

WELCOME

Robert Shuford
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sfwmd.gov

19th Annual Public Meeting on the Long-Term Plan
for Achieving Water Quality Goals for the
Everglades Protection Areas Tributary Basins
February 28, 2022

AGENDA

- 1. Welcome and Introduction** 9:00
Robert Shuford, Ecosystem Restoration and Capital Projects Bureau
- 2. System Conditions** 9:05
Jose Otero, Ecosystem Restoration and Capital Projects Bureau
- 3. Everglades Stormwater Treatment Areas (STA) Performance Update** 9:25
Jake Dombrowski, Applied Sciences Bureau
- 4. STA Vegetation Management and Enhancement** 9:45
Eric Crawford, Land Resources Bureau
- 5. Status of Restoration Strategies Science Plan Studies** 10:05
Tom James, Applied Sciences Bureau
- 6. Restoration Strategies: Design and Construction Update** 10:25
Lucine Dadrian, Engineering and Construction Bureau
- 7. Southern Everglades Nutrient Source Control Program Update** 10:45
Steve Sarley & Youchoa Wang, Everglades and Estuaries Protection Programs Bureau
- 8. Public Use on SFWMD Stormwater Treatment Areas** 11:05
James Harbaugh, Land Resources Bureau
- 9. Public Comment** 11:25

Systems Condition

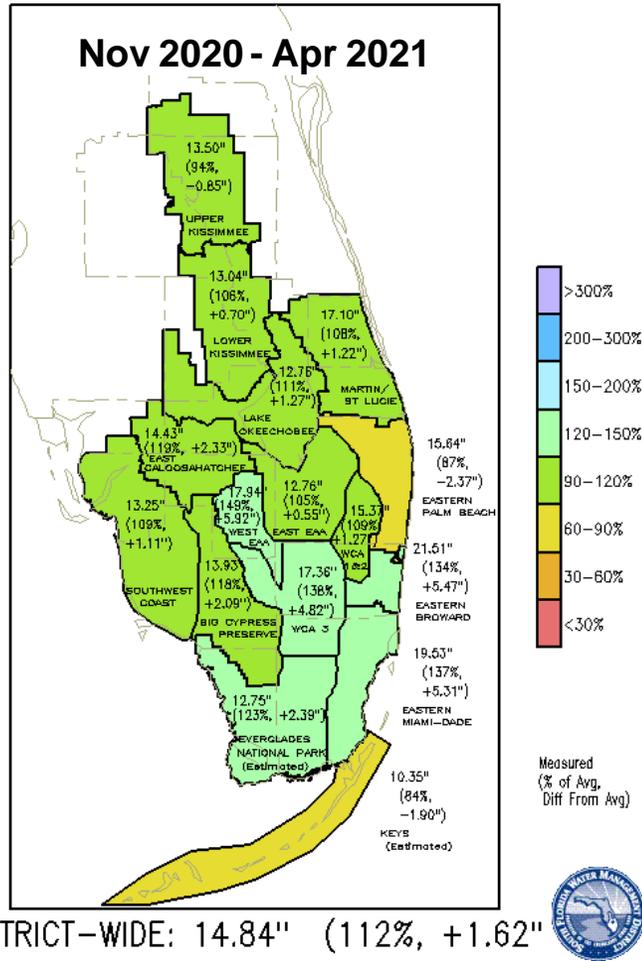
Jose Otero, P.E.
Section Administrator
Ecosystem Restoration and Capital Projects

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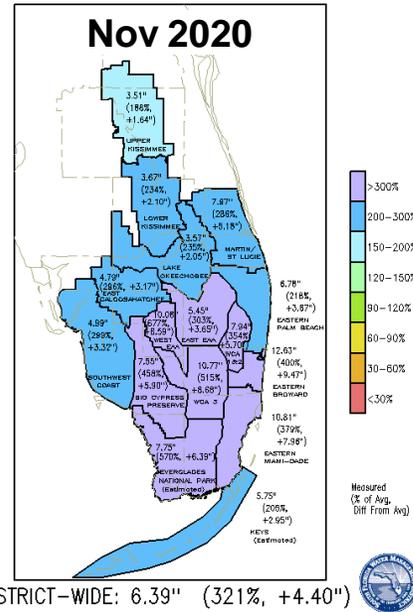
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Rainfall Dry Season Water Year 2021

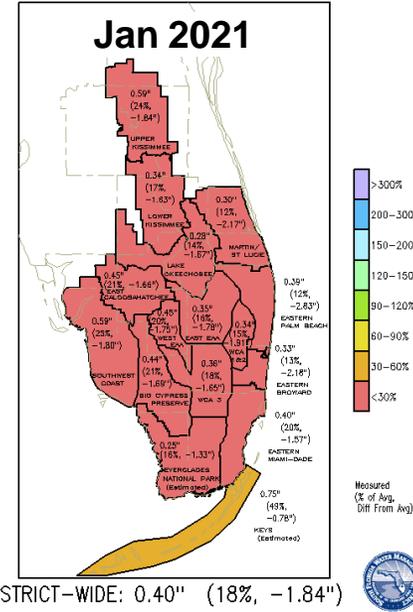
SFWM Rainfall
02-Nov-2020 to 01-May-2021



SFWM Rainfall
02-Nov-2020 to 01-Dec-2020



SFWM Rainfall
02-Jan-2021 to 01-Feb-2021



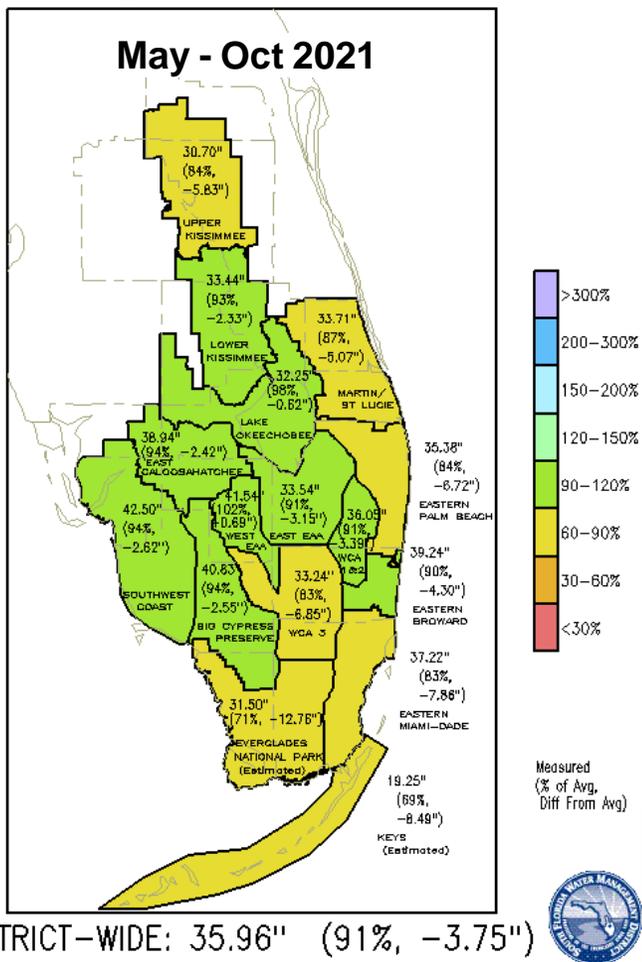
- Dry Season normal District-wide
- Dec 2020 extremely wet in EAA, C139, WCAs, ENP
- Jan 2021 extremely dry everywhere

DISTRICT-WIDE: 14.84" (112%, +1.62")

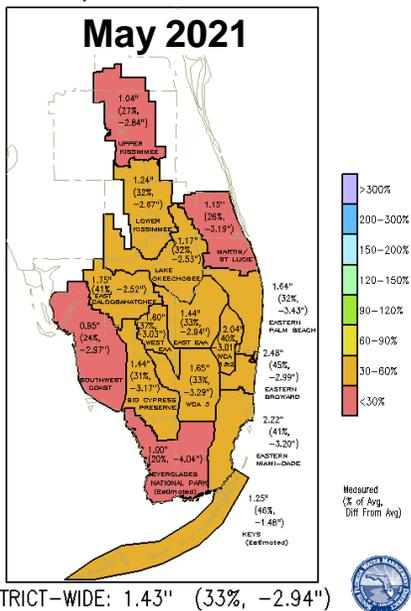


Rainfall Wet Season Water Year 2022

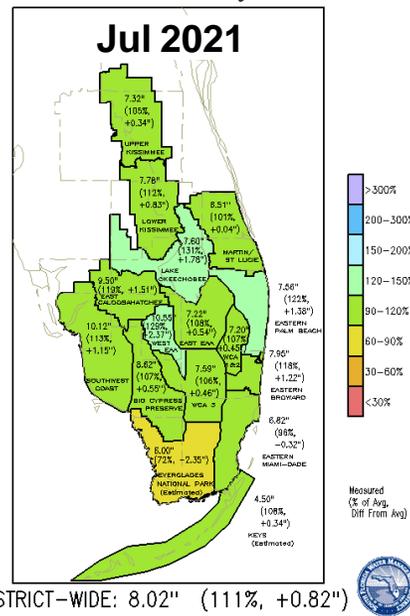
SFWM District Rainfall
02-May-2021 to 01-Nov-2021



SFWM District Rainfall
02-May-2021 to 01-Jun-2021



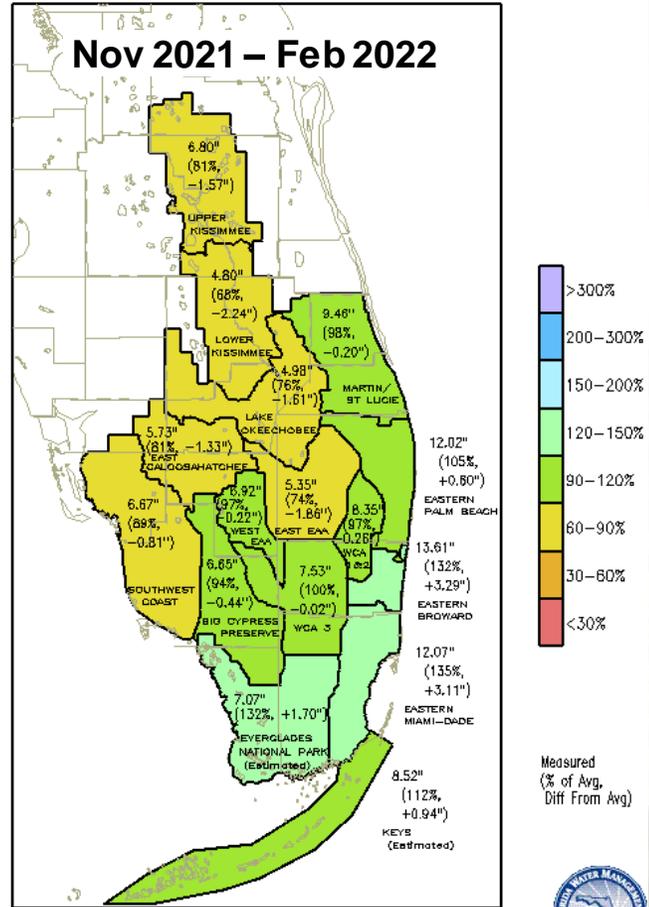
SFWM District Rainfall
02-Jul-2021 to 01-Aug-2021



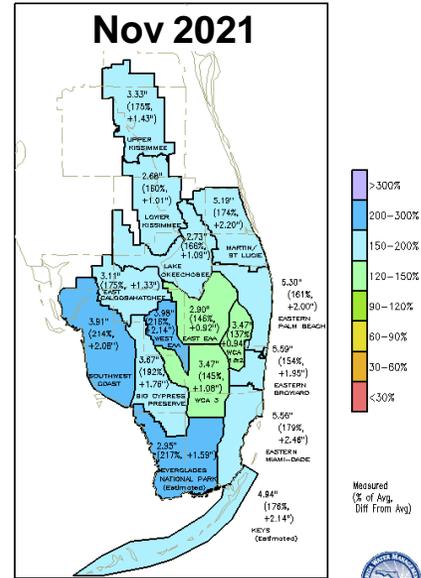
- Wet Season normal District-wide
- May 2021 extremely dry in Upper Kissimmee, ENP
- July 2021 wet in LO, C139, Eastern Palm Beach

Rainfall Dry Season Water Year 2022 (partial)

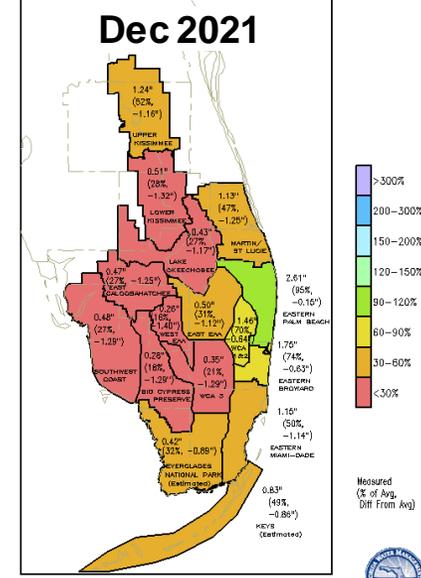
SFWM Rainfall
02-NOV-2021 to 23-FEB-2022



SFWM Rainfall
02-Nov-2021 to 01-Dec-2021

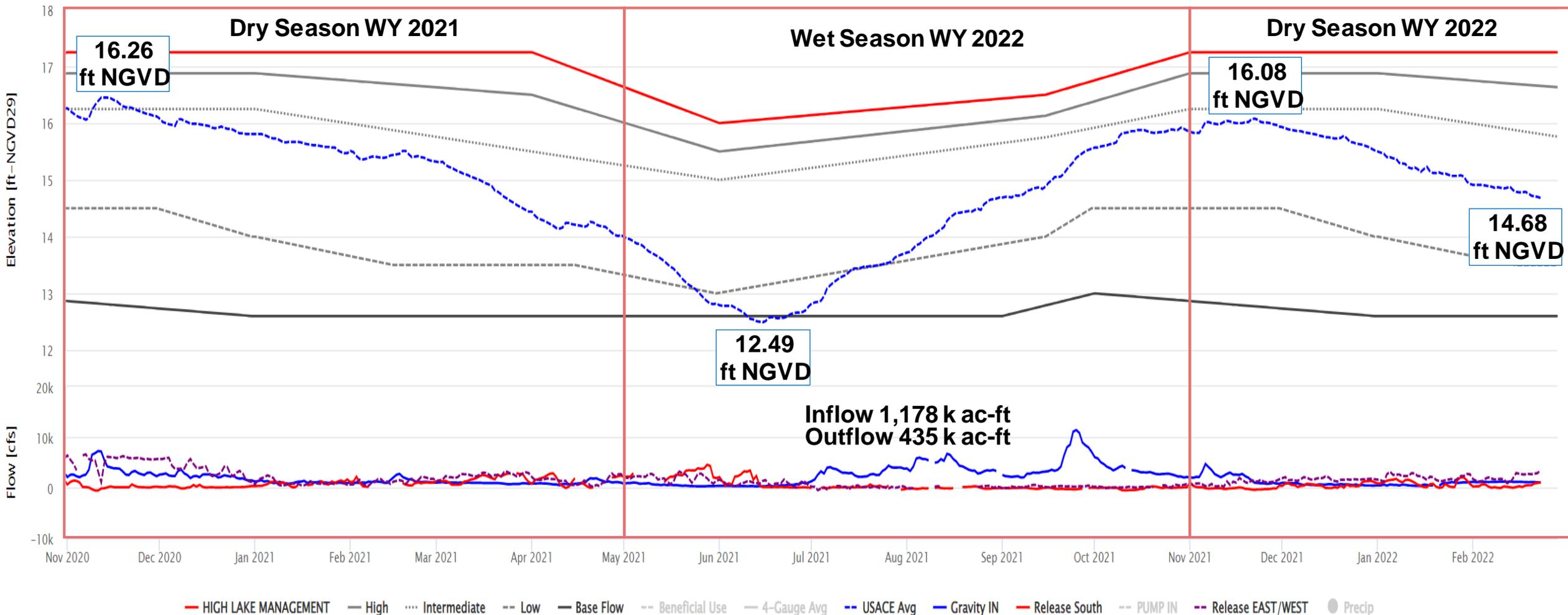


SFWM Rainfall
02-Dec-2021 to 01-Jan-2022

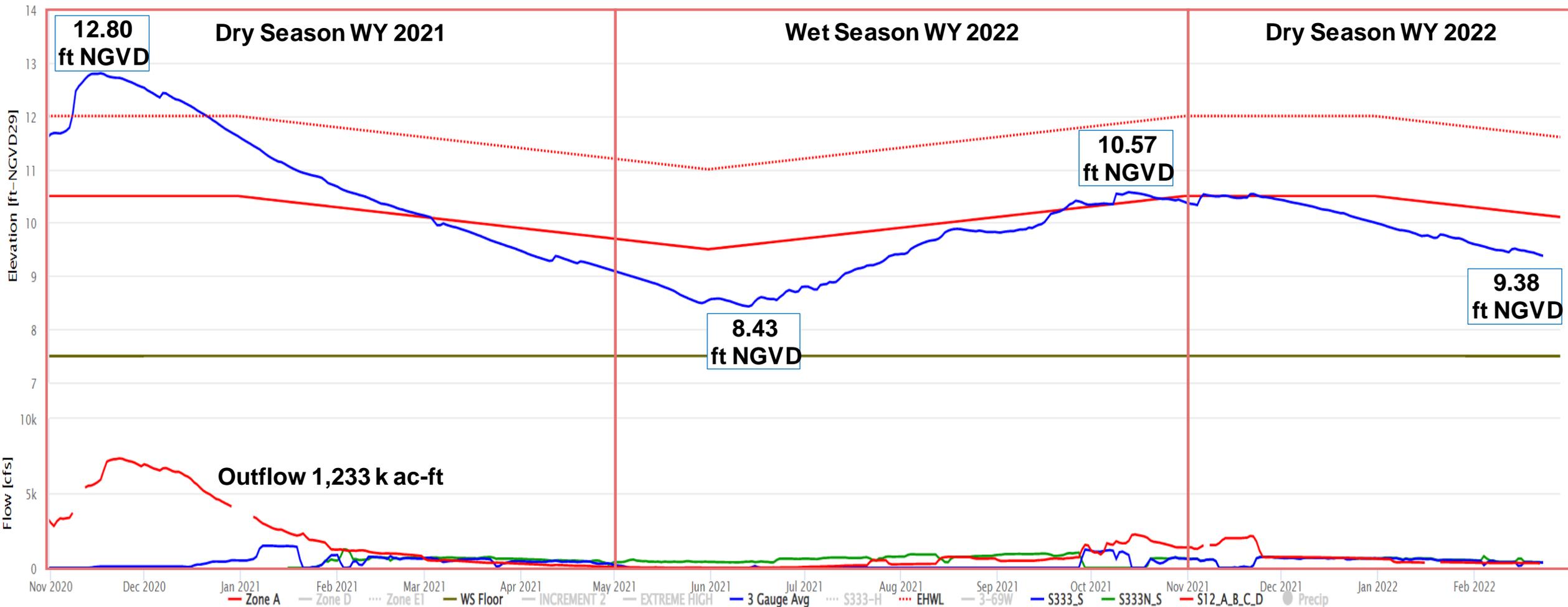


- Dry Season normal District-wide
- Nov 2021 very wet overall, extremely wet C139, ENP
- Dec 2021 extremely dry, especially LO, C139, WCA 3A

