
- Provide update of minimum flows and levels Priority Waterbody List annually by November 1

WATER SUPPLY - KEY PROJECTS



Strategic Priority

Restore the Northern and Southern Everglades by:

- Completing and implementing ongoing and new restoration projects
- Maximizing use of available water storage features
- Implementing solutions to improve water quality treatment, reduce nutrient loads
- Utilizing streamlined regulatory and cooperative programs
- Managing invasive exotic and nuisance vegetation on District lands
- Increasing access and recreational opportunities on public lands

NATURAL SYSTEMS/ RESTORATION

Protecting and Restoring Ecosystems

South Florida is characterized by its unique, diverse ecosystems and includes: Northern Everglades covering the Kissimmee River, Lake Okeechobee, Caloosahatchee River and St. Lucie River watersheds; and the Southern Everglades encompassing the watersheds south of Lake Okeechobee through the Florida Keys. Over many decades, development and increased urbanization significantly changed the hydrology, water quality and ecology of ecosystems throughout the 16-county region. Today, a wide variety of restoration and water quality and quantity improvement projects and programs are underway to protect and restore South Florida's ecosystem from the Kissimmee River to Florida Bay and all points in between.

Initiatives through State-Federal Partnerships

The ecological integrity of the Kissimmee River and floodplain is being restored through a partnership with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to recreate the historic mosaic of wetland plant communities and reestablish biological diversity and functionality. The District acquired 103,000 acres of land for the restoration effort and conducts scientific evaluations of ecosystem response. The Corps has completed three phases of backfilling the C-38 canal and continuous water flow has been reestablished to 24 miles of the river's original course.

In partnership with the Corps, the District is implementing the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP) to improve the quantity, quality, timing and distribution of water delivered to freshwater and coastal systems in South Florida. The District has invested $2.34 billion toward the acquisition of more than 250,000 acres of land required for CERP implementation, project construction and science-based research and monitoring. Key partnership projects underway or targeted for authorization/construction include:

- Loxahatchee River Watershed Restoration Plan
- Lake Okeechobee Watershed Restoration Project
- Western Everglades Restoration Project
- Central Everglades Planning Project
- Everglades Agricultural Area Storage Reservoir (Senate Bill 10)
- Indian River Lagoon – South, C-44 Reservoir
- Picayune Strand Restoration
- Caloosahatchee River (C-43) West Basin Storage Reservoir
- Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands

Two key projects will significantly increase water storage north and south of Lake Okeechobee. The Lake Okeechobee Watershed Restoration Project will identify opportunities to improve the quantity, timing and distribution of flows into Lake Okeechobee. Goals and objectives for the project include increasing water storage capacity in the watershed, resulting in improved Lake Okeechobee water levels; improving the quantity and timing of discharges to the Caloosahatchee and St. Lucie estuaries; restoring wetlands and improving water supply for other water related needs of the system. Senate Bill 10 directs the expedited design and construction of the Everglades Agricultural Area Storage Reservoir project. The project will provide a significant increase in southern storage to reduce high-volume regulatory discharges from Lake Okeechobee to the northern estuaries and deliver more clean freshwater to the central Everglades system. The District will continue exploring innovative ways to reduce damaging freshwater discharges to coastal estuaries.

Initiatives through State Projects and Programs

The District's efforts in the northern and southern Everglades are guided statutorily by the Northern Everglades and Estuaries Protection Program (NEEPP) and the Everglades Forever Act (EFA), respectively. These efforts consist of projects, regulatory programs and cooperative initiatives. An extensive monitoring network is in place to measure progress and ensure science consistently enhances decision making in support of restoration.

In the Northern Everglades, the NEEPP directs cooperative agency efforts (Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP), Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) and South Florida Water Management District) to restore the health of Lake Okeechobee, its watershed, and the St. Lucie and Caloosahatchee River watersheds and estuaries, while continuing to balance flood protection, water supply, navigation and recreational needs. Specific activities addressing water quality and agency responsibilities are described in Basin Management Action Plans (BMAPs) adopted by the FDEP and watershed protection plans. Updated watershed protection plans for Lake Okeechobee and the St. Lucie and Caloosahatchee rivers identify opportunities for water storage improvements that are implemented in partnership with other state agencies.

