



March 1, 2021

The Honorable Ron DeSantis  
Governor of Florida  
PL05, The Capitol  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0001

The Honorable Wilton Simpson  
President, The Florida Senate  
409, The Capitol  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

The Honorable Chris Sprowls  
Speaker, Florida House of Representatives  
420, The Capitol  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1300

Dear Governor DeSantis, President Simpson, and Speaker Sprowls,

On behalf of the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP), we are pleased to provide you with the *2021 South Florida Environmental Report*, a consolidated compilation 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.

The report covers a year of restoration, scientific and engineering accomplishments in the Kissimmee Basin, Lake Okeechobee, Everglades, and South Florida coastal areas. Significant progress to complete projects north and south of Lake Okeechobee and continue large-scale projects for reservoirs, pump stations and stormwater treatment areas on both east and west coasts -- to reduce damaging freshwater discharges to northern estuaries -- mark the highlights of this year's report.

The full report is available online and covers environmental information of Water Year 2020 (May 1, 2019-April 30, 2020) and project/budgetary information for the South Florida Water Management District Fiscal Year 2020 (October 1, 2019- September 30, 2020). A summary of highlights as well as previous consolidated reports are also available at [www.sfwmd.gov/sfer](http://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,



Noah Valenstein, Secretary  
*Florida Department of Environmental Protection*

Sincerely,



Drew Bartlett, Executive Director  
*South Florida Water Management District*

- c: The Honorable Jeanette Núñez, Lieutenant Governor  
Members, Florida Senate and Florida House of Representatives  
Members, SFWMD Governing Board  
Drew Bartlett, SFWMD Executive Director  
Noah Valenstein, FDEP Secretary  
Adam Blalock, FDEP Deputy Secretary, Ecosystem Restoration  
Edward C. Smith, FDEP, Director, Office of Ecosystem Projects

Attachment: ***2021 South Florida Environmental Report Highlights***