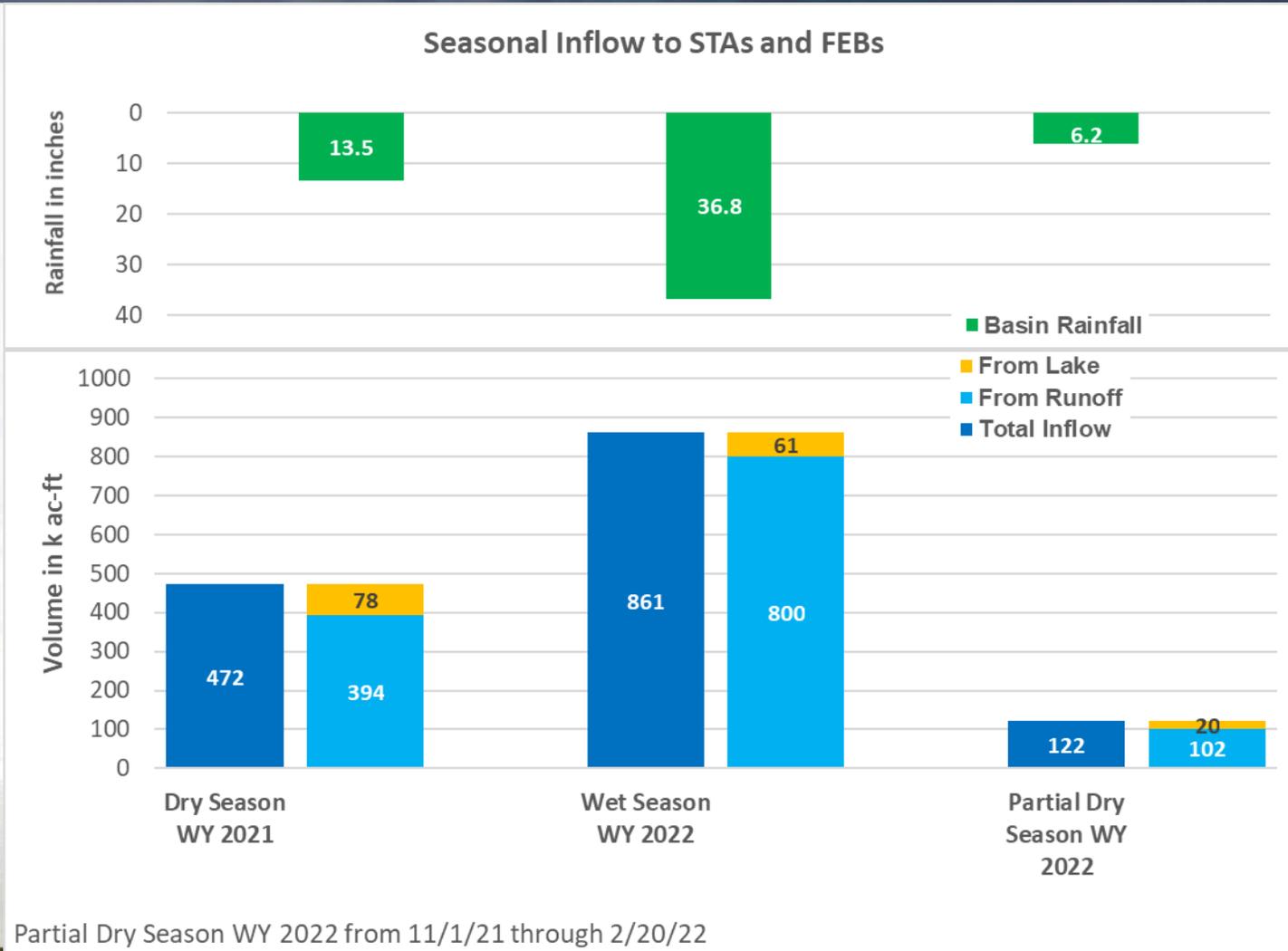
Lake Okeechobee Stage



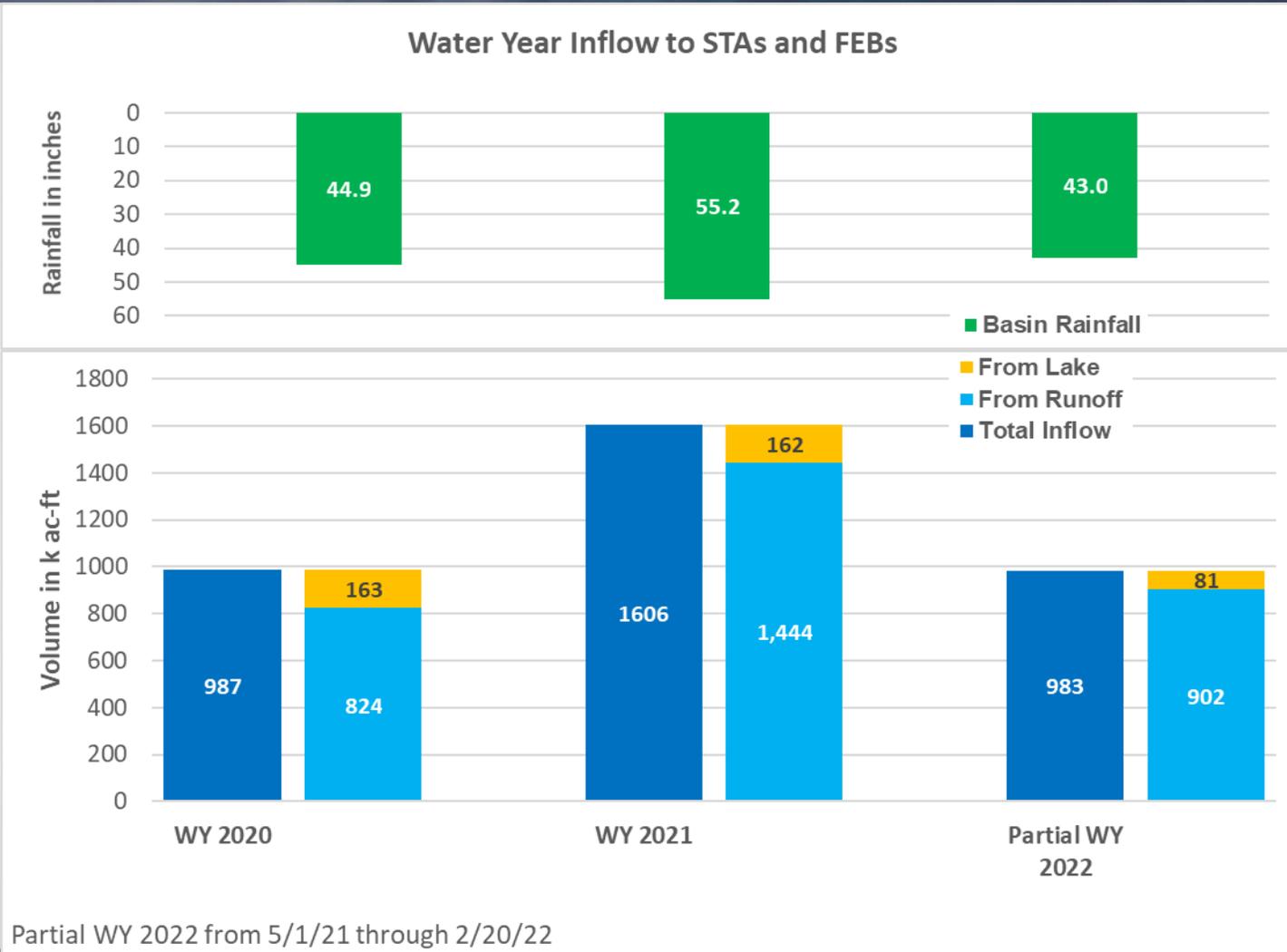
WCA 3A Stage



Seasonal Inflows to STAs



Water Year Inflows to STAs



Contact Information

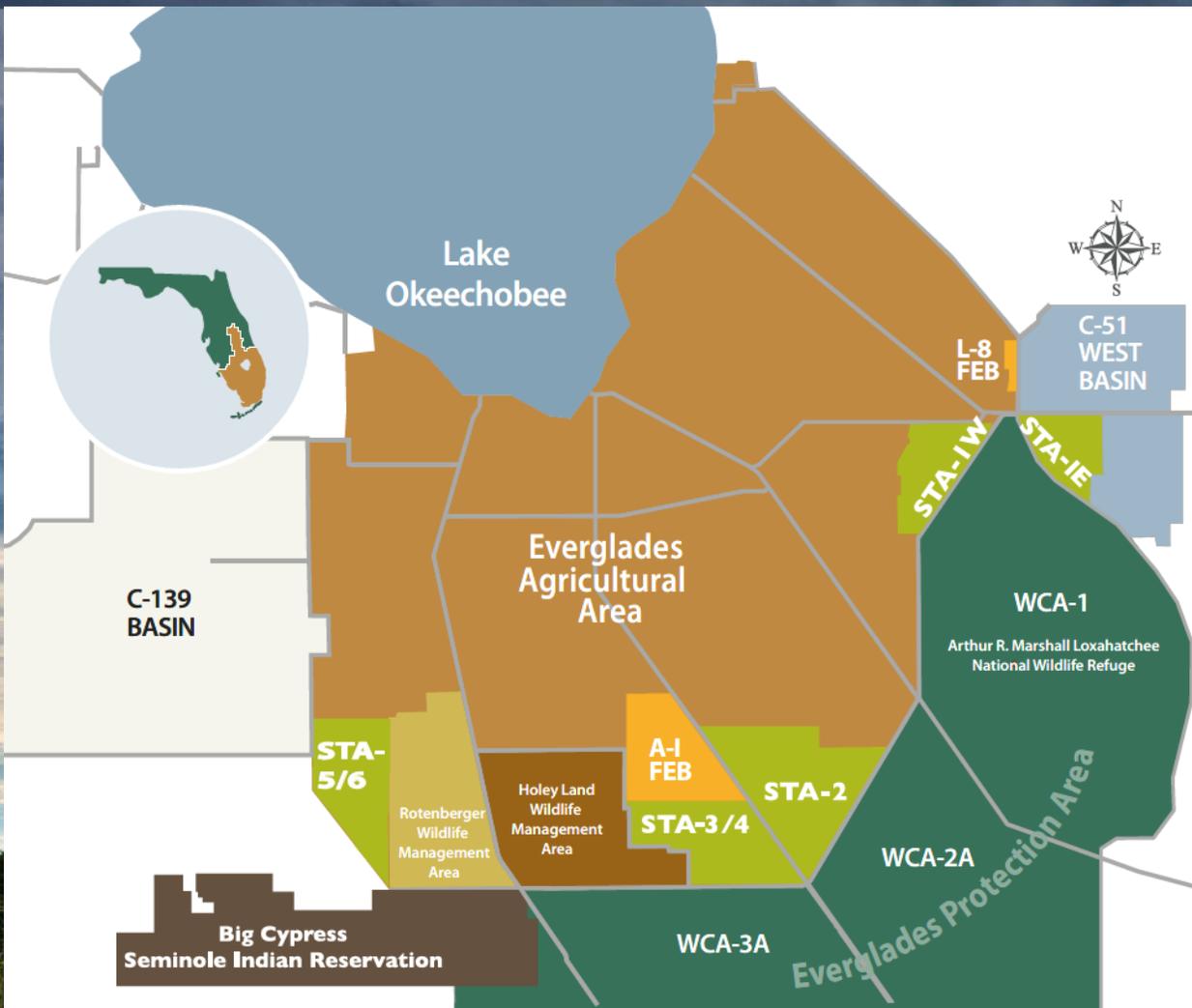
Jose Otero
jotero@sfwmd.gov

Everglades Stormwater Treatment Areas Performance Update

Jake Dombrowski
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Introduction



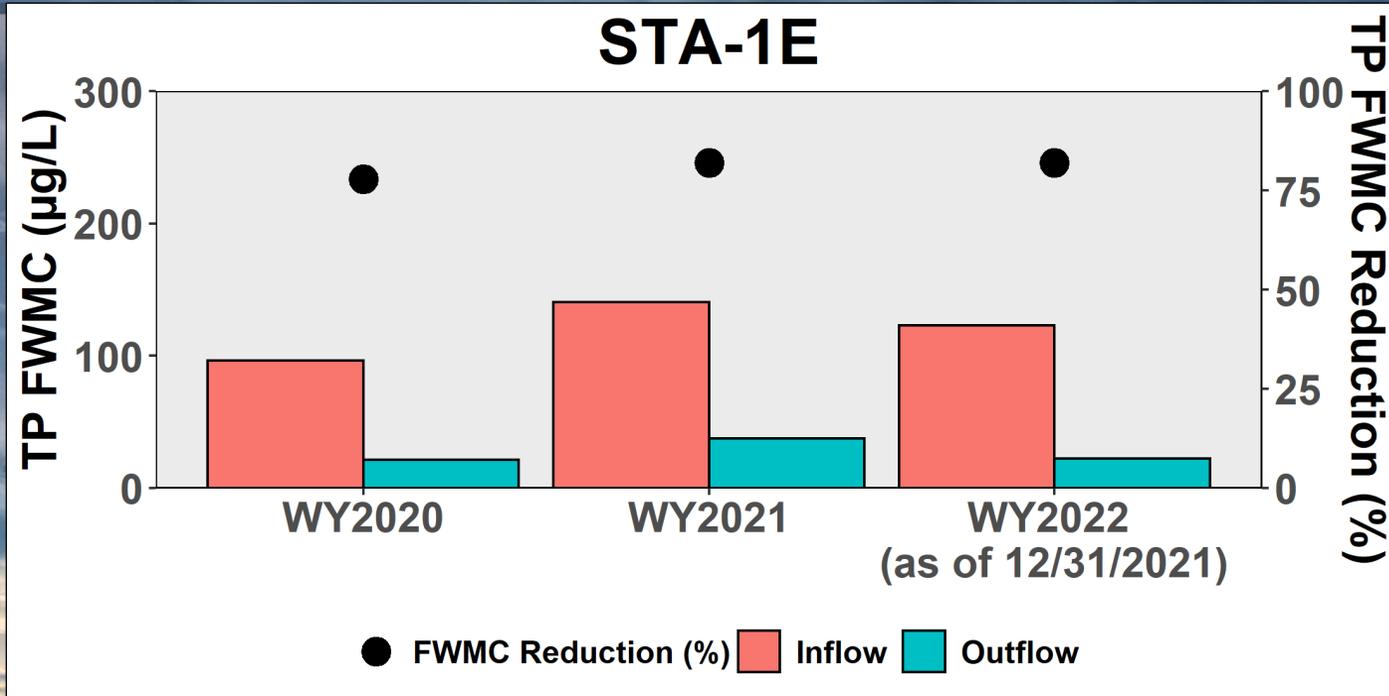
➤ STA Performance

- Flow volumes, TP loads and FWMC (Flow-weighted Mean Concentration)

➤ Yearly and monthly variation

➤ Construction and operational restrictions

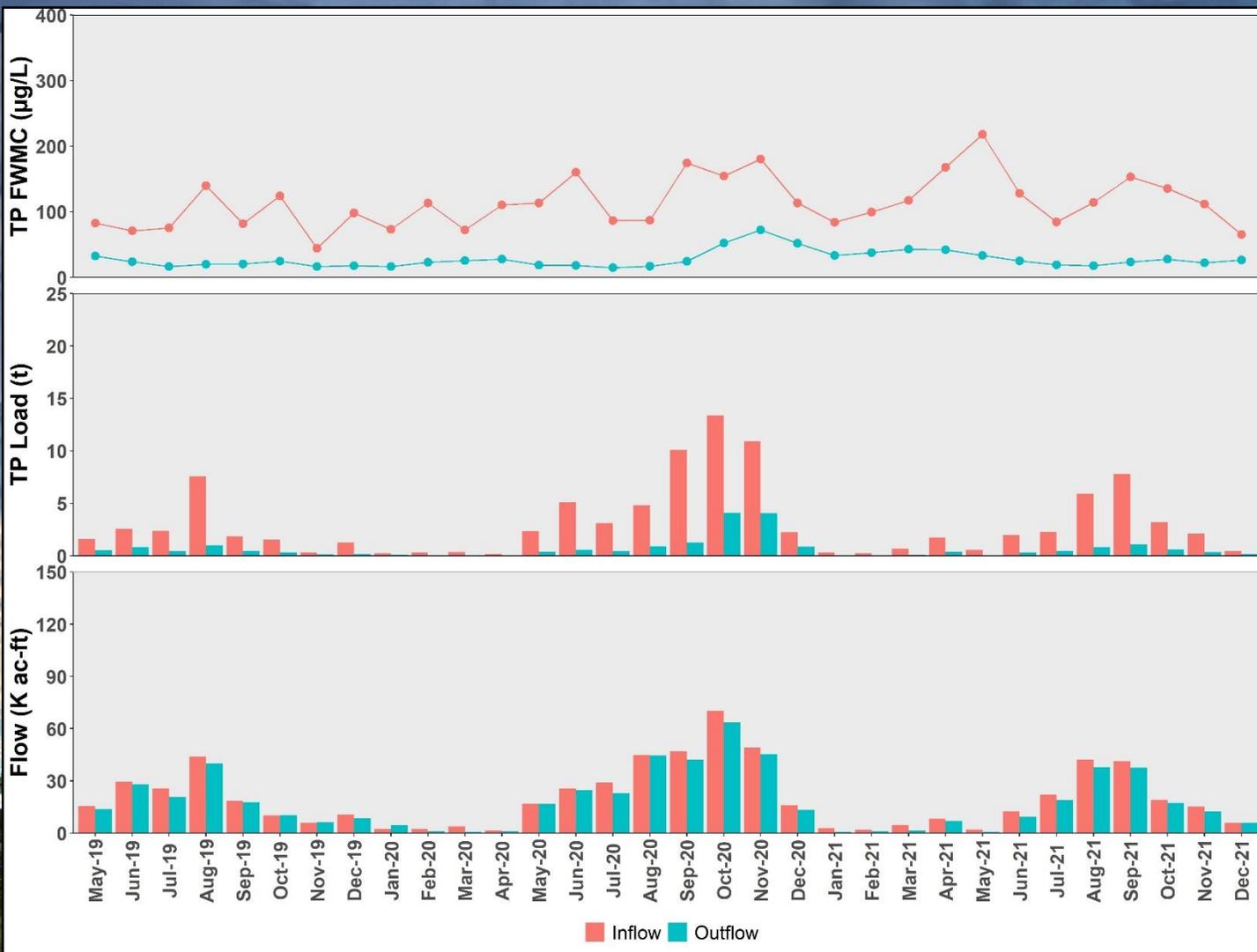
STA-1E Performance Comparison by WY



	WY2020	WY2021	Partial WY2022 (05/01/2021 - 12/31/2021)
Total inflow (k acre-feet)	170	316	160
Lake releases (k acre-feet)	12	25	3
TP FWMC inflow / outflow (µg/L)	96 / 21	141 / 37	123 / 22
TP load inflow / outflow (tons)	20 / 4	55 / 13	24 / 4
Reduction in TP FWMC / load	78% / 80%	82% / 84%	82% / 84%

Includes preliminary data

STA-1E Monthly Inflows and Outflows



- Elevated flows, TP loads, FWMC during WY2021
- Generally stable outflow TP FWMC
- Elevated prior to and following Tropical Storm Eta (WY2021)

Includes preliminary data

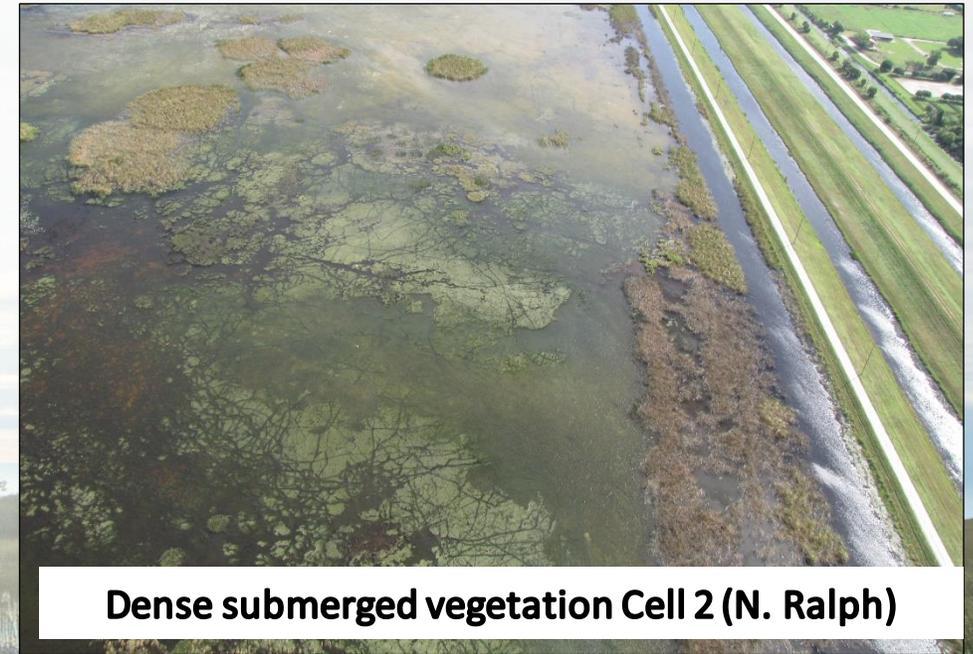
STA-1E Operational Restrictions

(Jan. 1, 2021 – Dec. 31, 2021)

- Western Flow-way offline
 - WDC levee repairs, Restoration Strategies earthwork project in Cells 5 and 7, refurbishment project in Cell 6
- Periodic restrictions in Central Flow-way for vegetation management

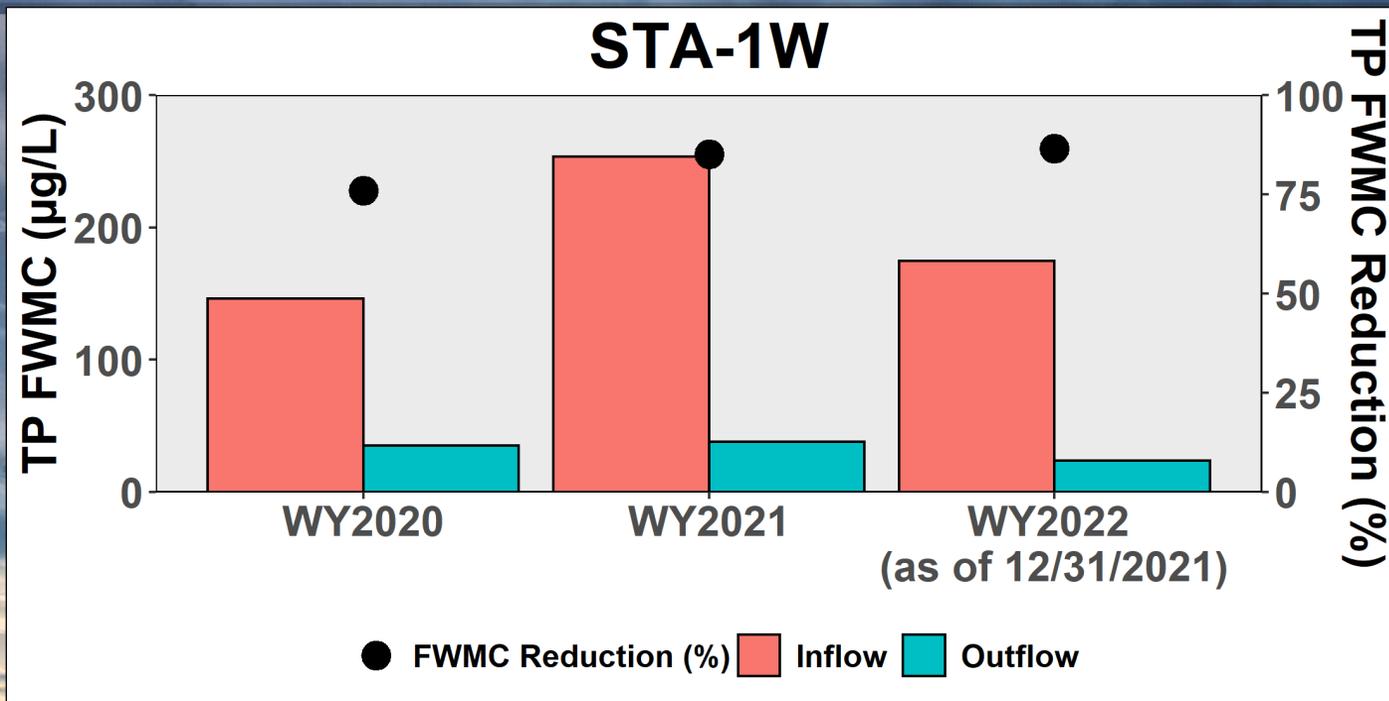


Cell 5 and 7 earthwork near completion (N. Ralph)



Dense submerged vegetation Cell 2 (N. Ralph)

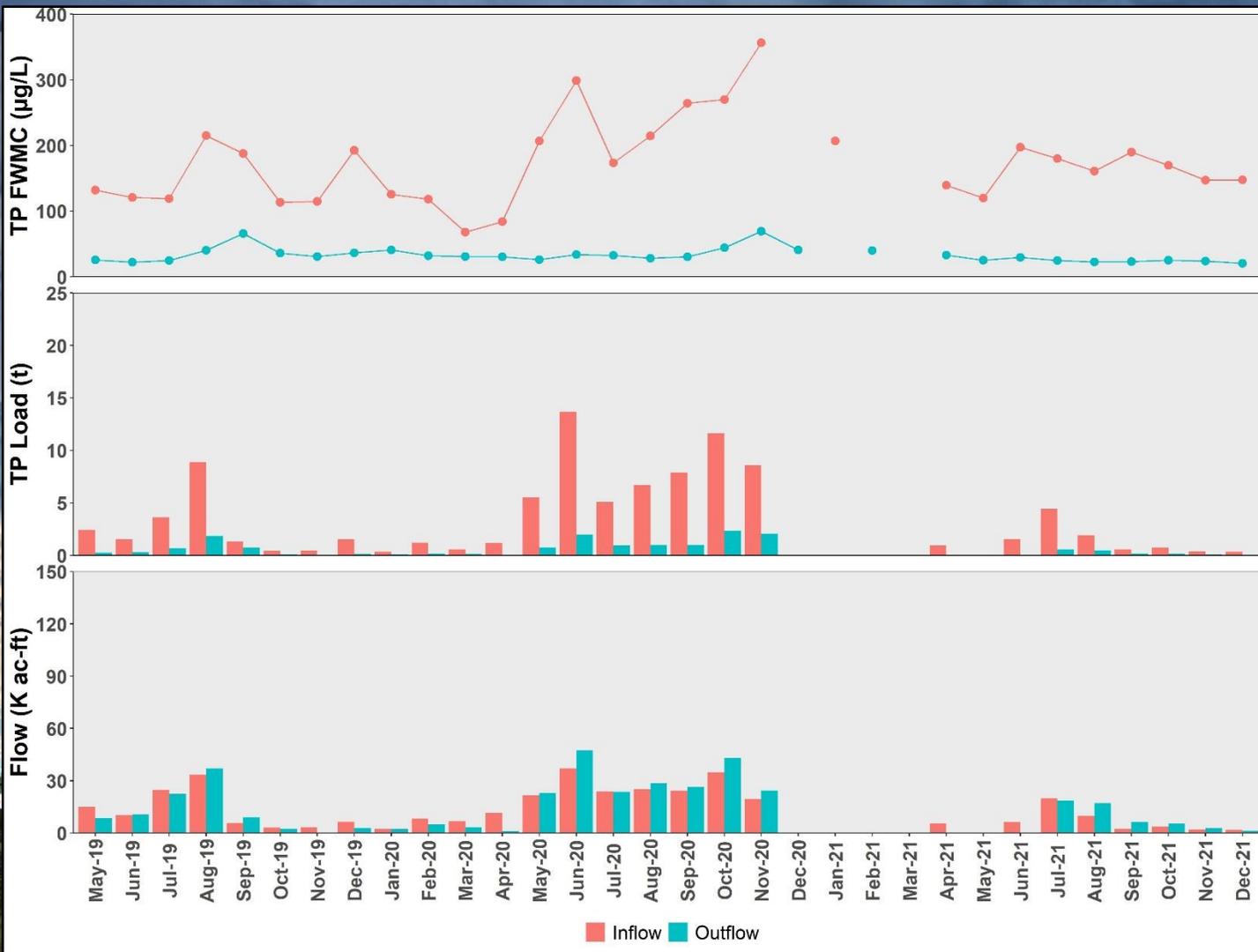
STA-1W Performance Comparison by WY



	WY2020	WY2021	Partial WY2022 (05/01/2021 - 12/31/2021)
Total inflow (k acre-feet)	130	192	46
Lake releases (k acre-feet)	17	8	2
TP FWMC inflow / outflow (µg/L)	146 / 35	254 / 38	175 / 24
TP load inflow / outflow (tons)	23 / 5	60 / 10	10 / 2
Reduction in TP FWMC / load	76% / 81%	85% / 83%	87% / 85%

Includes preliminary data

STA-1W Monthly Inflows and Outflows



- Elevated inflow TP loads and FWMC during WY2021
- Outflow TP FWMC remains relatively low and stable
- Slightly elevated following Tropical Storm Eta