The District is a coordinating agency with FDACS and FDEP in implementing research, water quality monitoring, and provides technical support in development of evaluation and assessment methodologies needed to understand how the NEEPP is progressing as well as adaptive management of implementation strategies. Strategies include agricultural and urban source controls; construction projects (Lakeside Ranch Stormwater Treatment Area Phase II and Rolling Meadows); alternative treatment technologies (Hybrid Wetland Treatment/Permeable Reactive Barrier/Nitrogen Testing); more than 130 local water quality projects; and habitat restoration. Dispersed water management is an innovative, market driven and cost-effective strategy for achieving short-term environmental goals through partnerships with property owners -- to store excess water on ranch lands and fallow citrus groves across the Northern Everglades in addition to the interim storage being made available on public lands. Over 100,000 acre-feet of interim shallow storage is currently operational; additional interim storage is under development and planned to be available in the next 1-2 years subject to annual legislative funding.

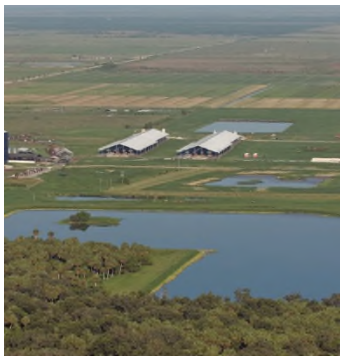
In the Southern Everglades, to achieve compliance with the long-term phosphorus water quality standards established for the Everglades Protection Area, a combination of source controls including agricultural best management practices (BMPs) and stormwater treatment areas (STAs) -- which use "green" technology to remove phosphorus from the water -- are well underway. In the Everglades Agricultural Area and C-139 Basins, existing regulatory programs for implementing BMPs has proved to be a key foundation to success in the overall strategy. As for the STAs, more than 57,000 acres of constructed marshes and 105,000 acre-feet of storage are now successfully at work improving Everglades water quality. Over the last 20 years, BMPs and STAs have prevented more than 6,000 metric tons of phosphorus from entering the Everglades.

The State of Florida and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency reached consensus on supplemental strategies to further improve water quality. Under the Restoration Strategies program, the District is implementing a technical plan to complete several projects that will create more than 6,500 acres of new STAs and approximately 116,000 acre-feet of additional water storage through construction of flow equalization basins (FEBs). The strategies also identify funding for additional sub-regional projects to further reduce phosphorus at the source – in areas where phosphorus levels in the stormwater runoff have been historically higher.

In addition, Restoration Strategies includes a science plan that targets research and monitoring necessary to improve and optimize the performance of water quality treatment within the facilities. Additional projects south of Lake Okeechobee intended to further assist in managing flow and improving water quality continue to be implemented along with sub-regional source controls and habitat restoration.

Initiatives through Local Projects and Programs

The District participates in several interagency working groups that seek to achieve ecosystem restoration and stormwater and flood control improvements, locally and regionally. Examples of these groups include Charlotte Harbor Flatwoods Initiative, Loxahatchee River Preservation Initiative and Lehigh Headwaters Initiative. Projects developed by the interagency working groups often complement regional programs such CERP and NEEPP. One project developed under the Charlotte Harbor Flatwoods Initiative seeks to restore the hydrologic connection between Cecil Webb Wildlife Management Area and Yucca Pens. This will reduce high water levels in Cecil Webb, provide freshwater to the tidal creeks of Charlotte Harbor and reduce flooding in North Ft. Myers as well as areas north of the Caloosahatchee River.



Expanding Storage Opportunities, Improving Habitats and Cleaning Water

Improved water storage, habitat restoration and water quality treatment in both the northern and southern reaches of the greater Everglades ecosystem are key to a healthy environment and strong economy. The natural environment will experience significant benefits as restoration projects come on line and begin operating and delivering their desired results. The District is committed to identifying and implementing innovative, cost-effective and sustainable solutions to meet the region's water quality and ecosystem restoration challenges.