Includes preliminary data

STA-1W Operational Restrictions

(Jan. 1, 2021 – Dec. 31, 2021)

- Periodic restrictions in all flow-ways
 - Refurbishment earthwork projects in Northern, Western, and Eastern Flow-ways
 - Construction related to STA-1W Expansion #2 in Cell 8
 - Black-necked stilts nested in all flow-ways

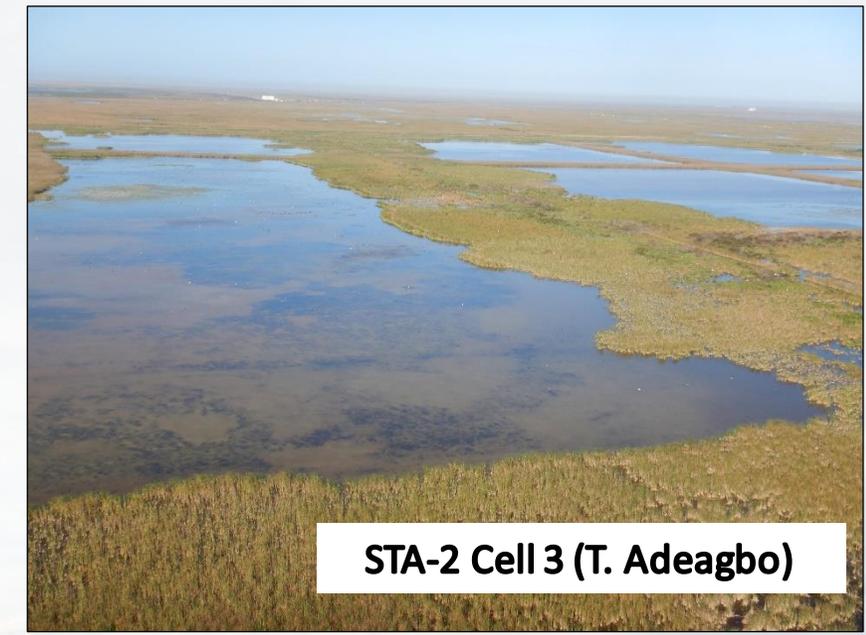
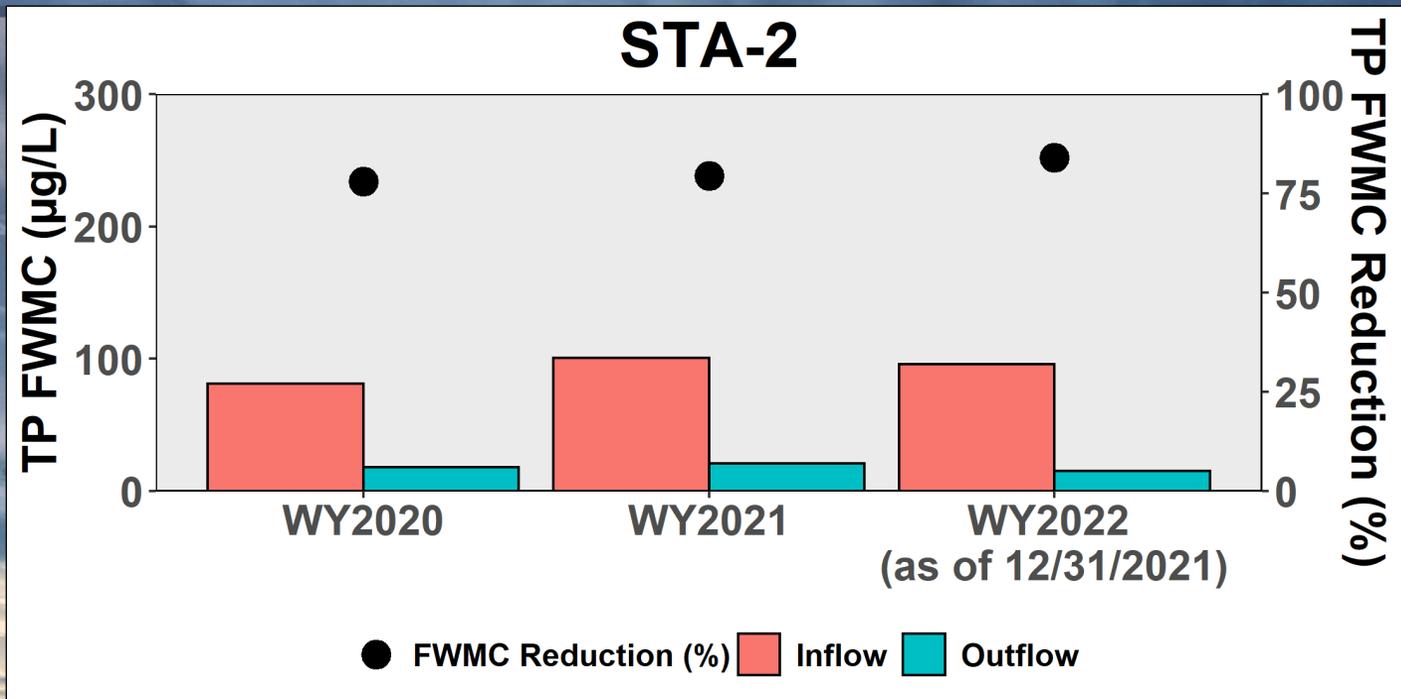


Black necked stilt nesting (B. Garrett)



Cell 3 earthwork (N. Ralph)

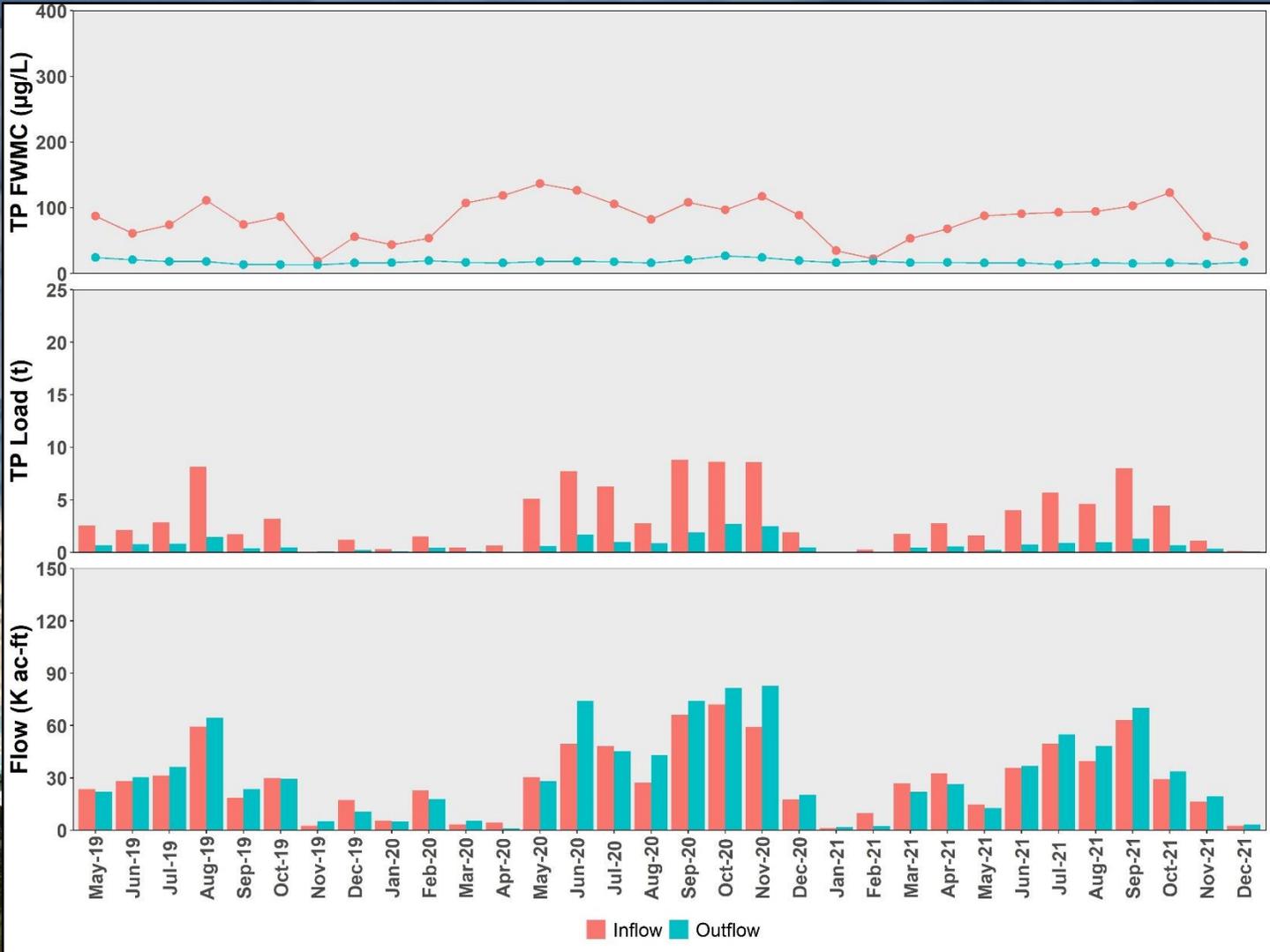
STA-2 Performance Comparison by WY



	WY2020	WY2021	Partial WY2022 (05/01/2021 - 12/31/2021)
Total inflow (k acre-feet)	247	441	251
Lake releases (k acre-feet)	37	72	21
TP FWMC inflow / outflow (µg/L)	81 / 18	100 / 21	96 / 15
TP load inflow / outflow (tons)	25 / 6	55 / 13	30 / 5
Reduction in TP FWMC / load	78% / 78%	79% / 76%	84% / 82%

Includes preliminary data

STA-2 Monthly Inflows and Outflows



- Elevated flows and TP loads during WY2021
- Outflow TP FWMC remains low and stable

Includes preliminary data

STA-2 Operational Restrictions

(Jan. 1, 2021 – Dec. 31, 2021)

- Flow-way 2 offline for earthwork project
- Periodic restrictions in all flow-ways
 - Flow-way 3 construction project
 - Vegetation management activities

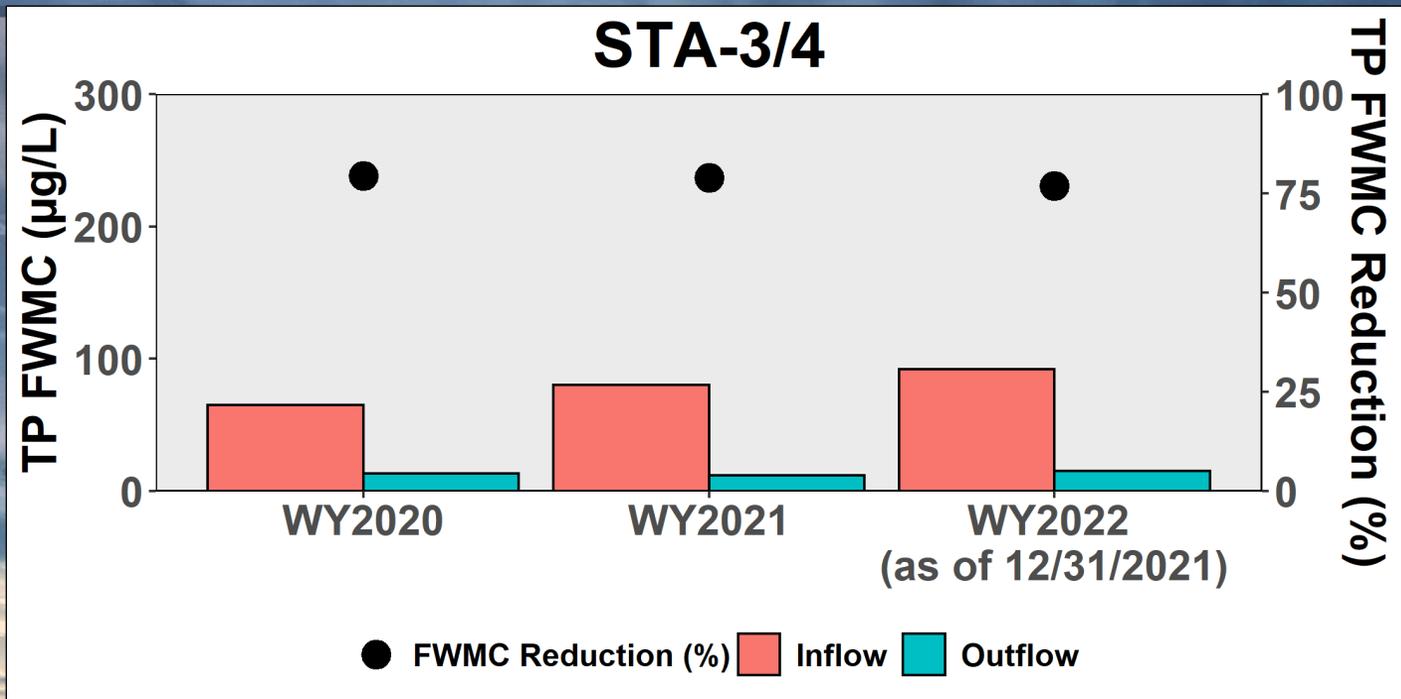


Least Terns nesting with chick (B. Garrett)



Cell 3 remnant road cuts (N. Ralph)

STA-3/4 Performance Comparison by WY

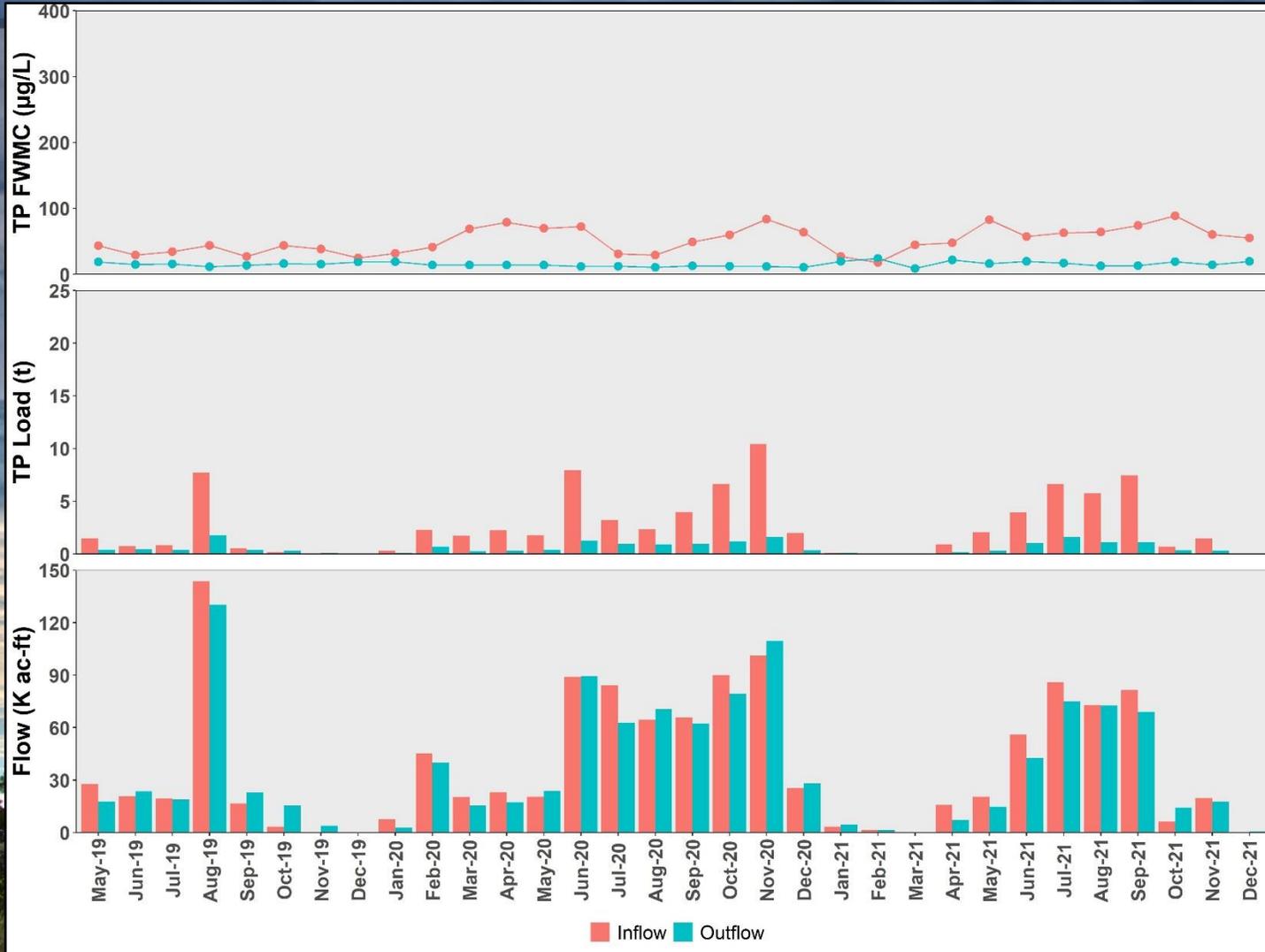


STA-3/4 Mixed Marsh (T. Adeagbo)

	WY2020	WY2021	Partial WY2022 (05/01/2021 - 12/31/2021)
Total inflow (k acre-feet)	311	521	321
Lake releases (k acre-feet)	56	42	30
TP FWMC inflow / outflow (µg/L)	65 / 13	80 / 12	92 / 15
TP load inflow / outflow (tons)	25 / 5	51 / 8	36 / 6
Reduction in TP FWMC / load	80% / 80%	79% / 80%	77% / 79%

Includes preliminary data

STA-3/4 Monthly Inflows and Outflows



- Compared to other STAs, less variability in inflow TP loads due to A-1 FEB
 - Slightly elevated following Tropical Storm Eta
- Outflow TP FWMC remains low and stable

Includes preliminary data

STA-3/4 Operational Restrictions

(Jan. 1, 2021 – Dec. 31, 2021)

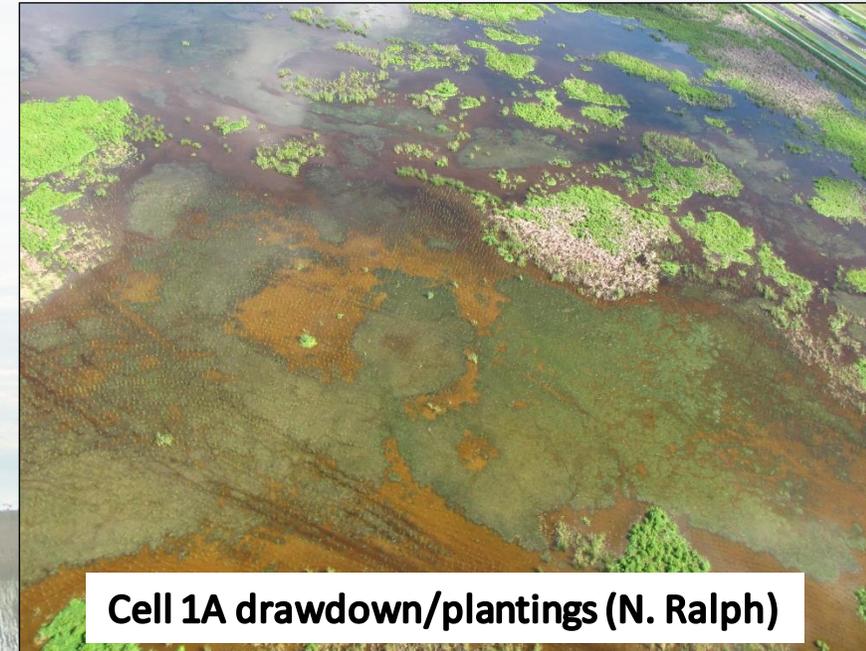
- Eastern Flow-way offline for vegetation rehabilitation/drawdown
- Periodic restrictions for vegetation management activities



Snail Kite near A-1 FEB (B. Garrett)

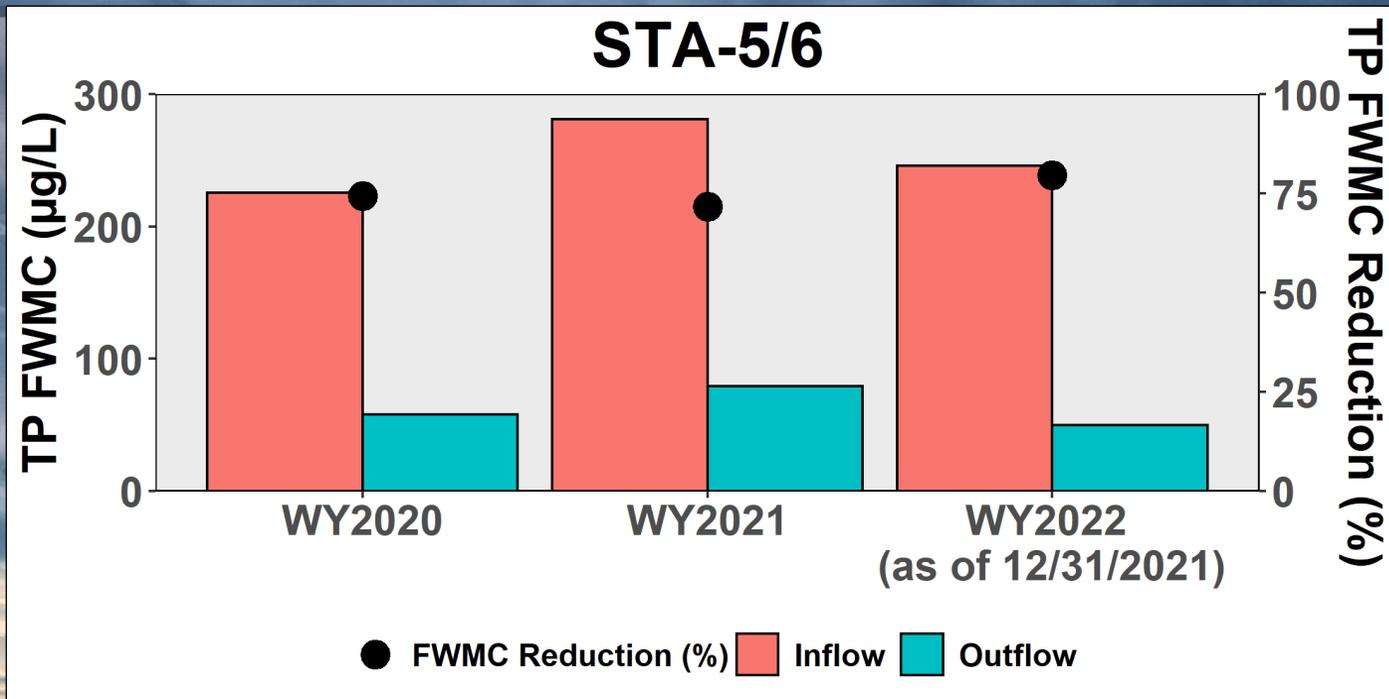


Mixed marsh Cell 2B (J. Wilson)



Cell 1A drawdown/plantings (N. Ralph)

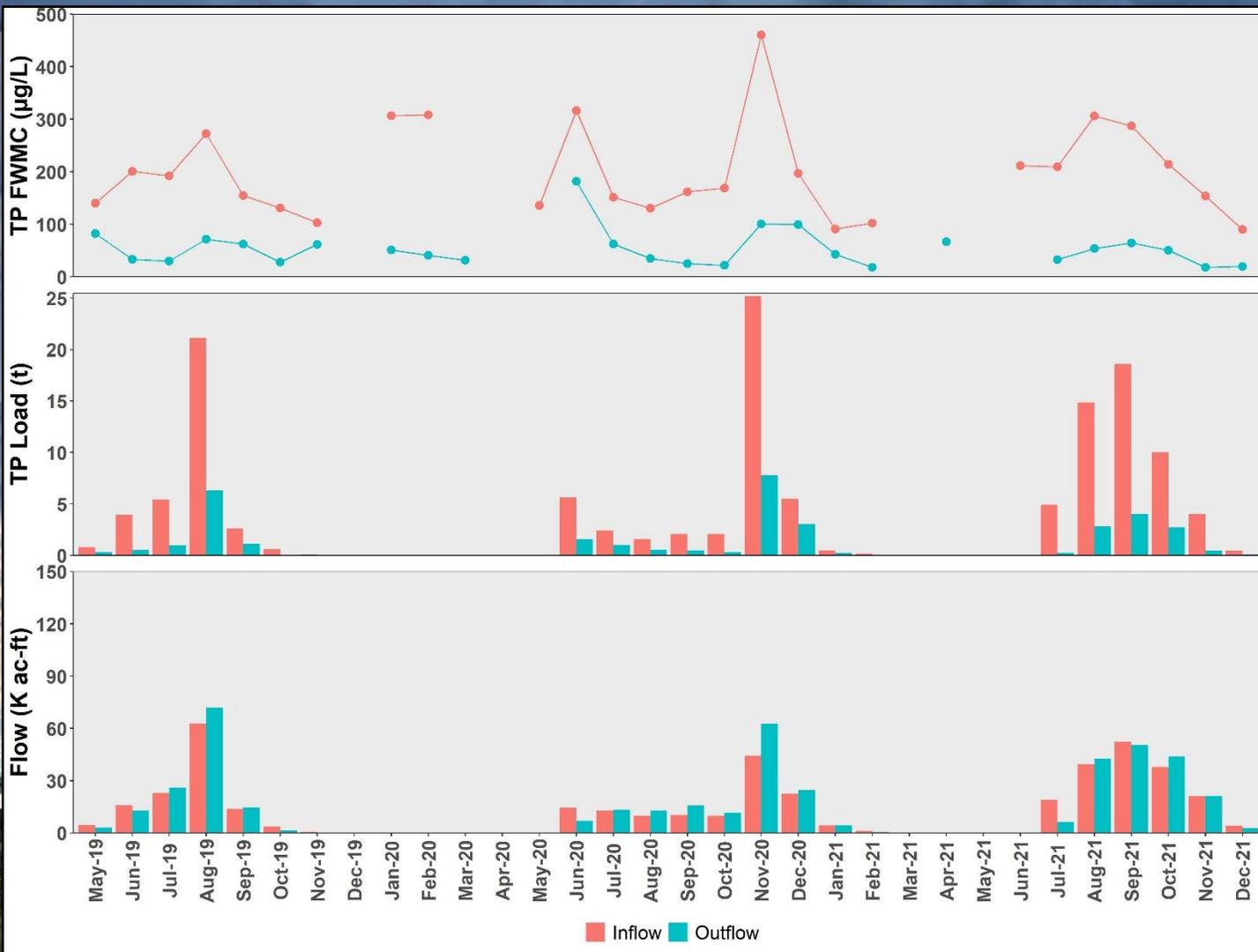
STA-5/6 Performance Comparison by WY



	WY2020	WY2021	Partial WY2022 (05/01/2021 - 12/31/2021)
Total inflow (k acre-feet)	124	130	174
TP FWMC inflow / outflow (µg/L)	226 / 58	281 / 79	246 / 50
TP load inflow / outflow (tons)	35 / 9	45 / 15	53 / 10
Reduction in TP FWMC / load	74% / 73%	72% / 67%	80% / 80%

Includes preliminary data

STA-5/6 Monthly Inflows and Outflows



- Inflow TP load spike due to storm events in August 2019 and November 2020
- Frequent dry-out conditions during the dry seasons
- Elevated inflow/outflow TP FWMC following dry-out

Includes preliminary data

STA-5/6 Operational Restrictions

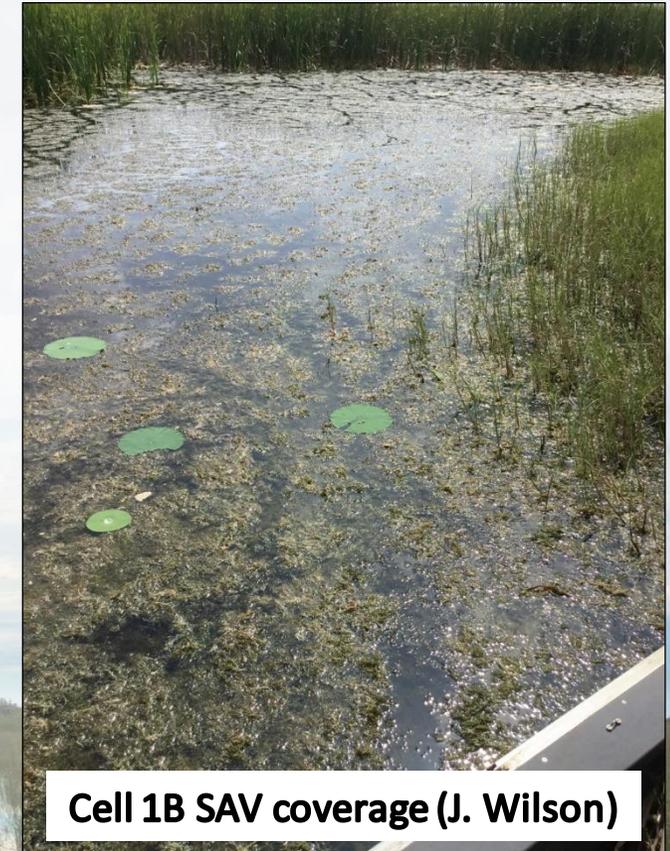
(Jan. 1, 2021 – Dec. 31, 2021)

➤ Periodic restrictions

- Post-Restoration Strategies earthwork project in Flow-ways 2 and 3
- Black-necked stilts nested in Flow-ways 3 and 6

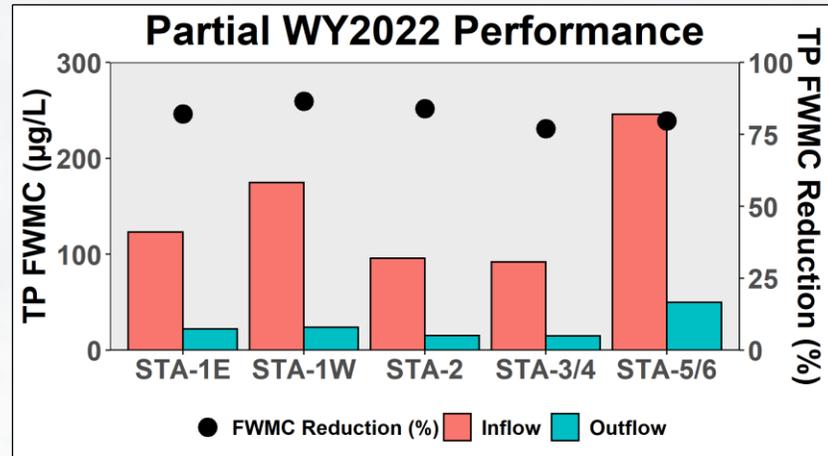
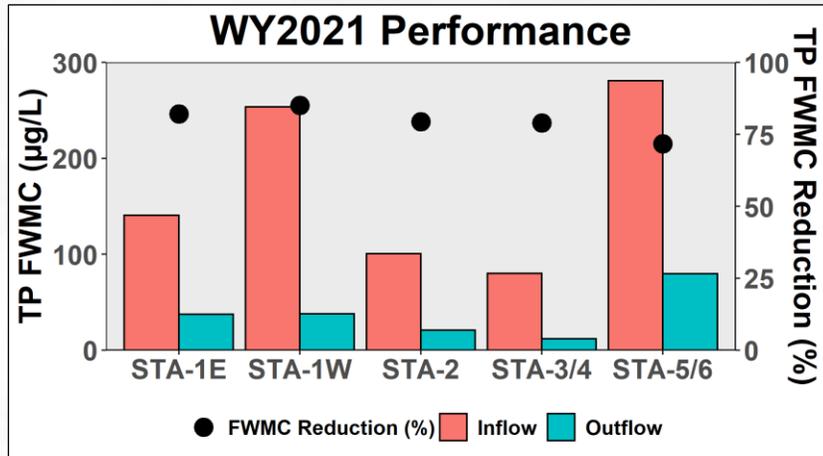
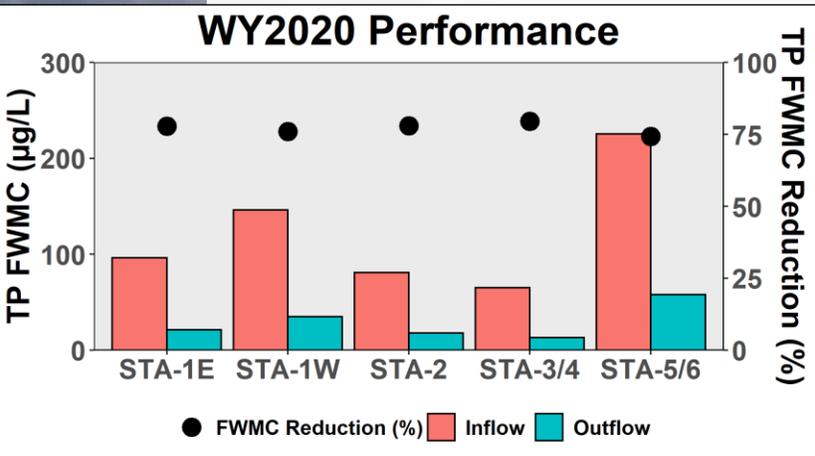


Cell 2A post-earthwork (N. Ralph)



Cell 1B SAV coverage (J. Wilson)

All STAs Performance Comparison by WY



	WY2020	WY2021	Partial WY2022 (05/01/2021 - 12/31/2021)
Total inflow (k acre-feet)	987	1606	953
Lake releases (k acre-feet)	163	162	66
TP FWMC inflow / outflow (µg/L)	105 / 24	134 / 28	130 / 23
TP load inflow / outflow (tons)	128 / 28	266 / 59	153 / 27
Reduction in TP FWMC / load	77% / 78%	79% / 78%	82% / 83%

Includes preliminary data

Contact Information

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Vegetation Management

Eric Crawford
Senior Scientist
Land Resources

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Objective

Maintain sustainable vegetation-based phosphorus uptake processes

Vegetation Enhancement

Establish/maintain appropriate vegetation communities

Improve stability and functional redundancy

Selective Management

Increase desirable species

Control Invasive/Undesirable species

Control exotic populations

STA Vegetation Function

Emergent plantings after cattail failure



Emergent Aquatic Vegetation (EAV)

- Stabilize soils
- Create beneficial Flow Patterns
- Decrease Turbidity
- Create litter

Submerged Aquatic Vegetation (SAV)

- Water column nutrient uptake
- Provide Periphyton Substrate

SAV harvest and transport



Healthy EAV



Highly Stressed EAV



STA Vegetation

Desirable Plants

A healthy mix of Emergent vegetation, dominated by Cattail and bulrush, and a mix of Submerged vegetation dominated by southern naiad, spiny naiad and Chara



Undesirable Plants

Nuisance vegetation dominated by floating mats of cattail and primrose willow, plants growing on floating delaminated soils



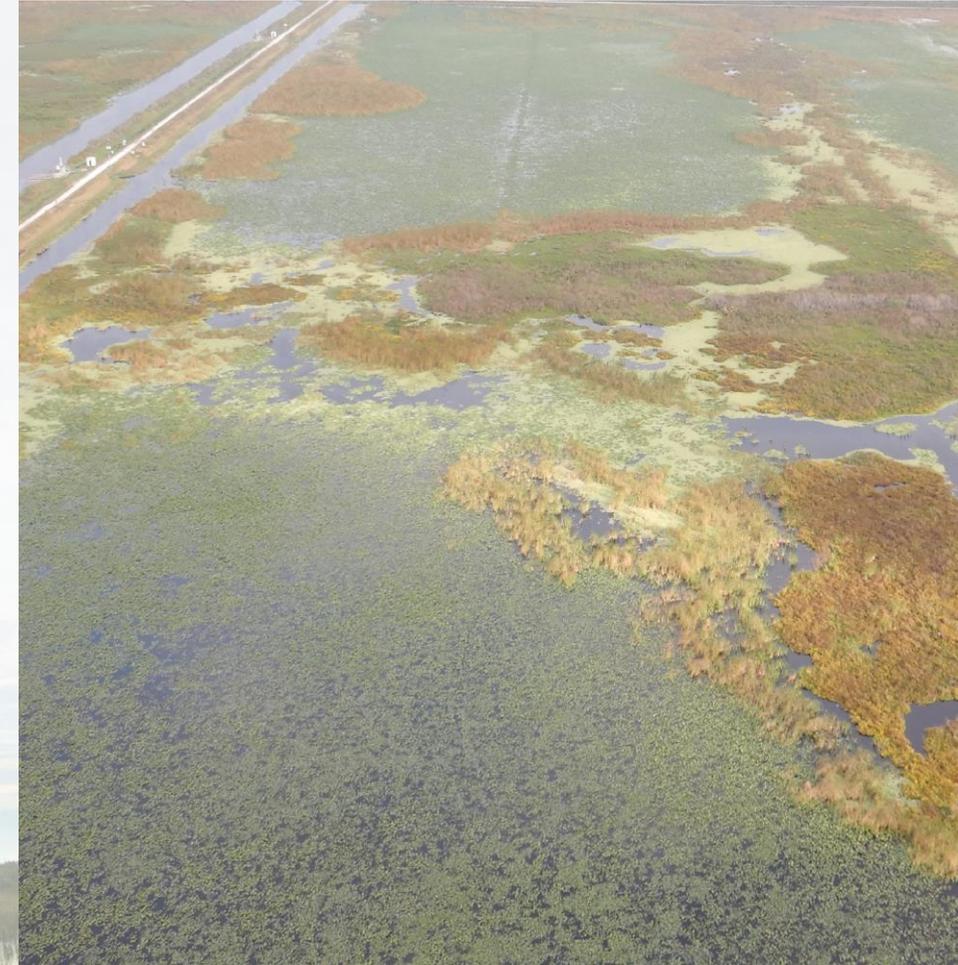
Invasive Species Control

- Herbicide applications and mechanical control measures
- Dense native vegetation plantings can be made after treatments to interfere with the spread of invasive plants
- District staff have identified several native species to use in varying conditions to maximize resiliency and performance



FAV Control

Dense vegetation strips at the inflows can reduce FAV Inflow
strips can be shaped to trap and concentrate FAV entering a cell
decreasing herbicide use in the cells and reducing costs
Repairing damage and short circuits can minimize FAV penetration into the cells



Adaptive Management Process

Monitor Vegetation Health

Coordinate with water management
Stage, flow rates (cfs), redirecting flow

Proactively Manage Vegetation

Increase cover and health of desired species where needed to
adjust flows or stabilize soils

Control Undesirable Species

Repair and Restore

Emergent vegetation enhancements where vegetation is
damaged or undesirable

Rehabilitation: Emergent Plants



Presenter: Eric Crawford

Rehabilitation: Emergent Plants STA 3-4 Cell 1A



STA 3/4 Cell 1A

Damage and degradation moving downstream through the cell as short circuits form, FAV is pushed south, eventually leading to soil delamination and floating cattails and invasive plants.

The time-lapse illustrates the process, and the rehabilitation work under way to treat the invasive species in the front end, strengthen the cattail in the southern portion of the cell and establish desirable vegetation in the central slough.



Rehabilitation: SAV Inoculation



SAV harvest and transport

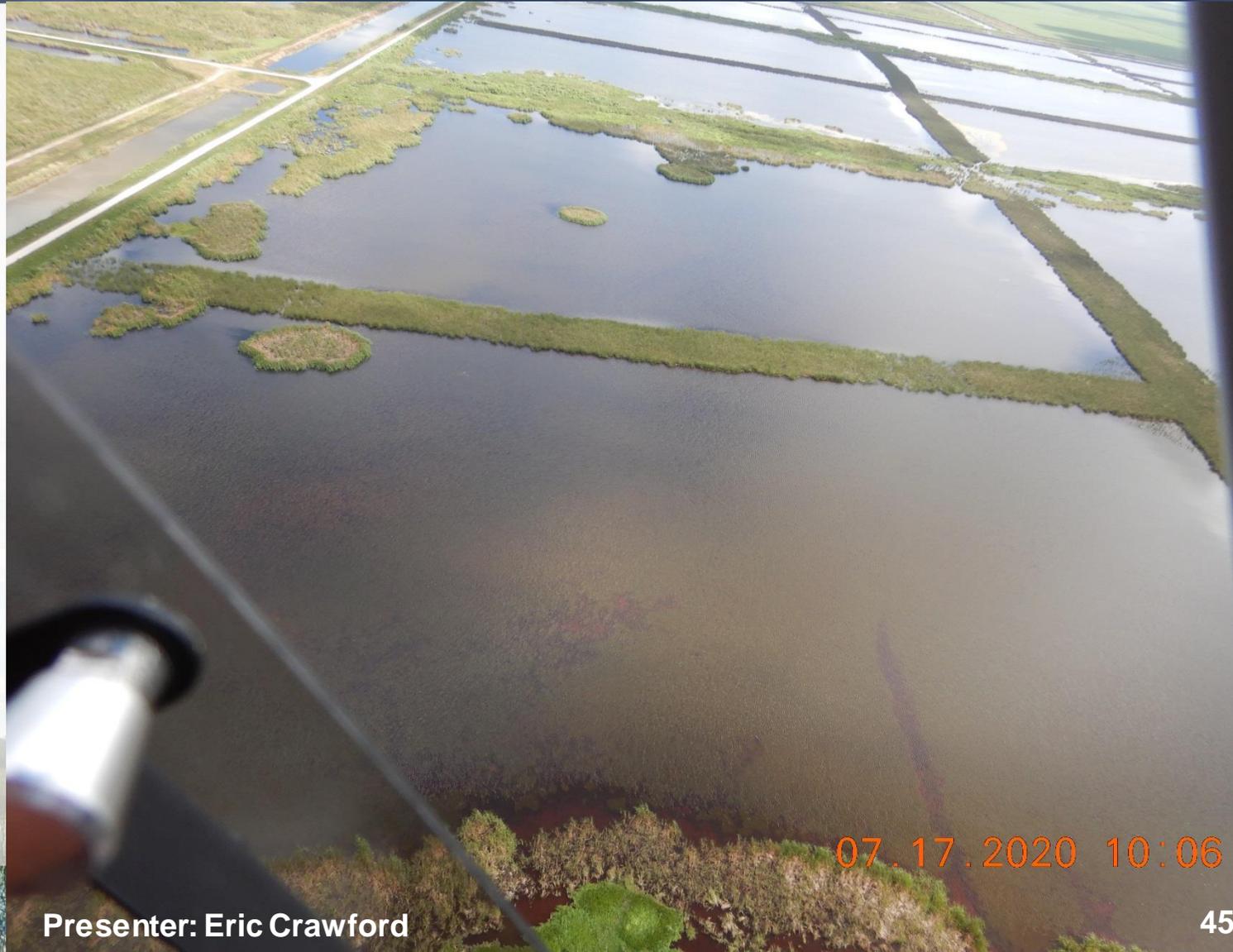
SAV Management in STA Operations



- Compartmentalizing the SAV cells with vegetation strips can help protect and stabilize SAV populations
- Smaller, more diverse and compartmentalized SAV beds can be more resistant to short circuiting, disturbance, storm events and seem better at resisting colonization by exotic species.
- SAV provides structure, protection, and litter to assist with nutrient uptake

Repair and Restoration of STA 2 Cell 3

- Over ten miles of emergent vegetation strips planted to protect and compartmentalize the Cell prior to SAV restoration
- Multiple short circuits and scoured out boat trails filled and planted
- SAV was planted and enhancements continue throughout the cell.



STA2 Cell 3

Timeline Jan 2017-Feb 2011

This graphic illustrates the short circuiting, wave action, and turbidity that we believe contributed to the collapse of the SAV. The addition of new vegetation strips further compartmentalizing the cell can be seen, as well as the return of the SAV



Contact Information

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Status of Restoration Strategies Science Plan Studies

Everglades National
Park

R. Thomas James
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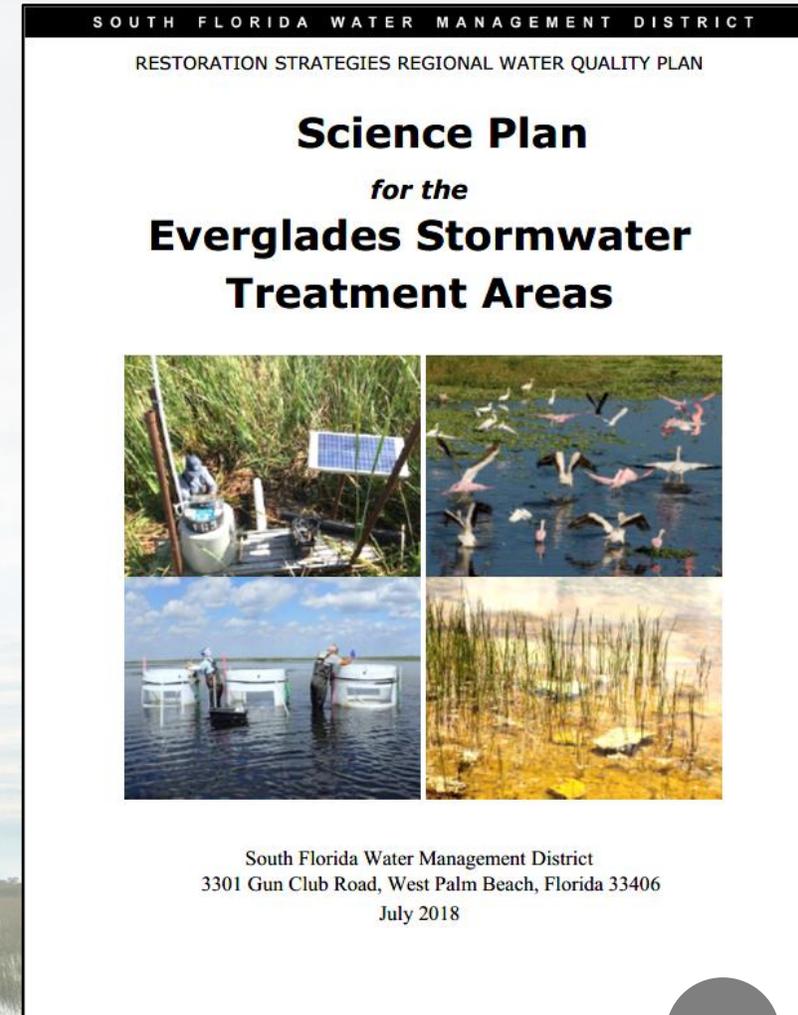
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Acknowledgements



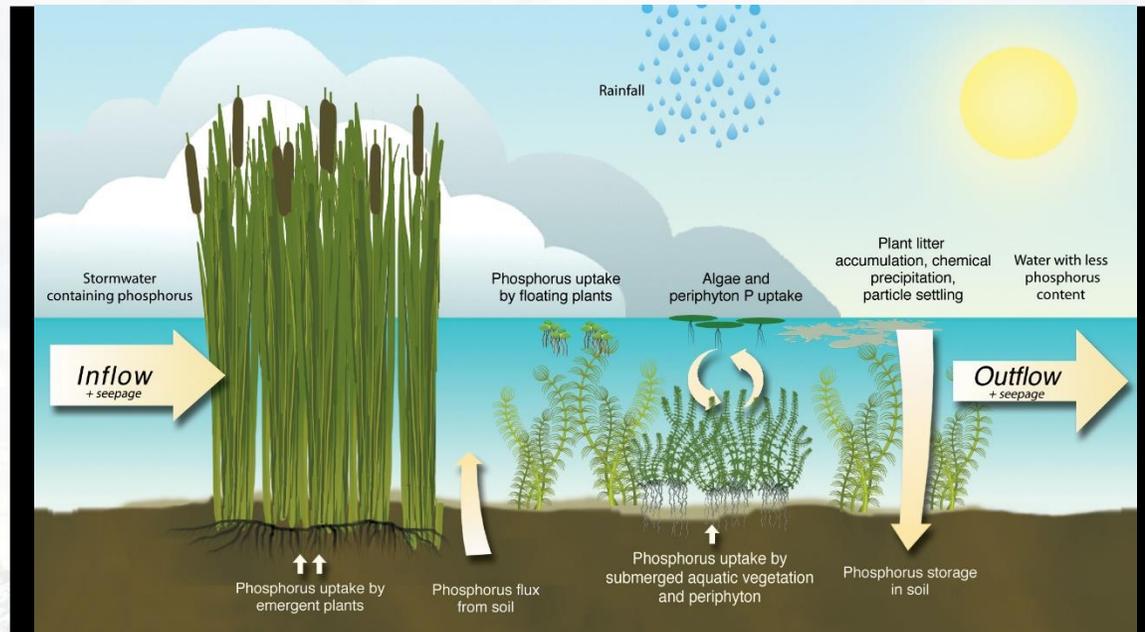
The Science Plan

- Developed in 2013 and updated in 2018
- Specified in Restoration Strategies and required by STA permits and consent orders
- Framework for 21 studies (8 completed, 13 ongoing)
 - Evaluate key factors and processes that affect phosphorus (P) removal in the STAs
 - Support design, operation & management of STAs to achieve Water Quality-Based Effluent Limits (WQBEL)