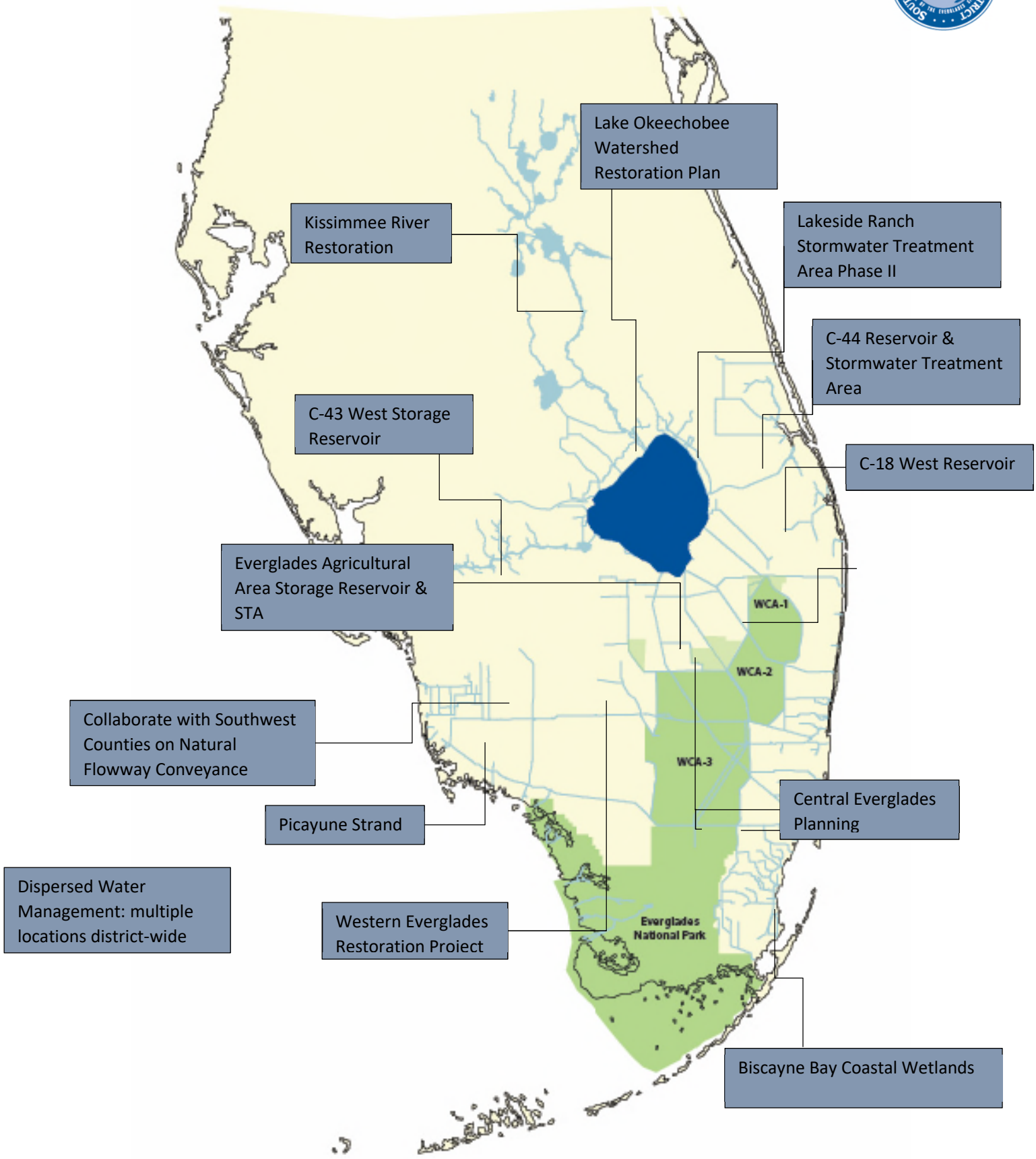
The District provides natural resource protection and management while allowing compatible, multiple uses on designated public lands. This mission statement, along with requirements set forth in the Florida Statutes, provide three primary goals for the District's Land Stewardship Program: conservation and protection of water resources; protection and restoration of lands to their natural state using prescribed fire, exotic plant control and habitat restoration activities; and providing recreation and public use opportunities consistent with the purpose for which the lands were acquired.