Areas of Investigation

6 Key questions and 18 sub-questions on these topics



1. Design and operation of FEBs
2. Design and operation of STAs
3. Vegetation improvement
4. Internal loading of P
5. Biogeochemical and physical mechanisms
6. Role of fauna

FEB

Studies Completed

Study Title	Major Findings
Development of Operational Guidance for Flow Equalization Basin (FEB) and STA Regional Operation (Operation Study)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developed relationships of flow, slope and resistance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supports STA operations • Developed iModel for Restoration Strategies Operational Protocol <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FEB operations can be optimized to meet the WQBEL
Influence of Canal Conveyance Features on STA and FEB Inflow and Outflow P Concentrations (Canal Study)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total P (TP) Export related to high flow events and increase of particulate P • Use of FEBs to reduced peak flow should reduce TP export
Investigation of STA-3/4 Periphyton-based Stormwater Treatment Area (PSTA) Technology Performance, Design, and Operational Factors (PSTA Study)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Muck removal and low inflow TP concentrations/loads resulted in annual flow weighted mean discharge of TP ≤ 13 ppb for last 14 years • Continue monitoring to evaluate performance
Evaluation of Sampling Methods for Total P (TP) (Sampling Study)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Time-based auto and grab samples more reliable for low flow gated structures • Autosamplers vulnerable to plant and animal contamination
Evaluation of the Role of Rooted Floating Aquatic Vegetation (rFAV) in STAs (rFAV Study)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • rFAV does not enhance P reduction in outflow region compared to submerged aquatic vegetation

Studies Completed

Study Title	Major Findings
Evaluation of P Sources, Forms, Flux and Transformation Processes in the STAs (P Flux Study)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • P removal is primarily organic in EAV and primarily mineral SAV • P gradients decrease from inflow to outflow • No-flow conditions result in increased water column TP in SAV regions, especially after high load events • Internal loading affects STA performance
STA Water and P Budget Improvements (Water and P Budget Study)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved Period of Record flow data at all structures of STA-2 Flow-ways 1, 2, 3 and STA-3/4 all flow-ways <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved accuracy of water budgets (reduced residuals) • Rainfall, ET, change in storage, and seepage are minor contributors • Improved accuracy of TP budgets
Evaluation of Inundation Depth and Duration Threshold for Cattail Sustainability (Cattail Study)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water depths > 91 cm for more than 100 days result in observable stress • Test cell treatments <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cattail can adapt to changing water levels > 84 cm in first 8 weeks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased leaf elongation • Decline in density of adult and juvenile cattail in first 8 weeks

Ongoing Studies

Study Title	Year Initiated	Expected completion
Use of Soil Amendments and/or Management to Control P Flux (Soil Management Study)	2013	2023
Evaluation of Factors Contributing to the Formation of Floating Tussocks in the STAs (Tussock Study)	2018	2022
Improving Resilience of SAV in the STAs (SAV Resilience Study)	2018	2022
Investigation of the Effects of Abundant Faunal Species on P Cycling in the STAs (Faunal Study)	2018	2022
Periphyton and Phytoplankton P Uptake and Release (Periphyton Study)	2019	2023
L-8 FEB Operational Guidance (L8-FEBOG Study)	2019	2022
Quantifying the Recalcitrance and Lability of P to Optimize P Retention Within STAs (Biomarker Study)	2020	2023
Phosphorus Dynamics in the Everglades Stormwater Treatment Areas (P Dynamics Study)	2020	2023
Data Integration and Analyses (Data Integration Study)	2020	2024

Recent Ongoing Studies

Study Title	Year Initiated	Expected completion
Assess Feasibility and Benefits of Consolidating Accrued Marl in the Submerged Aquatic Vegetation Cells/Flow-ways of the Stormwater Treatment Areas (Marl Study)	2021	2023
Phosphorus Removal Performance of Ecotopes in the STAs (Ecotope Study)	2021	2022
The Effect of Vertical Advective Transport on TP Concentrations in the STAs [Advection]	2021	2023
Sustainable Landscape and Treatment in a Stormwater Treatment Area Study [Landscape]	2022	2023

Soil Management Study

➤ Objective

- Determine if soil amendment applications and/or soil management techniques can reduce internal P loads

➤ Results

- Amendment technologies
 - Expensive
 - Effects to downstream Everglades are unknown
 - Amendments no longer part of study
- Soil inversion (tilling) study (STA-1W Expansion Area 1)
 - Plant surveys
 - SAV in Cell 8 (untilled) > Cell 7 (tilled)
 - *Typha sp.* (cattail) in Cell 7 > Cell 8 Typha

➤ Status

- Sampling at inflow and outflow structures began in July 2021
- Sample analysis ongoing, restricted cell operation at startup
- Additional Plant and internal water quality surveys are planned



Tussock Study

➤ Objective

- Determine factors that cause the formation of floating cattail (*Typha sp.*) communities and tussocks

➤ Results

- Predictors of historical tussock formation
 - High-water levels
 - Past land use (agriculture)
 - TP content of soils
- Unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) equipped with multispectral scanner used to survey cells and found tussocks not seen in satellite imagery
 - Methodology optimized

➤ Status

- UAV surveys of all STA Cells completed
 - Data being analyzed
- Buoyancy model for *Typha* under development



SAV Resilience Study

➤ Objective

- Investigate the effects of operational and natural environmental conditions affecting SAV health

➤ Results

- Factors affecting SAV community
 - P loading, soil type, water depth, light, stratification, and herbivory
- Previously dried soils compared to wet soils
 - Faster germination
 - Growth rates are similar
- SAV growth reduced in enclosures with fish
- P load experiments (low P soil)
 - High P load results in high SAV density
- P load experiments (High P soil)
 - Increase of lowest achievable P concentration
 - Intense stratification (dissolved oxygen reduction)
 - Robust SAV community under all P load conditions

➤ Status

- P load experiments continue through 2022



Fauna Study

➤ Objective

- Quantify abundant fauna and effects on outflow STA cell P-cycling and loading evaluate their effect on P outflow

➤ Results

- Compared to Everglades
 - Higher density of fish
 - Higher P content
- Bioturbation can double the TP content in enclosures
- Excretion by fish can reprocess over 100% of P loading to STAs

➤ Status

- Fish biomass sampling ongoing
- Bioturbation experiments completed
 - Analyses is ongoing
- Excretion rate studies completed
- Electrofishing calibration study being planned



Periphyton Study

➤ Objective

- Estimate growth, senescence, P uptake and release rates from periphyton and phytoplankton in downstream STA treatment flow-ways under various flow conditions

➤ Results

- First Bioavailability study incubations
 - Periphyton community declined when ambient nutrient concentrations (9 – 11 $\mu\text{g/L}$) were reduced by $\sim 50\%$
 - Slight reduction in surface water P after 3-weeks (1-2 $\mu\text{g/L}$)

➤ Status

- Second Bioavailability study incubations complete
 - Sample analyses ongoing
- Metagenomics study
 - Analyses of samples underway



L-8 FEB STUDY

➤ Objective

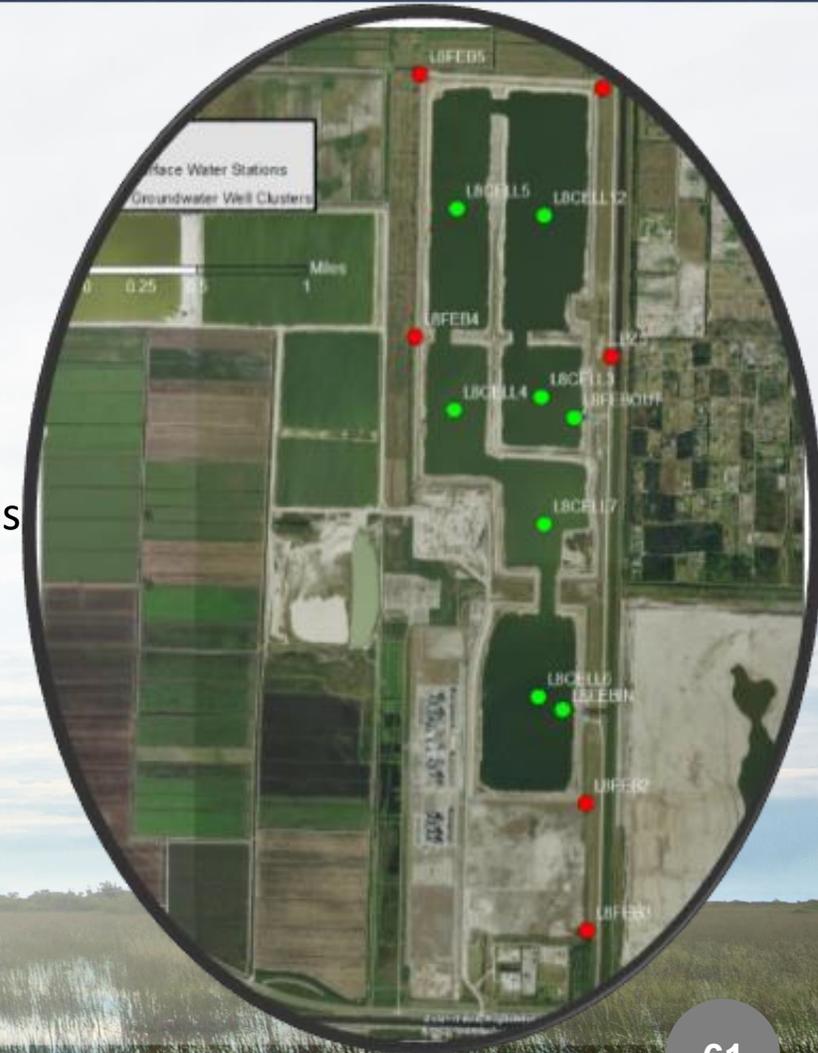
- Evaluate relationships among L-8 FEB water quality, stage, flow and groundwater to provide guidance for support of FEB operations to enhance STA performance

➤ Results

- Potential sources of elevated P in surface water
 - Large inflows
 - Contribute significant loads of nutrients and suspended materials
 - Resuspend TP from benthic sediments
 - Groundwater is not a factor
 - Runoff from embankments is not a factor

➤ Status

- Monitoring response of L-8 FEB to inflow events
- Alum injection feasibility study underway



Biomarker Study

➤ Objective

- Evaluate relationships between organic matter and P; their sources and potential turnover of P within the STAs

➤ Results

- STA inflow waters and Lake Okeechobee outflow water have varying DOM quality
 - Indicates different sources and turnover
- Photodegradation in open water and SAV-regions of STAs can affect dissolved organic matter
- Pilot decomposition and leaching experiment provided valuable information to optimize litter bag experiment

➤ Status

- A litter and floc decomposition study will be conducted
- Photochemistry experiments and spectroscopy of STA waters will continue
- Transect sampling is being planned



P Dynamics Study

➤ Objective

- Evaluate mechanisms and factors influencing P reduction in underperforming flow-ways (FW)s

➤ Results

- One full year of sampling completed
 - STA-2 FWs 3 and FW 4
 - STA-5/6 FW 1
 - STA-3/4 CFW
 - STA-1E EFW and CFW
- Spatial, flow and seasonal scales
 - Water quality
 - Vegetation
 - Soil

➤ Status

- Analysis ongoing
- Sampling ongoing



Marl Study

➤ Objective

- Evaluate drying and/or addition of organic materials to marl soils to improve physical stability, reduce internal P loading and reduce water column P concentrations in the lower reaches of the STAs

➤ Results

- Marl soils from multiple SAV-dominated sites compared based on physical stability and aggregation
- Soils from one site selected for an organic amendment study
 - Selection based on high water column turbidity and TP concentrations

➤ Status

- Experiment to compare stability of organically amended and unamended dried marl soils is underway
- Three organic amendments being evaluated
 - Dead cattail leaves
 - Sugarcane bagasse
 - Humic soil



Fine Marl Sediments
STA-1W Cell 3

Ecotope Study

➤ Objective

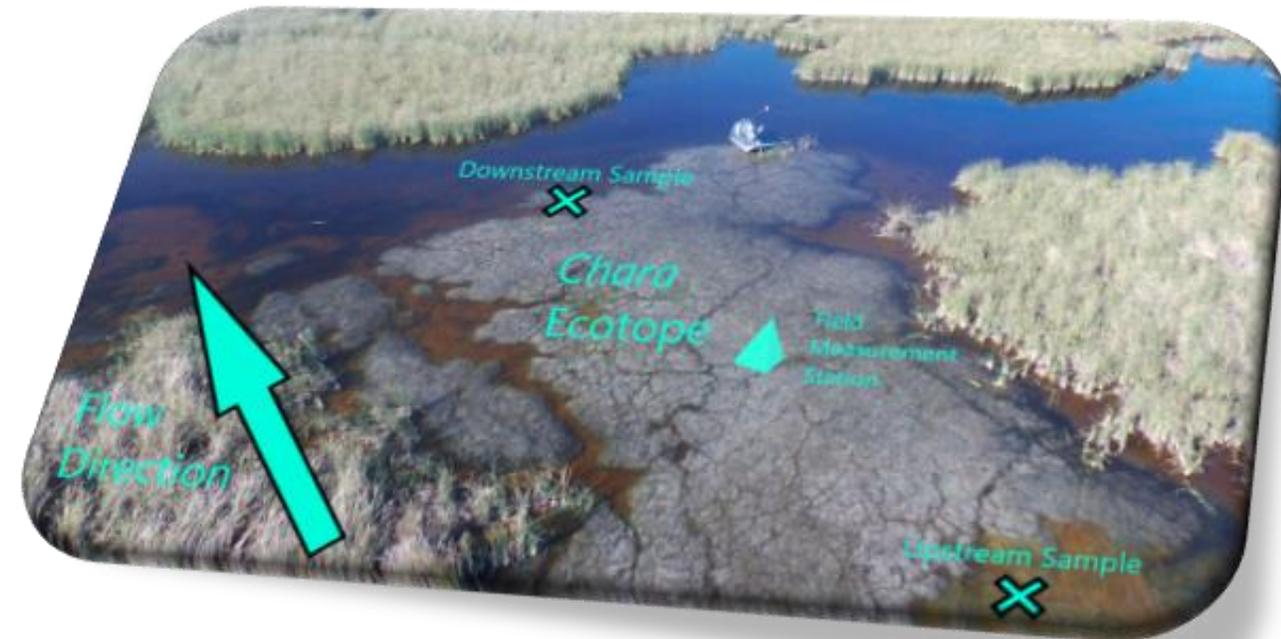
- Estimate P removal by ecotopes commonly found in the STAs

➤ Results

- Five unique ecotopes selected for study; *Chara*, *Typha*, *Najas guadalupensis*, *Chara/Najas* mix, and bare soil
- Six months of sampling of ecotope water quality suggests small differences in P treatment performance
- Additional samples are required to determine if these differences between are statistically significant and meaningful

➤ Status

- On- going
- Stop/go meeting scheduled for June



Advection Study

➤ Objective

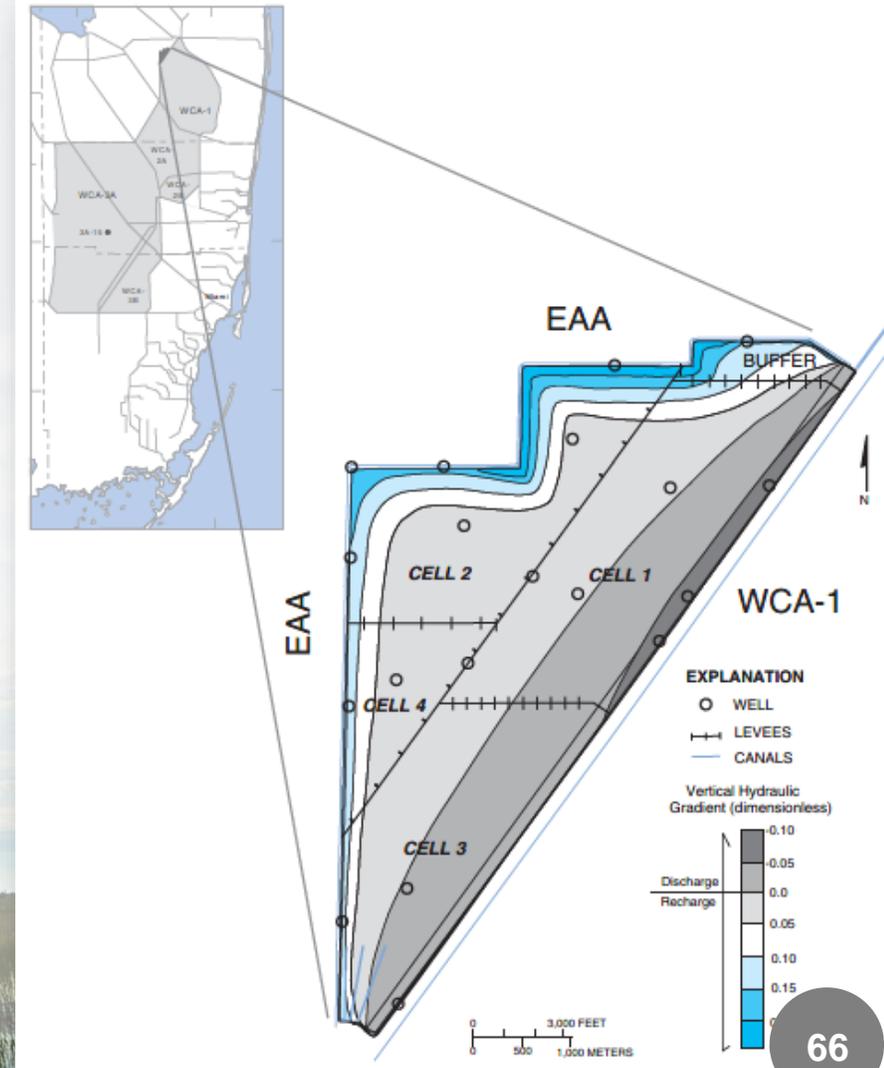
- Quantify the relative magnitude/importance of P loading from positive seepage across the soil/water interface

➤ Results

- Project Documentation Report Completed
- Detailed Study Plan Approved

➤ Status

- Work Order Initiated for Phase I
 - Literature review
 - Historical data analyses and budgets
 - Simple P model including seepage



Landscape Study

➤ Objective

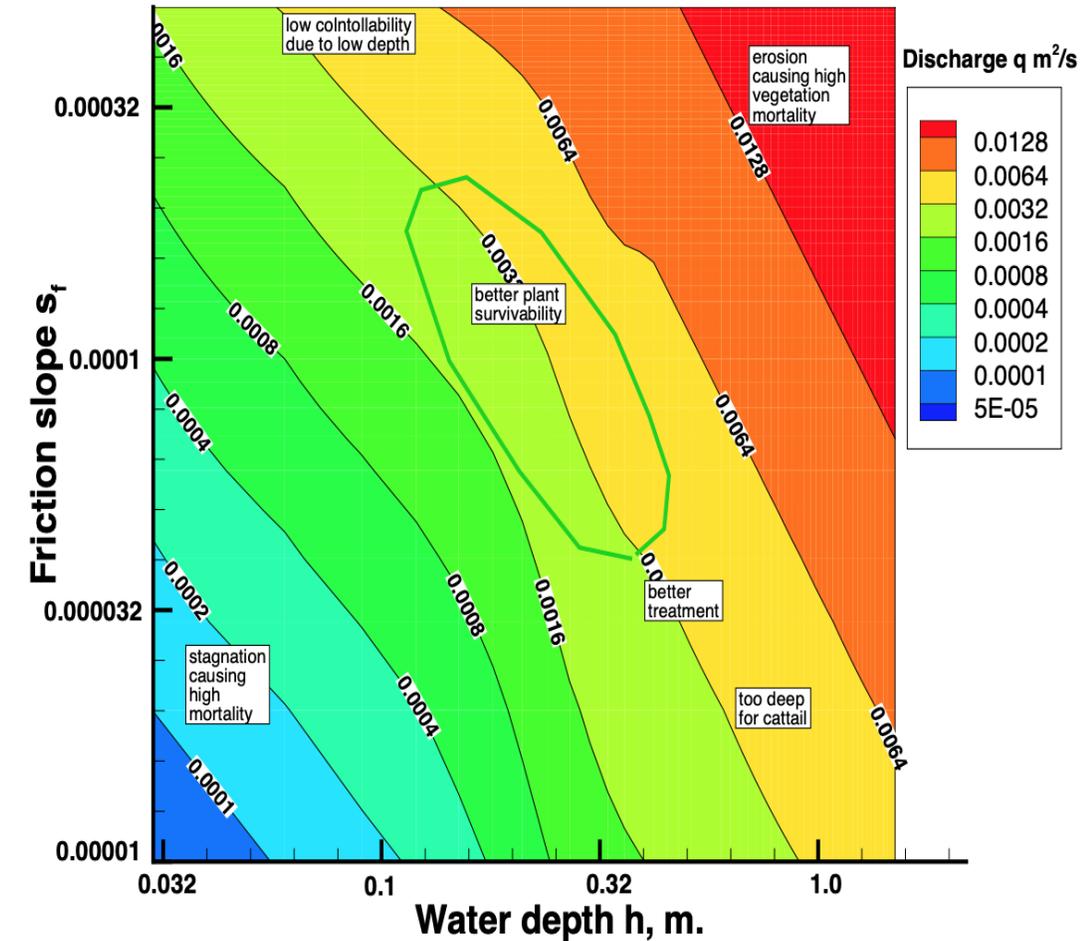
- Quantify flow effects on hydraulic mixing

➤ Results

- Ongoing

➤ Status

- Detailed Study Plan developed
- Work Order under negotiation
- Project Documentation Report complete



Data Integration Study

➤ Objective

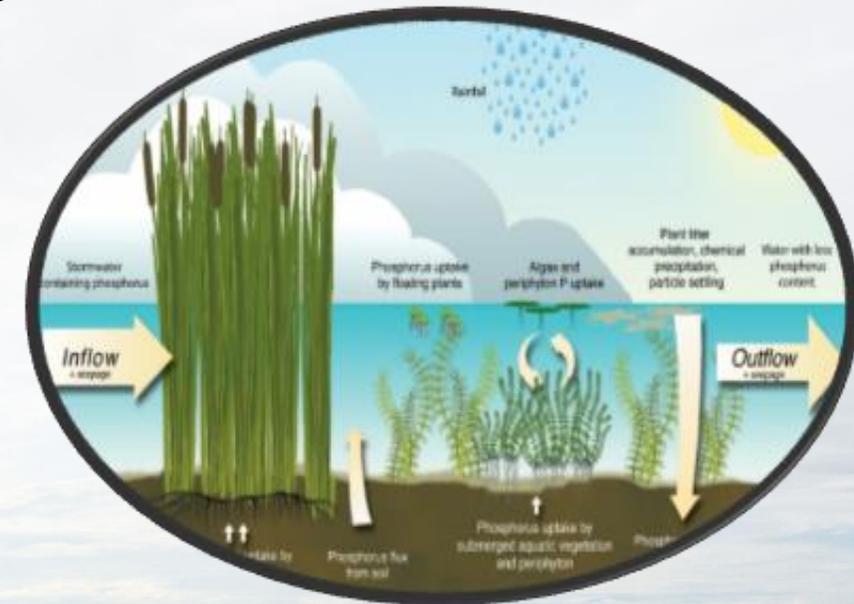
- Develop a comprehensive description of P dynamics and factors affecting Everglades STA performance through document review, data review and analyses, and modeling

➤ Results

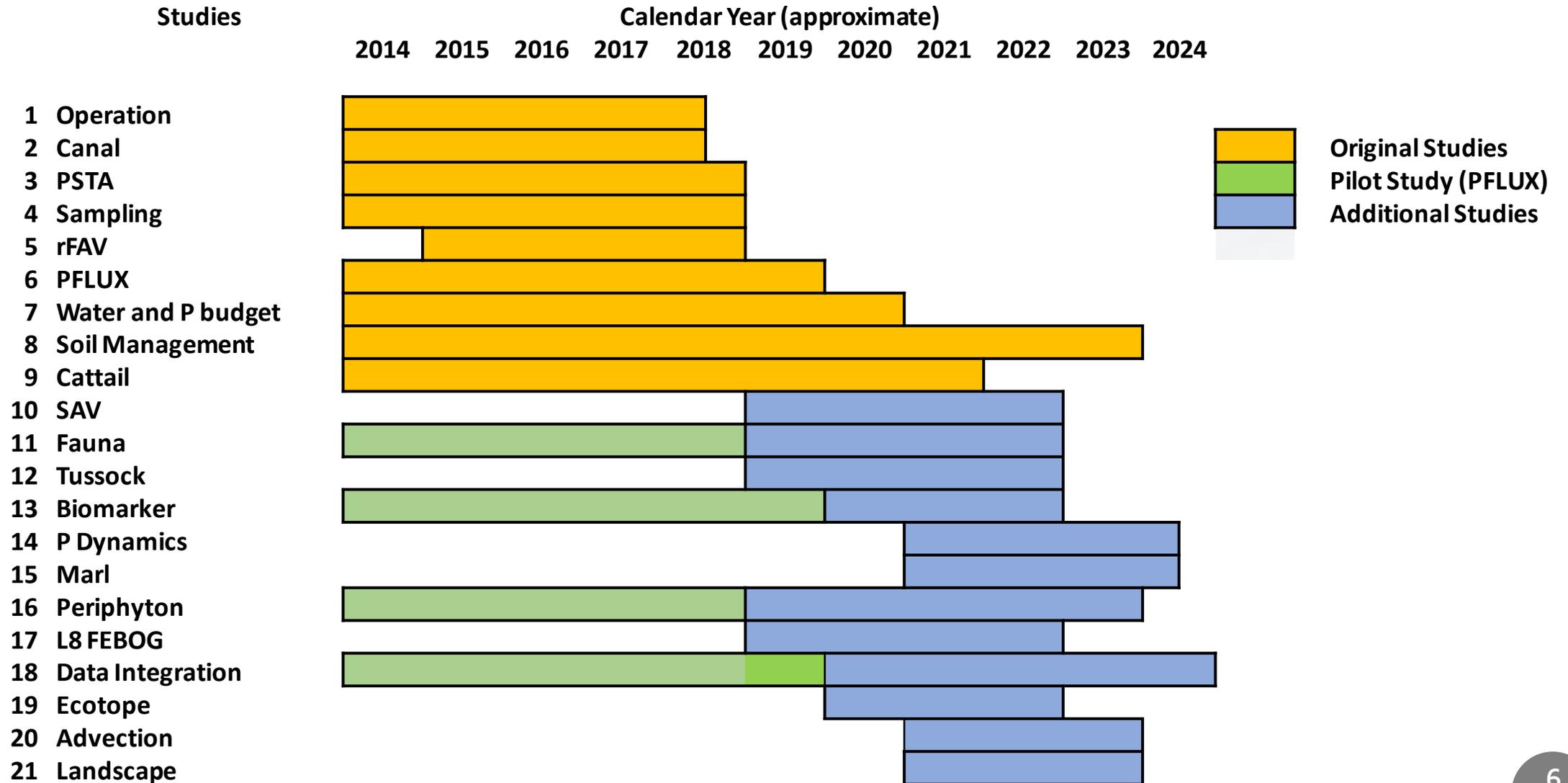
- Microbial literature review
 - Reduced mineralization in soils and enhanced enzyme activity in water column promote lower TP outflow concentrations
- Analyses of outflow soil, water, plants
 - Dense SAV results in low TP outflow (typically not below 13 ppb)
 - Soil management to reduce internal P load can result in lower TP outflow
- Period of Record monthly water quality data set for all STAs compiled
 - Analyzed using Structural Equation Models
 - Limited consistency among STAs
 - Lower inflow TP results in lower outflow TP concentrations
- Biogeochemical EAV model of STA-2 FW1 has been developed and calibration is ongoing

➤ Status

- Biogeochemical model development continues
- Food web model being developed



Science Plan Study Timelines



Contact and More Information

Tom James

tjames@sfwmd.gov

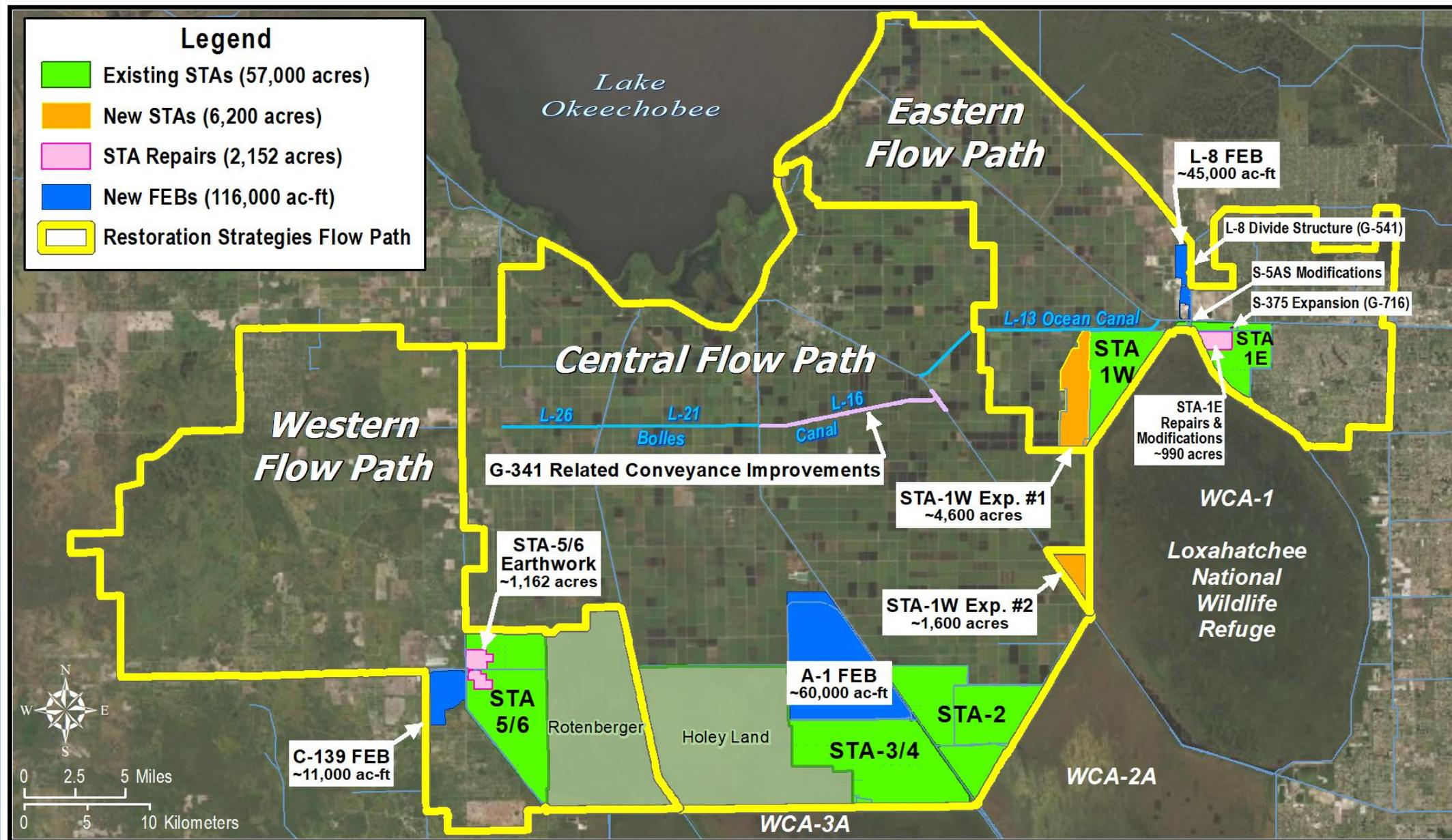
https://apps.sfwmd.gov/sfwmd/SFER/2021_sfer_final/v1/chapters/v1_ch5c.pdf

<https://www.sfwmd.gov/our-work/restoration-strategies/science-plan>

Restoration Strategies: Engineering & Construction Update

Lucine Dadrian, P.E.
Project Management Section Administrator
Engineering and Construction
sfwmd.gov

19th Annual Public Meeting on the Long-Term
Plan for Achieving Water Quality Goals for the
Everglades Protection Areas Tributary Basins
February 28, 2022



Restoration Strategies Project Status

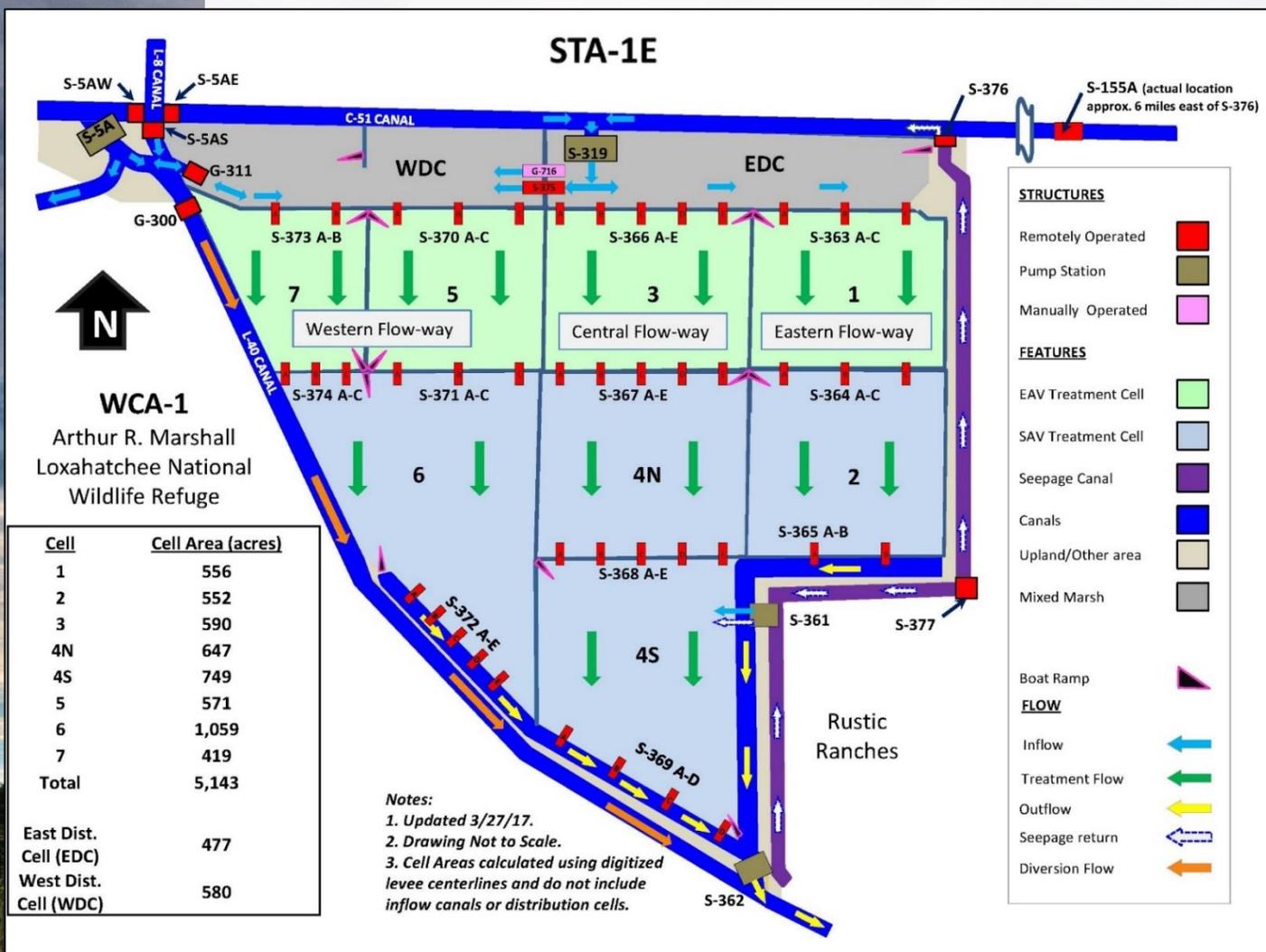
➤ Completed Construction:

- STA2 Expansion Compartment B
- STA 5/6 Expansion Compartment C
- S-5AS Modifications
- L-8 FEB *Multi-Use Operation*
- A-1 FEB
- L-8 Divide Structure (G-541)
- S-375 Expansion (G-716)
- STA 5/6 Earthwork *Optimization*
- STA-1W Expansion #1
- G-341 Segments 1 – 4

➤ Ongoing:

- STA-1E Repair *Construction*
- STA-1W Expansion #2 *Construction*
- G-341 Conveyance Seg 5 *Out for bids*
- C-139 FEB *Construction*

STA-1E Repairs & Modifications Project



- Raise and regrade ~990 acres in Cells 5 and 7 to achieve sustainable Emergent Aquatic Vegetation
- USACE Designed and Constructed STA-1E
 - Adjacent to northeast side of WCA-1 (Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge)
 - Flood control by stormwater retention
 - Stormwater treatment
 - Re-establish WCA-1 hydro-periods
- Transferred to SFWMD in October 2005
 - Cells 5 & 7 experienced performance issues related to excessive water depths
 - Complete regrading of Cells 5 & 7 by December 31, 2022 per Consent Order

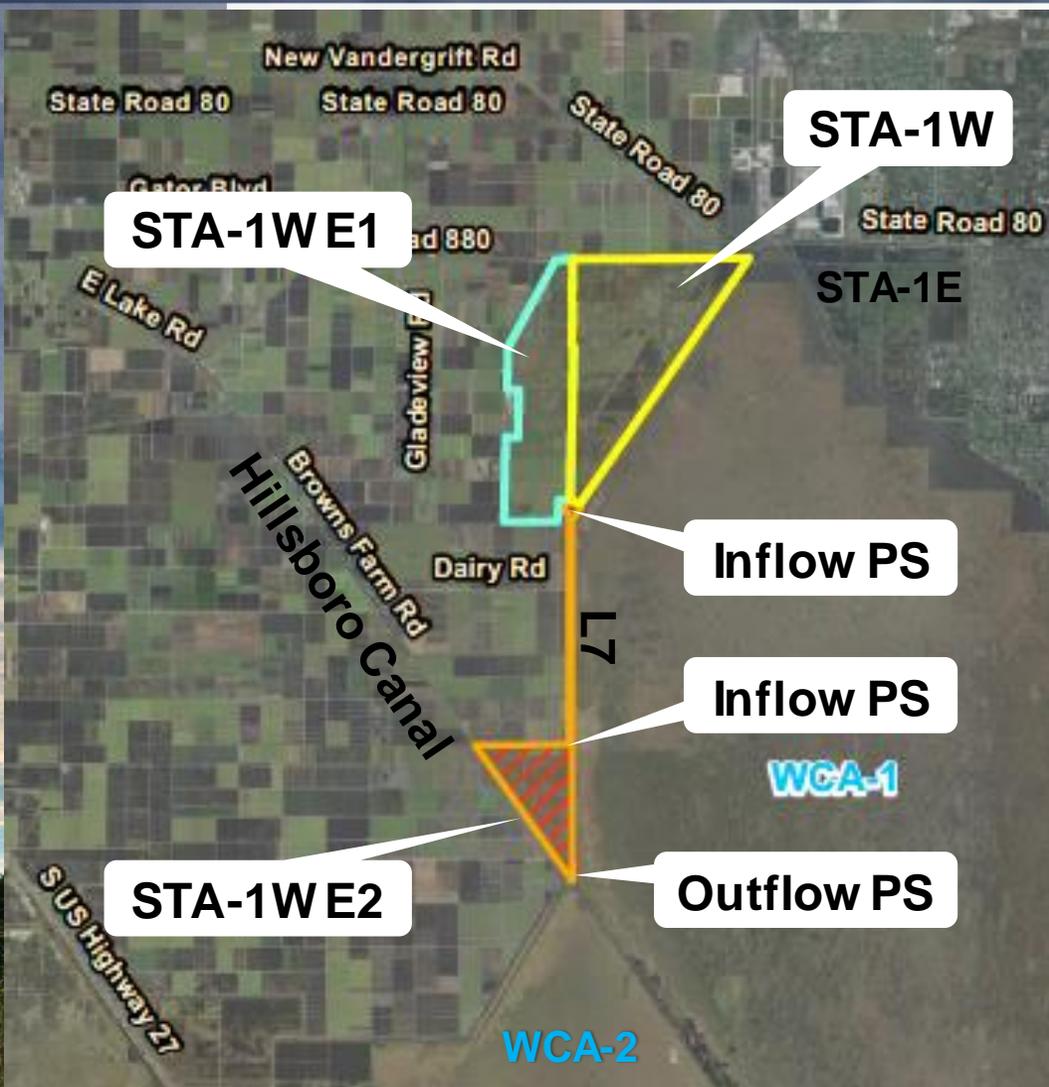
STA-1E Repairs & Modifications Project

- December 2021 Aerial Survey
- Cell 5
 - Regrading complete
 - Replanting complete
- Cell 7
 - Regrading complete
 - Replanting has begun
- Substantial Completion
January 2022



Presenter: Lucine Dadrian

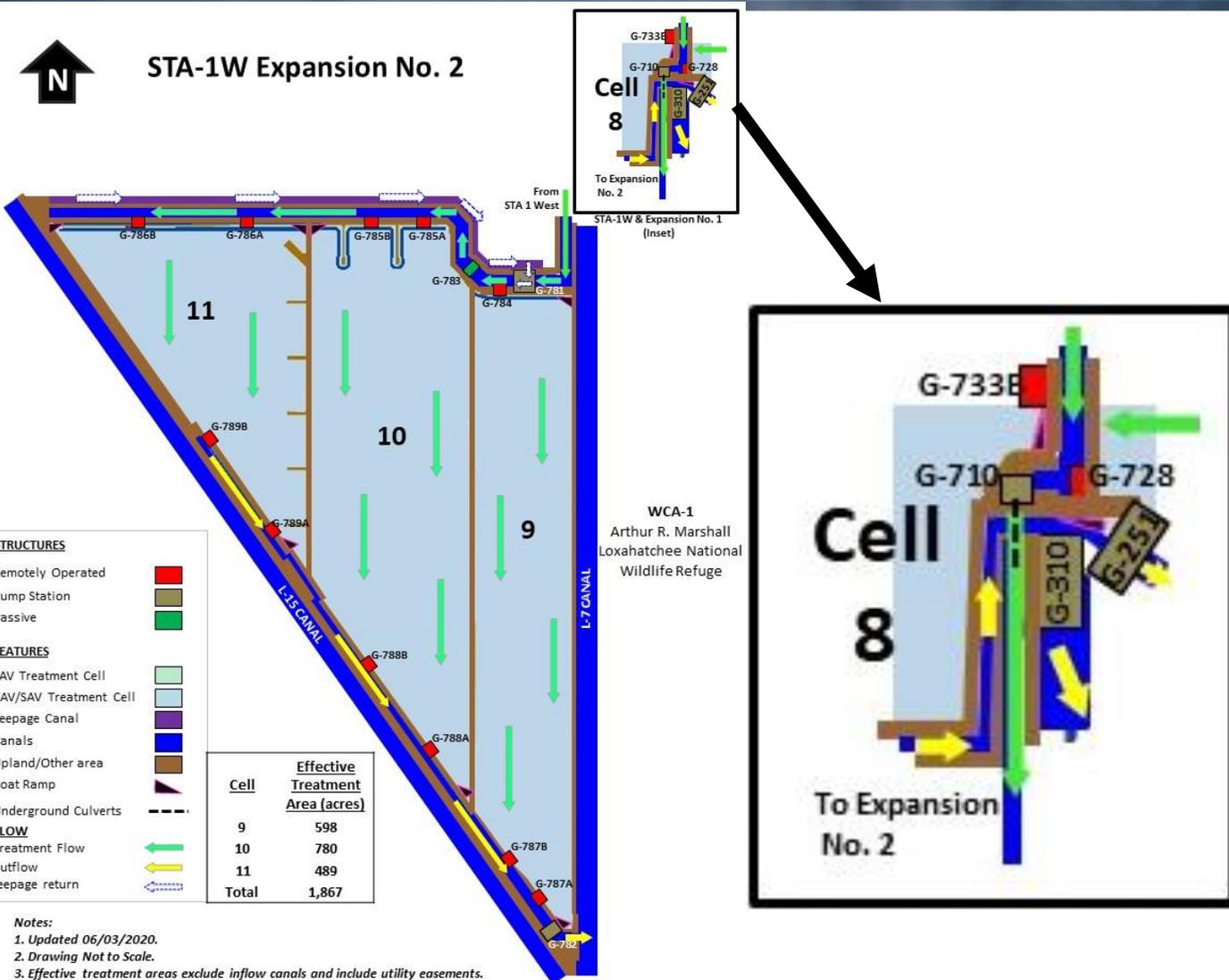
STA-1W Expansion No. 2



- Purpose is to extend treatment flowways for STA-1W
- Overall Construction Cost \$214M
- Features 1,600 acres of additional treatment area
- Inflows from S-5A and C-51 West Basins via STA-1W
- Outflow to Water Conservation Area 1

STA-1W Expansion No. 2

Schedule of Construction



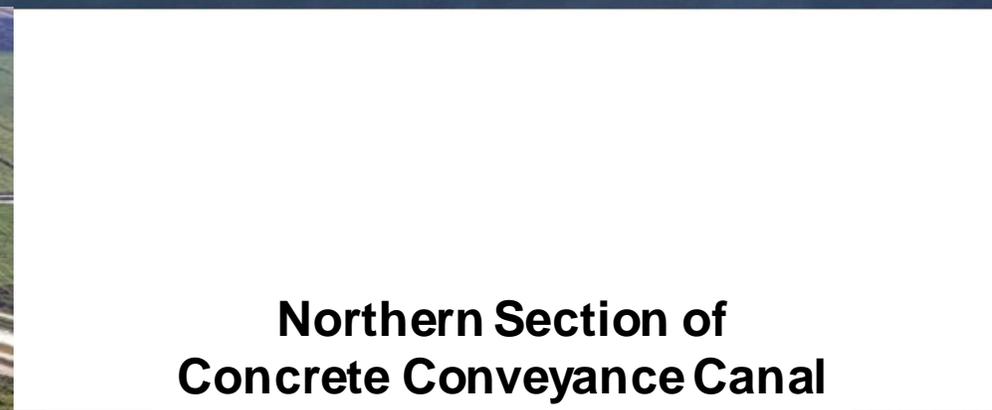
- Underground Piping Complete
 - Construction Complete - December 2020
- STA and Connector Canal
 - Start Construction - September 2020
 - 55% Complete
- Inflow Pump Stations (G780 & G781)
 - Start Construction – November 2020
 - 30% Complete
- Outflow Pump Station (G782)
 - Start Construction – November 2020
 - 20% Complete
- Complete Construction / Consent Order Milestone – December 2022