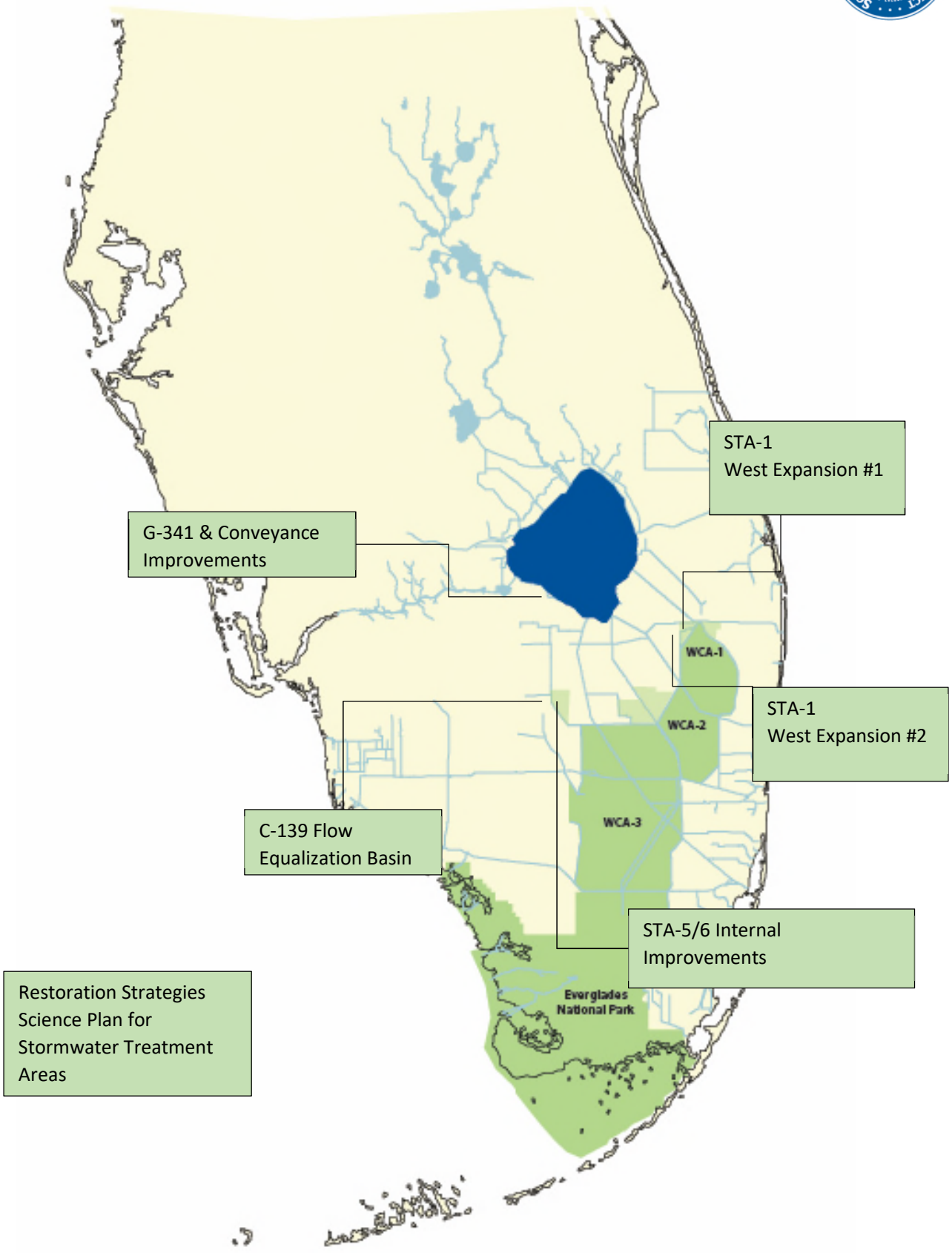
Natural Systems/Restoration Success Indicators

- Complete projects on time and on budget (earned value)
- Maximize use of available interim and permanent water storage
- Attain ambient water quality standards for phosphorus in the Everglades Protection Area
- Meet established Everglades Agricultural Area and C-139 Basin phosphorus reduction requirements annually through the existing regulatory program
- Process Environmental Resource Permits in less than 25 days (median time), excluding Requests for Additional Information Time/legal challenge for all closed applications

- Maintain percentage of open Environmental Resource Permit individually processed applications to less than 25 percent in-house six months or longer, including Requests for Additional Information time/legal challenge
- Treat 65,000 acres of invasive exotic vegetation annually
- Treat 5,000 acres of invasive exotic vegetation in Loxahatchee Refuge annually
- Conduct prescribed burning on 16,000 acres of District lands annually
- Maintain a minimum of 80% of District lands open for recreation and provide hunting opportunities on District lands consistent with the No Net Loss of Hunting Lands statutory requirement (Florida Statute 379.001)
- Complete a cumulative summary of Wetland and Natural System Restoration and report to each county within the District by December 31 each year

NATURAL SYSTEMS/RESTORATION - KEY PROJECTS




STA-1
West Expansion #1
G-341 & Conveyance
Improvements
WCA-1
WCA-2
WCA-3
STA-1
West Expansion #2
C-139 Flow
Equalization Basin
STA-5/6 Internal
Improvements
Everglades
National Park
Restoration Strategies
Science Plan for
Stormwater Treatment
Areas

MISSION SUPPORT

Delivering Efficient and Cost-Effective Services

The South Florida Water Management District constantly looks for opportunities to implement strategies to improve operations, enhance fiscal efficiency, ensure public access and involvement, create more accountability and, most importantly, deliver the services and results that citizens and businesses expect. Project and operational progress, along with overall organizational efficiency and effectiveness, are continuously measured and reported. Monthly financial statements are publicly presented at Governing Board meetings and posted online to clearly demonstrate how the District utilizes taxpayer dollars. By routinely collaborating with State & Federal agencies, local governments, community organizations and private business, the District works to further leverage public dollars by identifying additional cost-saving strategies.