STA-1W Expansion No. 2

STA Civil Works



North Inflow Canal and Levee



Northern Section of Concrete Conveyance Canal



G-310

STA-1W Expansion No. 2 Inflow Pump Stations

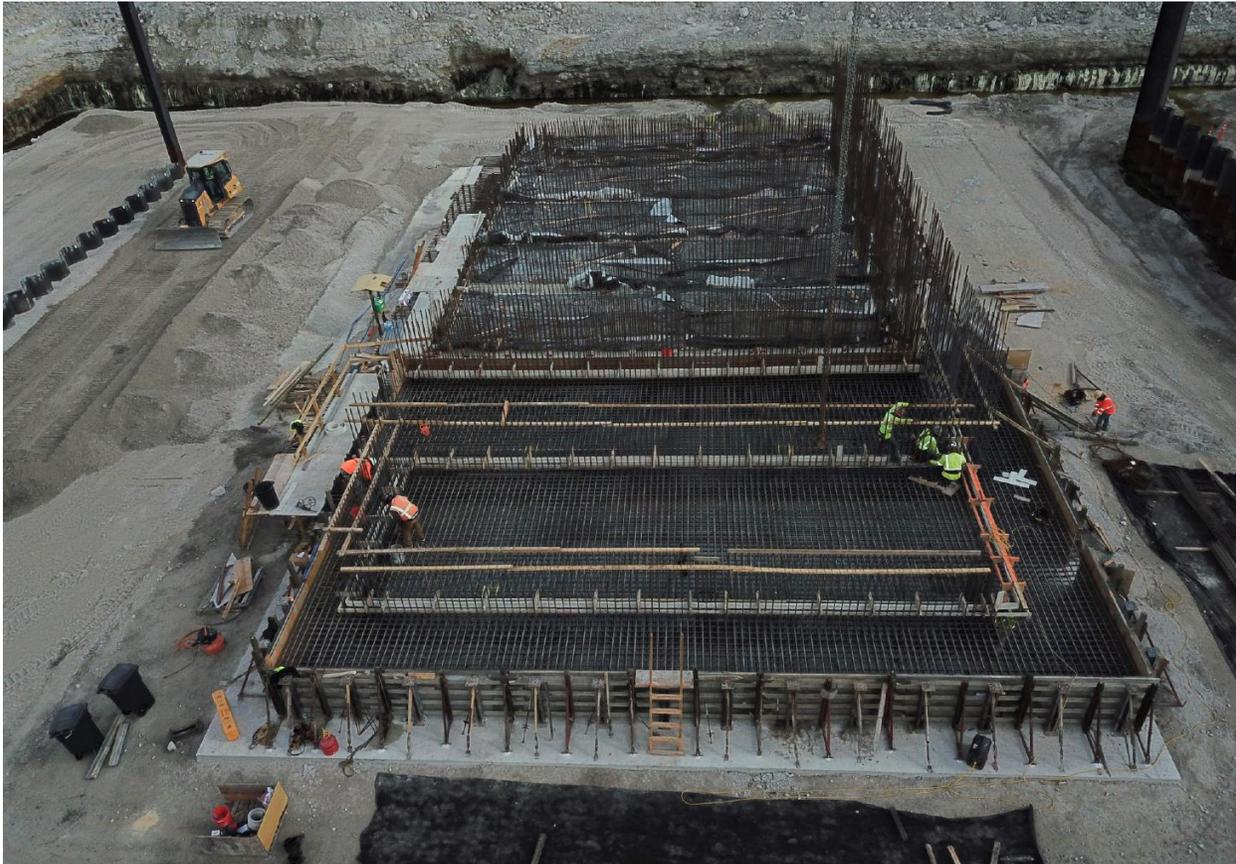


G-780 Building Pier Walls for Intake Bays



G-781 Building Pier Walls for Intake Bays

STA-1W Expansion No. 2 Outflow Pump Station



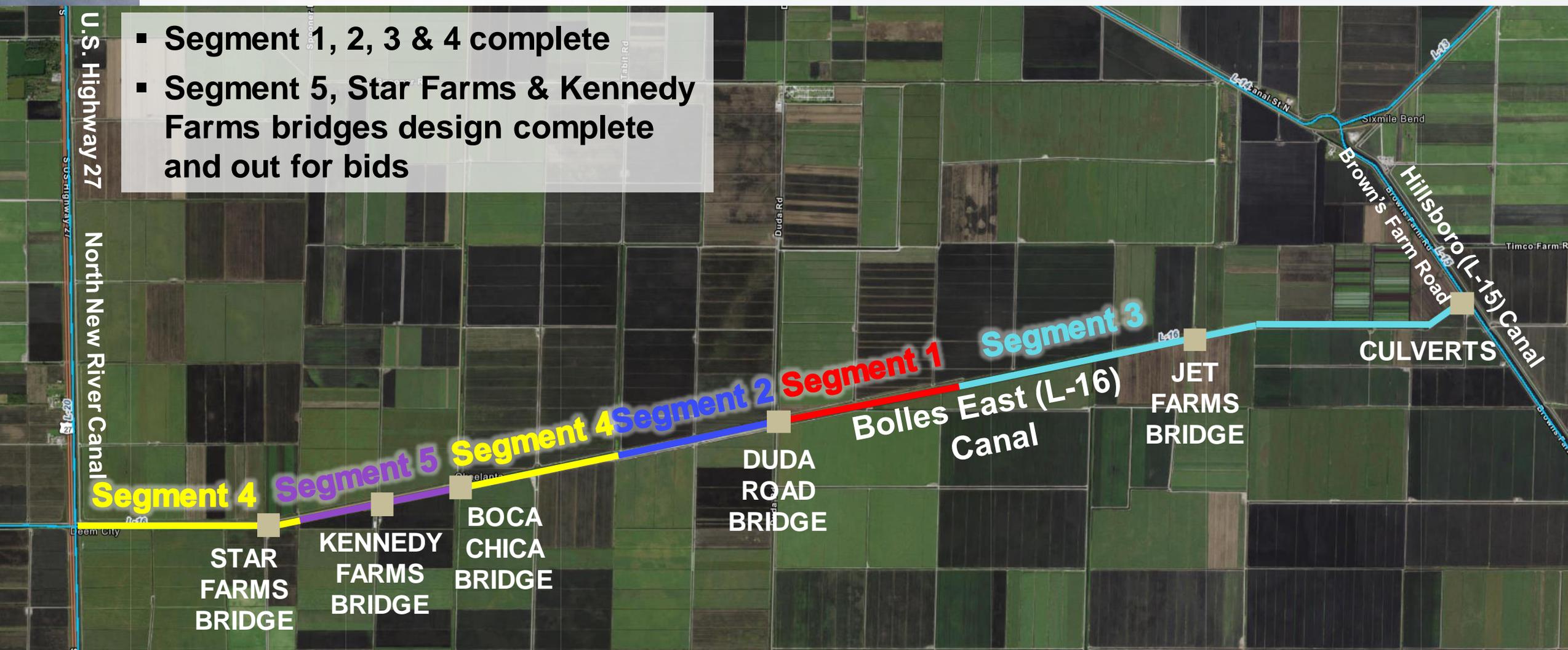
G-782 Base Slab Rebar Placement



G-782 Base Slab Concrete Placement

G-341 Related Conveyance Improvements Bolles East Canal

- Segment 1, 2, 3 & 4 complete
- Segment 5, Star Farms & Kennedy Farms bridges design complete and out for bids



G-341 Related Conveyance Improvements

Bolles East Canal – Segment 4



Slab Beam Installation

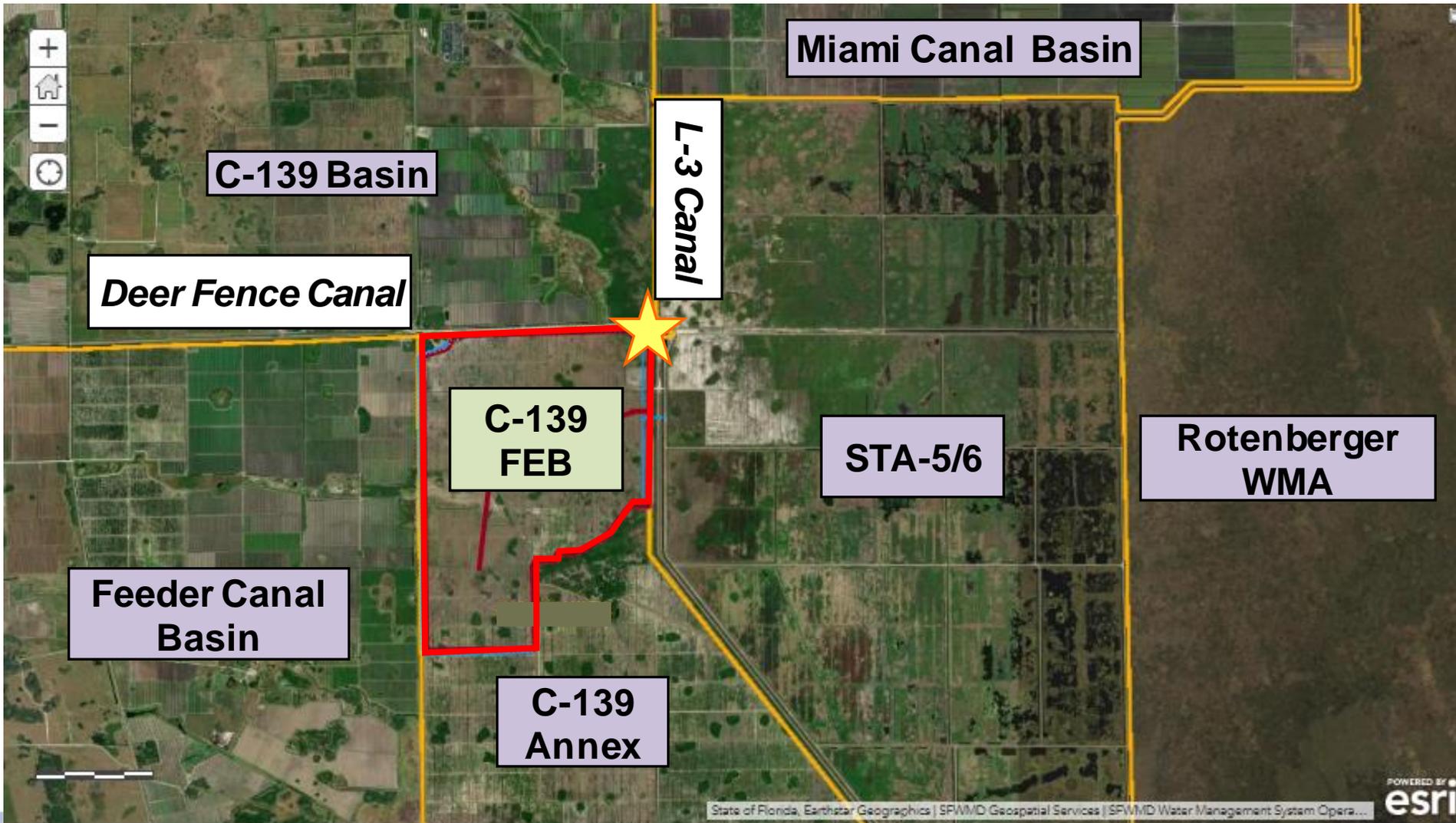


Completed Boca Chica Bridge

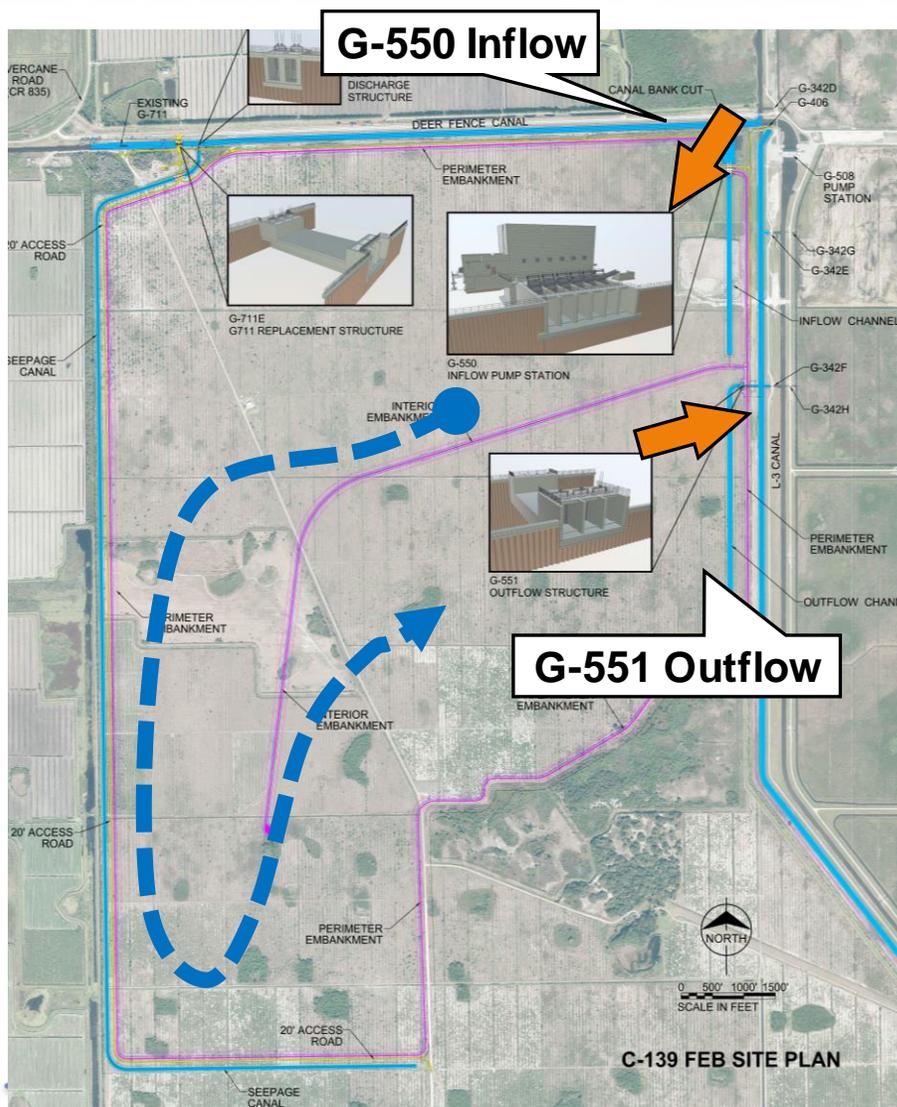
G-341 Related Conveyance Improvements Bolles East Canal – Segment 4



C-139 Flow Equalization Basin



C-139 Flow Equalization Basin



- Overall Project - 28% Complete
- G550 PS - Excavation 75% Complete
- G551 - Concrete 45% Complete
- Flow Equalization Basin
 - Land Levelling 25% Complete
 - Levee 18% Complete
 - Canal 25% Complete

C-139 Flow Equalization Basin



Western Perimeter Levee & Seepage Canal



G-551 Bay Structure Reinforcement

C-139 Flow Equalization Basin

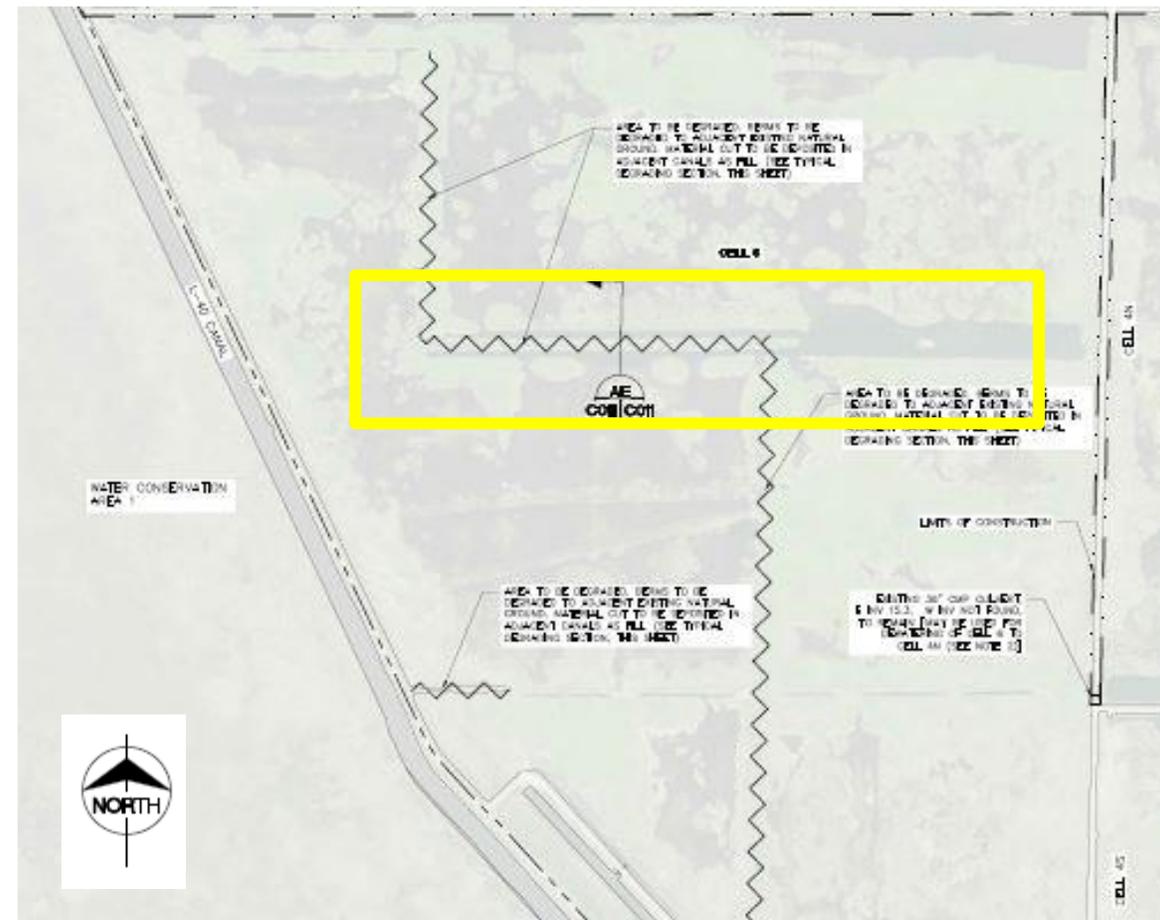


G-550 Pump Station Foundation Excavation



Western Seepage Canal Excavation

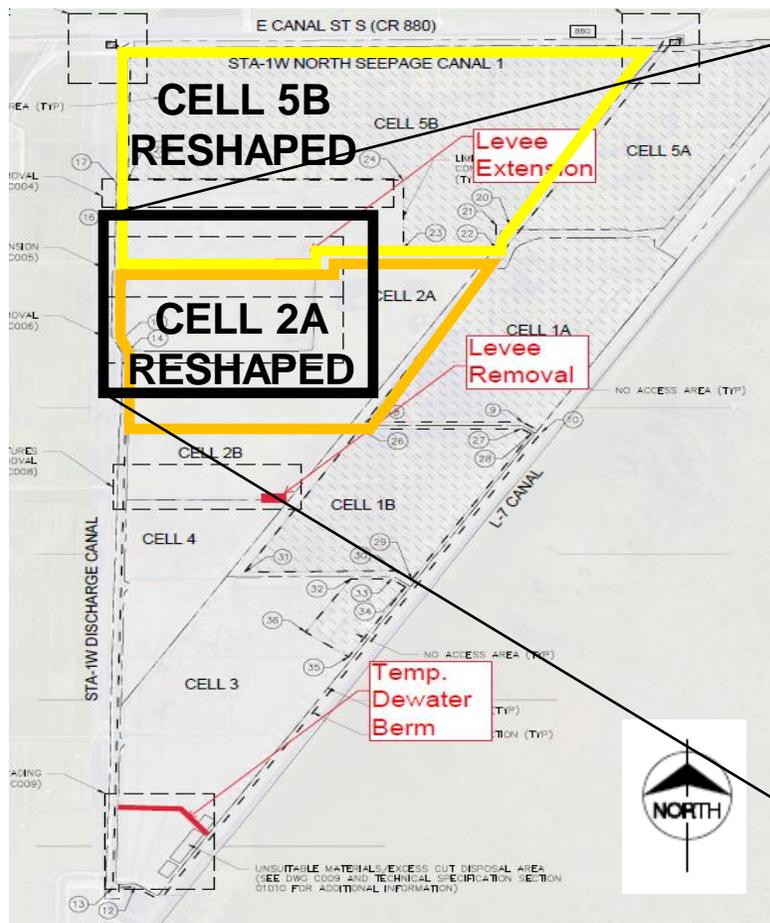
STA Refurbishments – STA-1E



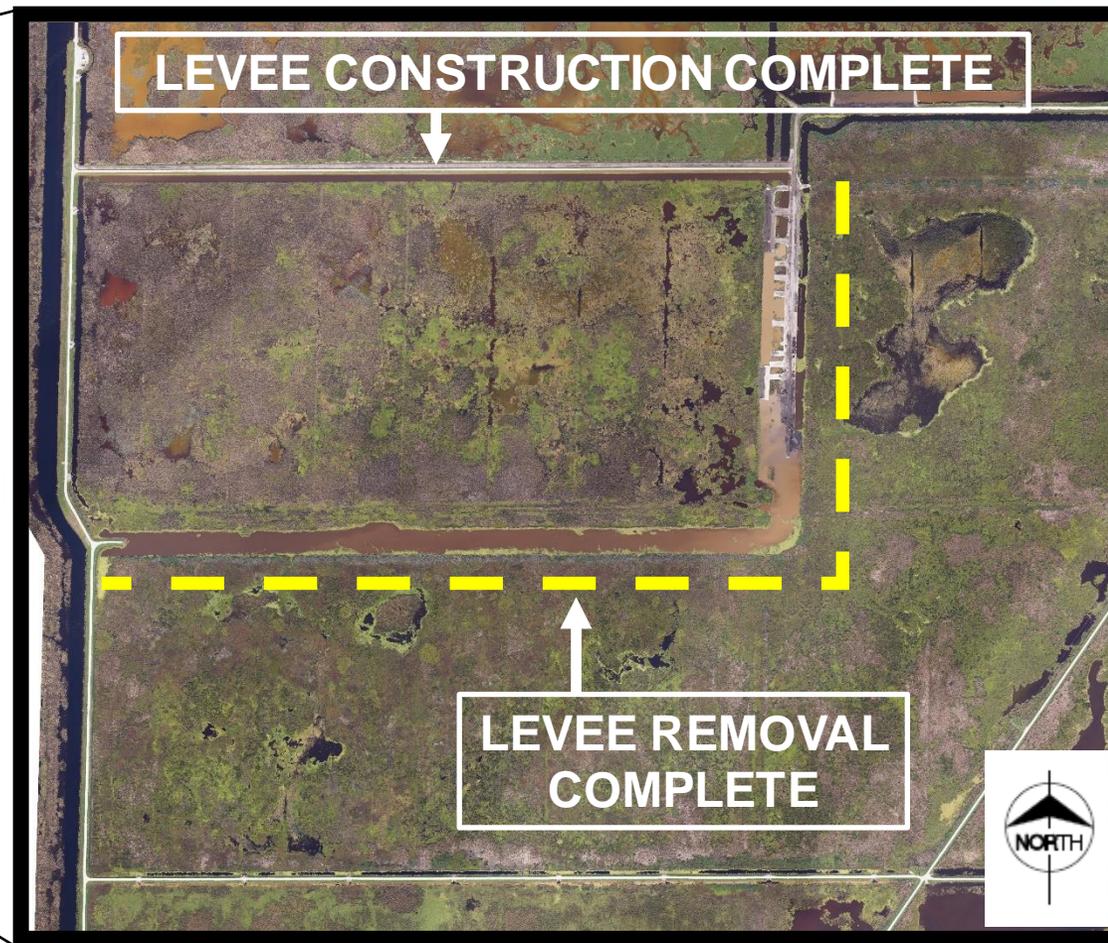
STA-1E Cell 6 – Berm Degrade Facing East