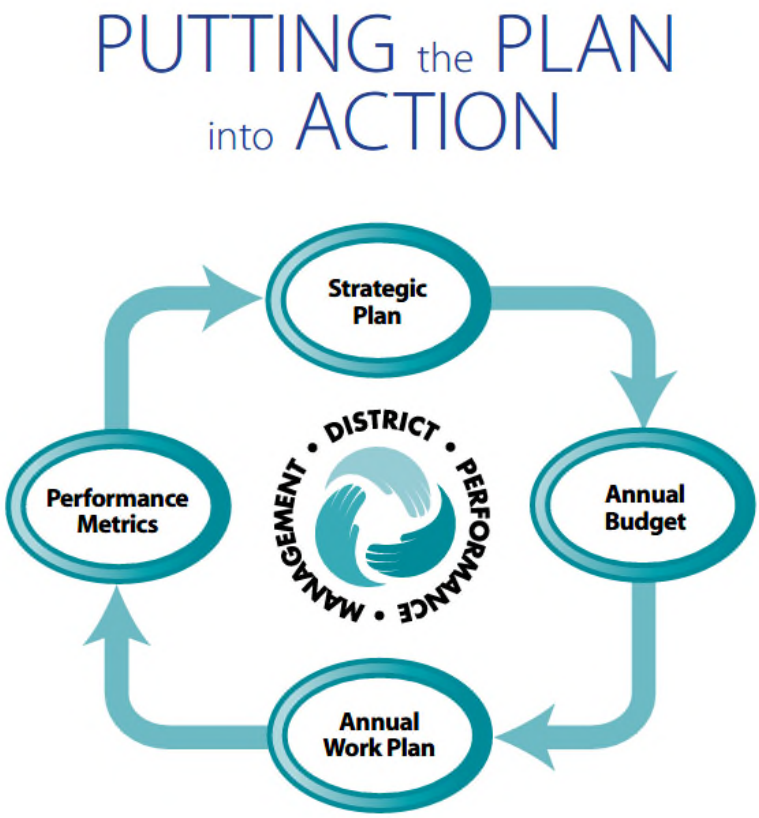
Strategic Priority

Ensure South Florida taxpayers receive efficient and effective customer service by:

- Focusing resources on core functions, minimizing administrative costs and measuring performance
- Ensuring accountability, transparency and public involvement in agency decisions
- Employing and developing a high-quality, diverse workforce

Mission Support – Success Indicators

- Hold mission support and outreach costs to less than 15 percent of adopted budget
- Document, assign and respond to 90 percent of public records requests within 14 days
- Maintain workforce turnover rate at less than 6 percent
- Ensure employee introductory period is completed by more than 90 percent of new hires
- Enhance the current public strategic project dashboard with project schedule status information
- Post monthly financial statements to external website within 24 hours after each Board meeting
- Submit annual audit to Department of Financial Services and Auditor General within 45 days after Governing Board acceptance but not later than 9 months after end of prior fiscal year
- Complete required distribution of annual audit within 10 days after Governing Board acceptance and ensure posting on external website within 10 days of acceptance



The Strategic Plan…

Is a key component of the South Florida Water Management District's integrated business cycle. It establishes the overall policy direction and strategic priorities set by the Governing Board to carry out the agency's core mission responsibilities. Serving as the agency blueprint for long-term planning and implementation, the Strategic Plan provides overarching guidance in development of the annual budget and work plan and the success indicators used for measuring progress.

Implementing the priorities identified in this Strategic Plan will result in:

- Regional flood protection provided by a refurbished water management system
- Restoration of the South Florida ecosystem, including improvements in the timing and quantity of water flows and restored habitats
- Achievement of water quality standards
- Affordable and reliable water supplies
- Streamlined regulatory processes
- Public and private partnerships that help stretch limited resources
- Efficient and effective customer service for South Florida taxpayers

Fast tracking reservoir construction to improve South Florida's ability to handle weather extremes is a primary goal for the District.

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