STA-1E Cell 6 – Berm Degrade Plan

STA Refurbishments – STA-1W

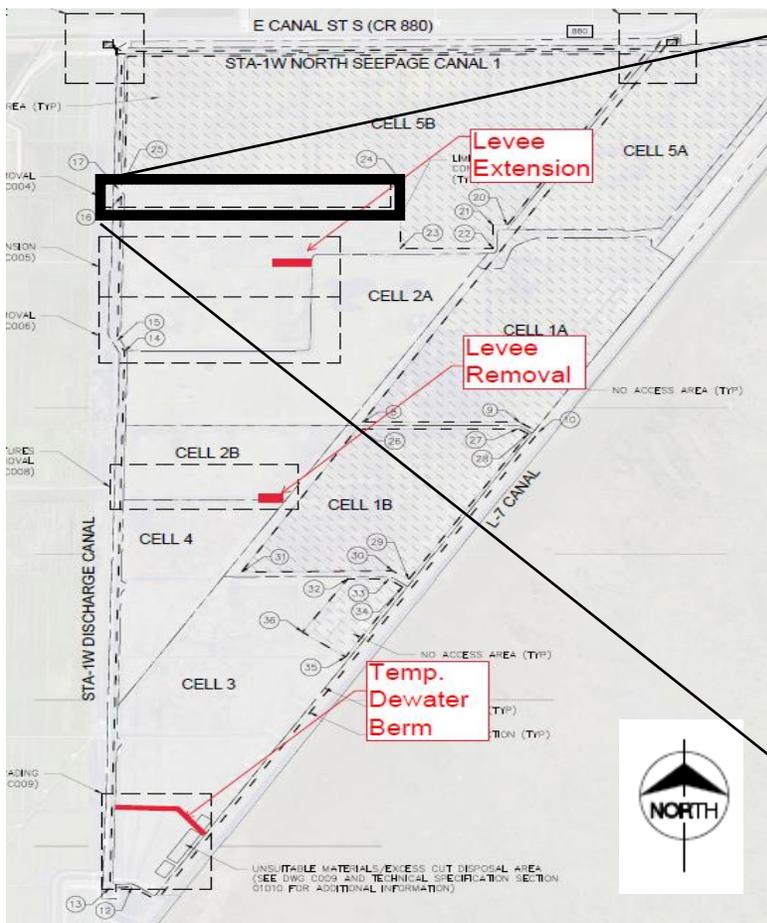


STA-1W Schematic

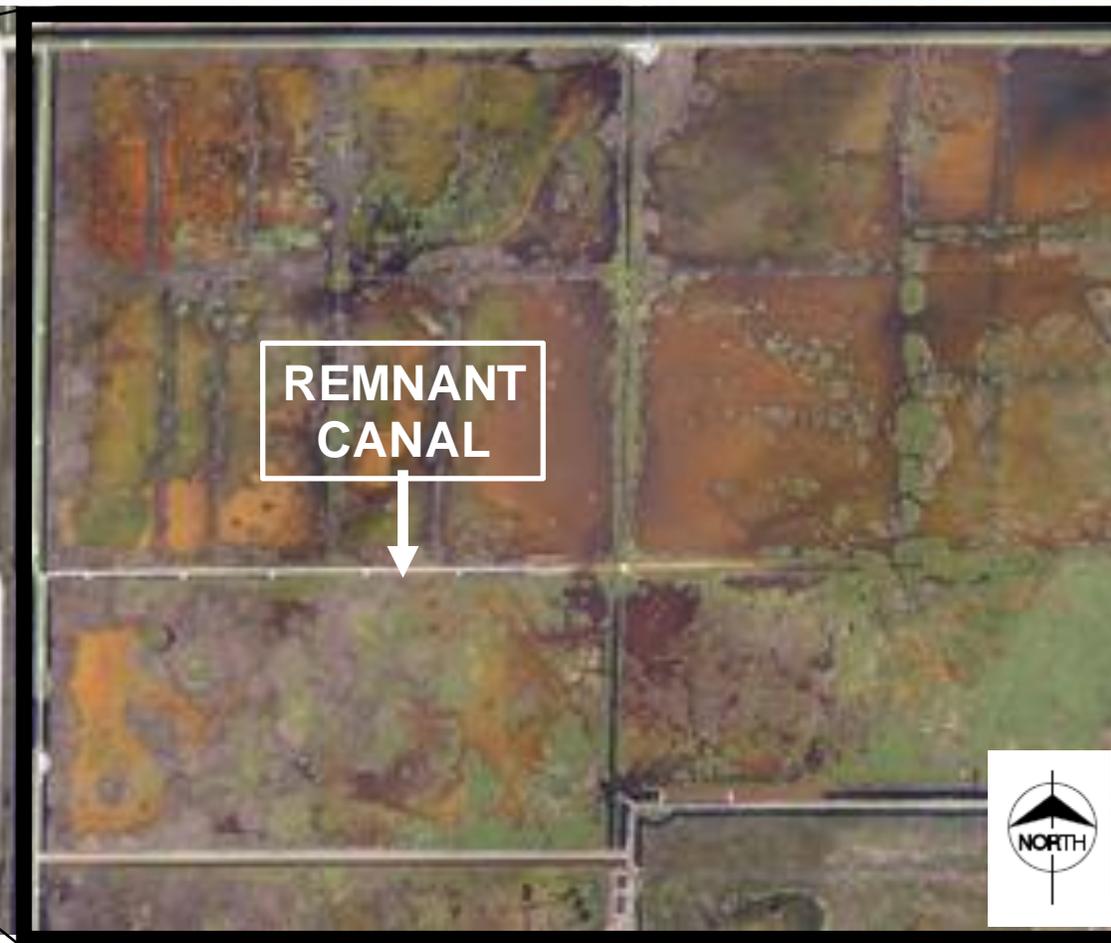


STA-1W Cell 5B/2A Levee Relocation to create 2 rectangular cells

STA Refurbishments – STA-1W

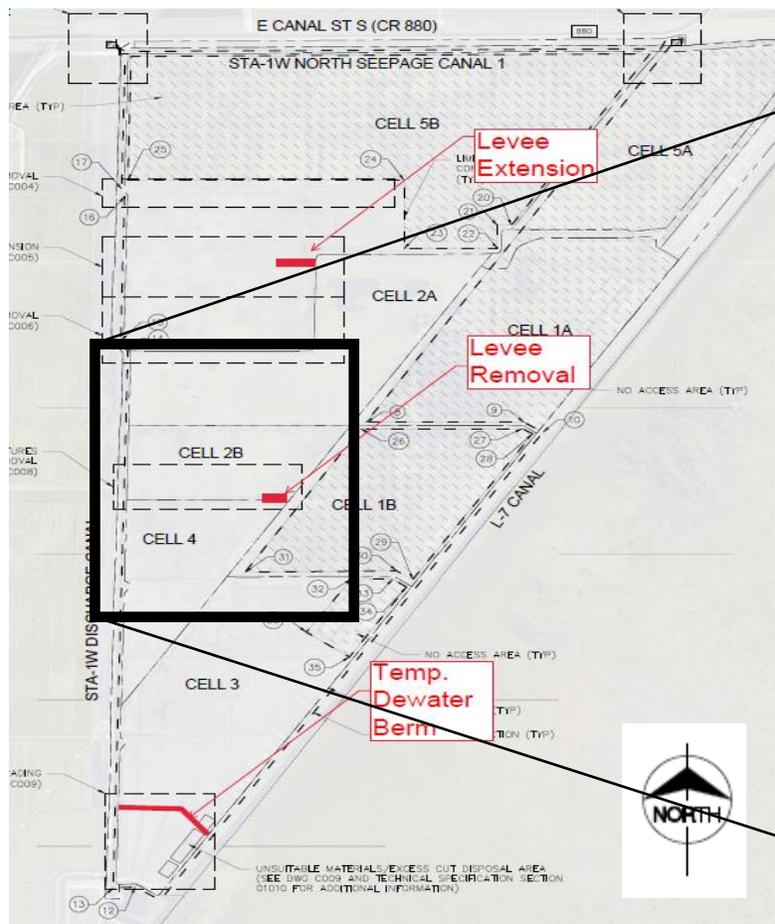


STA-1W Schematic



STA-1W Cell 5B Remnant Canal Fill
50% Complete

STA Refurbishments – STA-1W

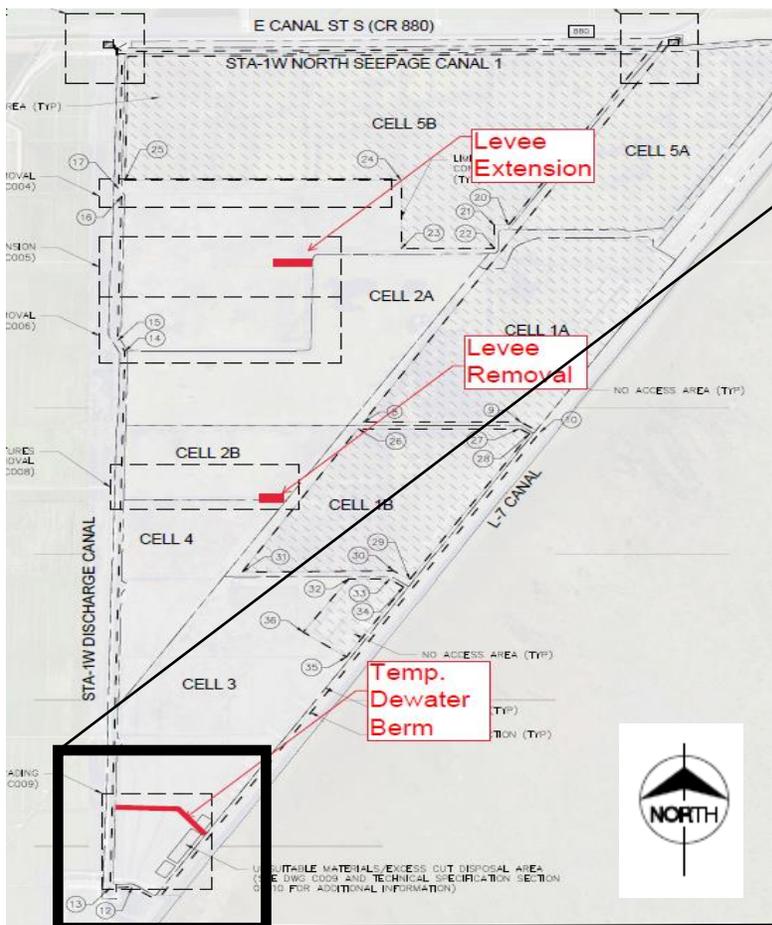


STA-1W Schematic

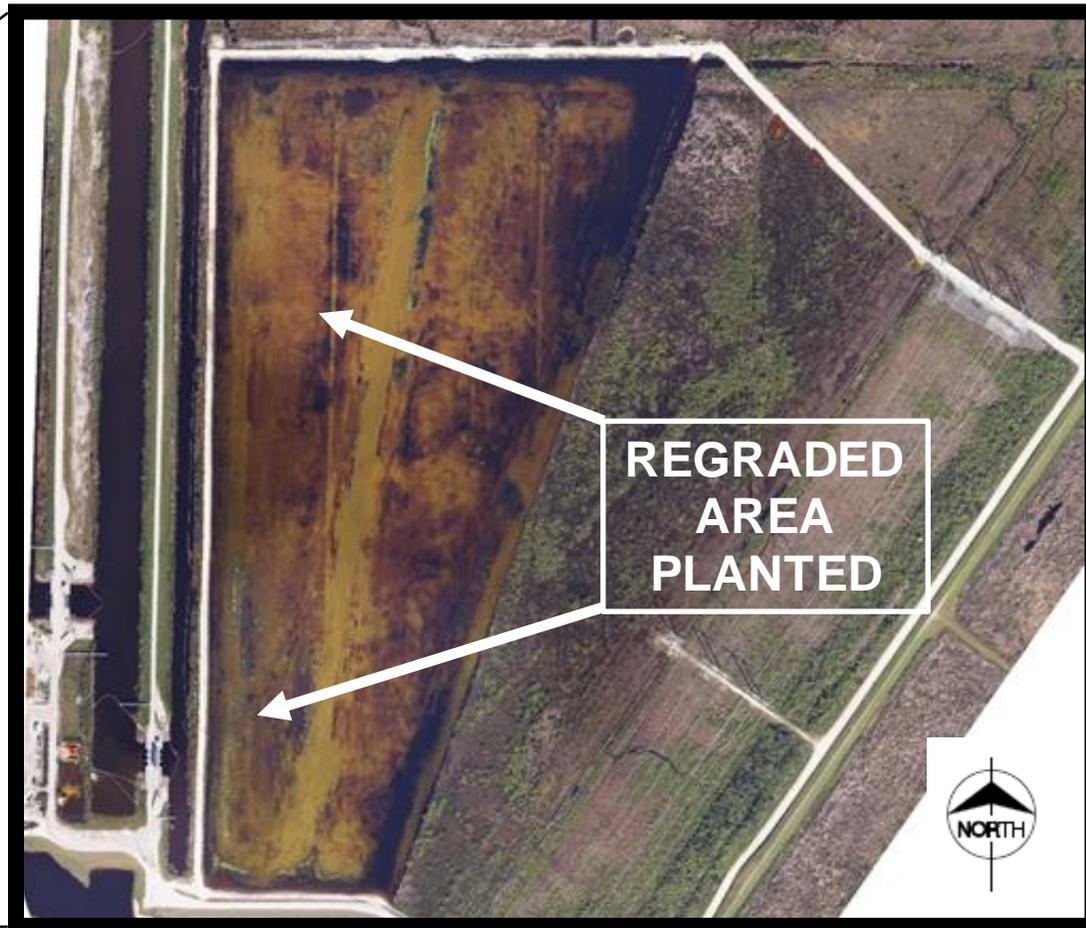


STA-1W Cell 2B/4 Levee Removal to create a single, larger cell

STA Refurbishments – STA-1W

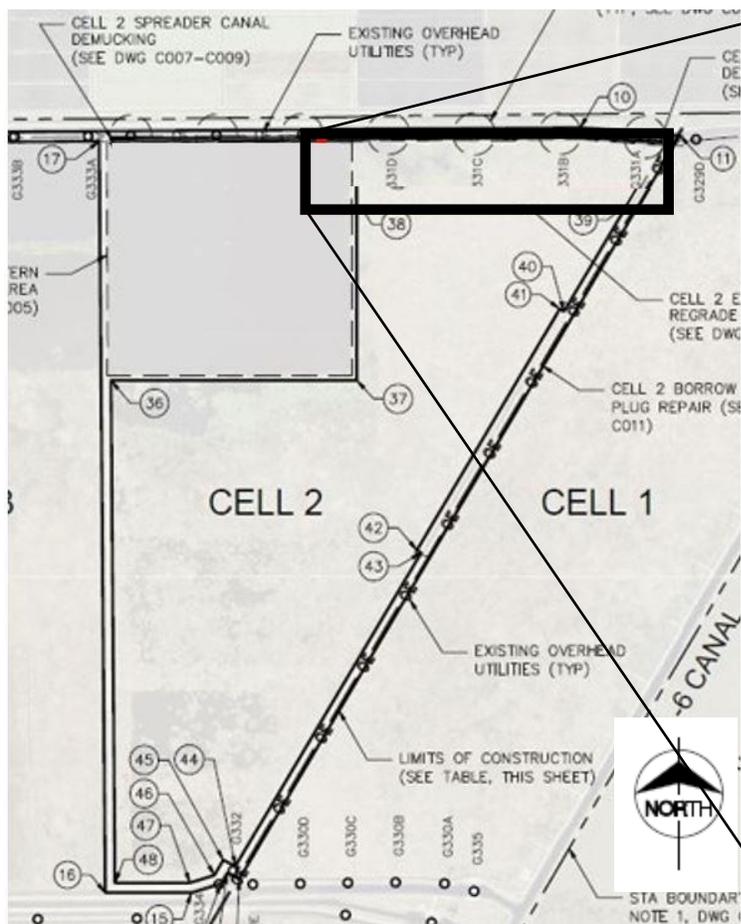


STA-1W Schematic



STA-1W Cell 3 – Grading & Planting Complete to remove finger canals and lower grade

STA Refurbishments – STA-2 Cell 2

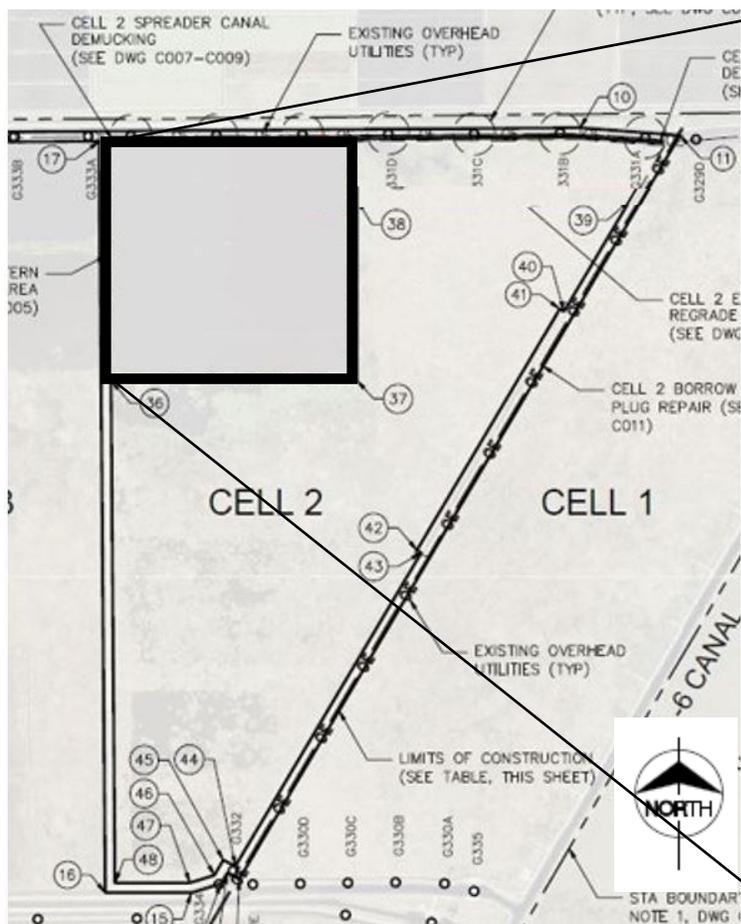


STA-2 Schematic



STA-2 Cell 2 Eastern Regrade Area regrading 90% complete

STA Refurbishments – STA-2 Cell 2



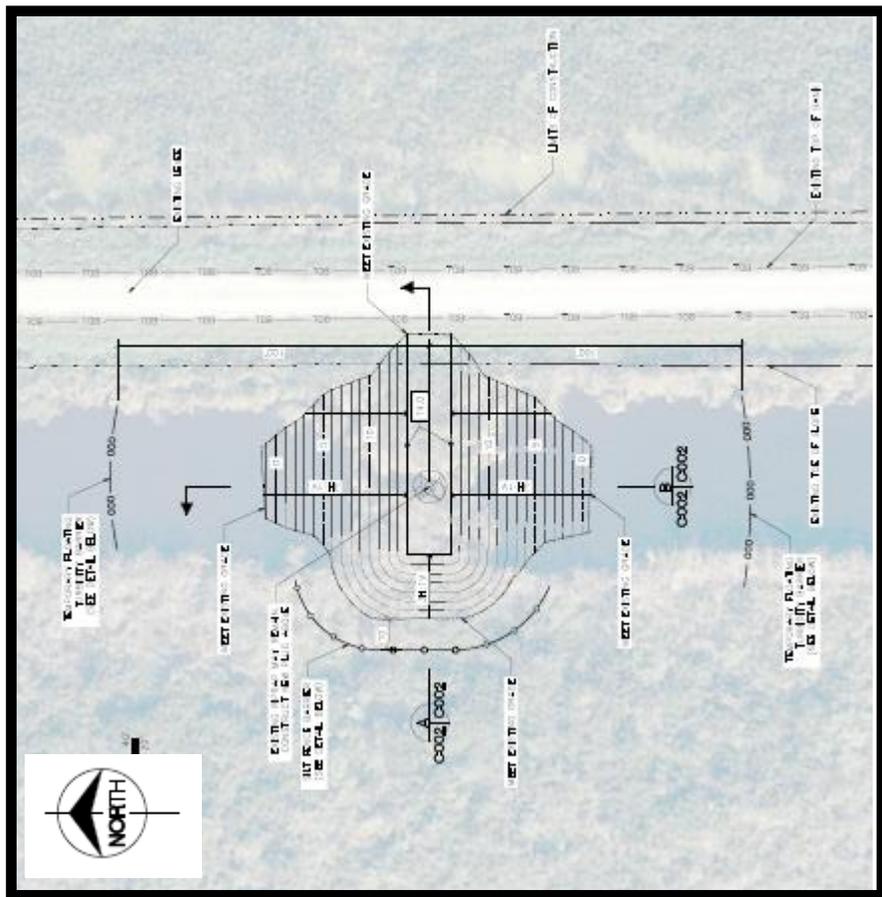
STA-2 Schematic



STA-2 Cell 2 Western Regrade Area
 dewatering berms built, regrading 15% complete

Presenter: Lucine Dadrian

STA Refurbishments – STA-2 Cell 3



EASTERN FLOW PATH

STA-1W Expansion #2 (100864)	
Activity	Deadline
Complete land acquisition	3/31/2018 ✓
Initiate design	10/1/2018 ✓
Submit state and federal permit applications	8/1/2019 ✓
Complete design	7/31/2020 ✓
Initiate construction	11/30/2020 ✓
Construction status report	3/1/2021 ✓
Construction status report	3/1/2022 ✓
Complete construction	12/31/2022 ✓
Initial flooding and optimization period complete	12/31/2024 ✓

STA-1W Expansion #1 (100818)	
Activity	Deadline
Complete land acquisition	9/30/2013 ✓
Initiate design	9/30/2013 ✓
Submit state and federal permit applications	7/30/2014 ✓
Complete design	7/30/2015 ✓
Initiate construction	1/31/2016 ✓
Construction status report	3/1/2017 ✓
Construction status report	3/1/2018 ✓
Complete construction	12/31/2018 ✓
Initial flooding and optimization period complete	12/31/2020 ✓

STA-1E Repairs and Modifications	
Activity	Deadline
PSTA Decommissioning complete	12/31/2022 ✓
Culvert repairs complete	12/31/2022 ✓
Cell 5 and 7 improvements complete	12/31/2022 ✓

L-8 FEB (100813)	
Activity	Deadline
Submit state and federal permit applications	1/31/2014 ✓
Construction status report	3/1/2014 ✓
Construction status report	3/1/2015 ✓
Complete construction (begin multi-purpose ops)	12/31/2016 ✓
Long term operations commence	12/31/2022 ✓

G-341 Related Conveyance Improvements (100802)	
Activity	Deadline
Initiate design	10/1/2020 ✓
Submit state and federal permit applications	8/1/2021 ✓
Complete land acquisition (if required)	9/30/2021 ✓
Complete design	7/31/2022 ✓
Initiate construction	11/30/2022 ✓
Construction status report	3/1/2023 ✓
Construction status report	3/1/2024 ✓
Complete construction	12/31/2024 ✓

L-8 Divide Structure (100817)	
Activity	Deadline
Initiate design	10/1/2012 ✓
Complete design	9/30/2014 ✓
Initiate construction	10/1/2016 ✓
Complete construction	9/30/2018 ✓

S-5AS Modifications (100822)	
Activity	Deadline
Initiate design	10/1/2012 ✓
Complete design	9/30/2014 ✓
Initiate construction	10/1/2014 ✓
Complete construction	9/30/2016 ✓

S-375 Expansion (100819)	
Activity	Deadline
Initiate design	9/30/2013 ✓
Complete design	7/30/2015 ✓
Initiate construction	1/31/2016 ✓
Complete construction	12/31/2018 ✓

LEGEND

- Flow Equalization Basin
- Stormwater Treatment Area
- Conveyance Improvement
- ✓ Complete

CENTRAL FLOW PATH

STA-2 Expansion: Compartment B	
Activity	Deadline
Initial flooding and optimization period complete	5/31/2014 ✓

A-1 FEB (100706)	
Activity	Deadline
Initiate design	4/1/2012 ✓
Submit state and federal permit applications	12/1/2012 ✓
Design status report	3/1/2013 ✓
Complete design	8/1/2013 ✓
Initiate construction	6/30/2014 ✓
Construction status report	3/1/2015 ✓
Construction status report	3/1/2016 ✓
Complete construction	7/30/2016 ✓
Operational monitoring and testing period complete	7/29/2018 ✓

WESTERN FLOW PATH

STA-5/6 Internal Improvements (100868)	
Activity	Deadline
Initiate design	10/31/2019 ✓
Submit state and federal permit applications	8/30/2020 ✓
Complete design	10/31/2021 ✓
Initiate construction	1/31/2022 ✓
Construction status report	3/1/2023 ✓
Construction status report	3/1/2024 ✓
Complete construction	12/31/2024 ✓
Initial flooding and optimization period complete	12/31/2025 ✓

STA-5/6 Expansion: Compartment C	
Activity	Deadline
Initial flooding and optimization period complete	5/31/2014 ✓

C-139 FEB (100867)	
Activity	Deadline
Initiate design	10/31/2018 ✓
Submit state and federal permit applications	8/30/2019 ✓
Complete design	10/31/2020 ✓
Initiate construction	1/31/2021 ✓
Construction status report	3/1/2021 ✓
Construction status report	3/1/2022 ✓
Construction status report	3/1/2023 ✓
Complete construction	12/31/2023 ✓
Operational monitoring and testing period complete	12/31/2024 ✓

Projects Complete = 7 of 13
 Activities Complete = 61 of 74
 % Activities Complete = 82 %
 % Time Complete = 70 %

Presenter: Lucine Dadrian

Contact Information

Lucine Dadrian
ldadrian@sfwmd.gov

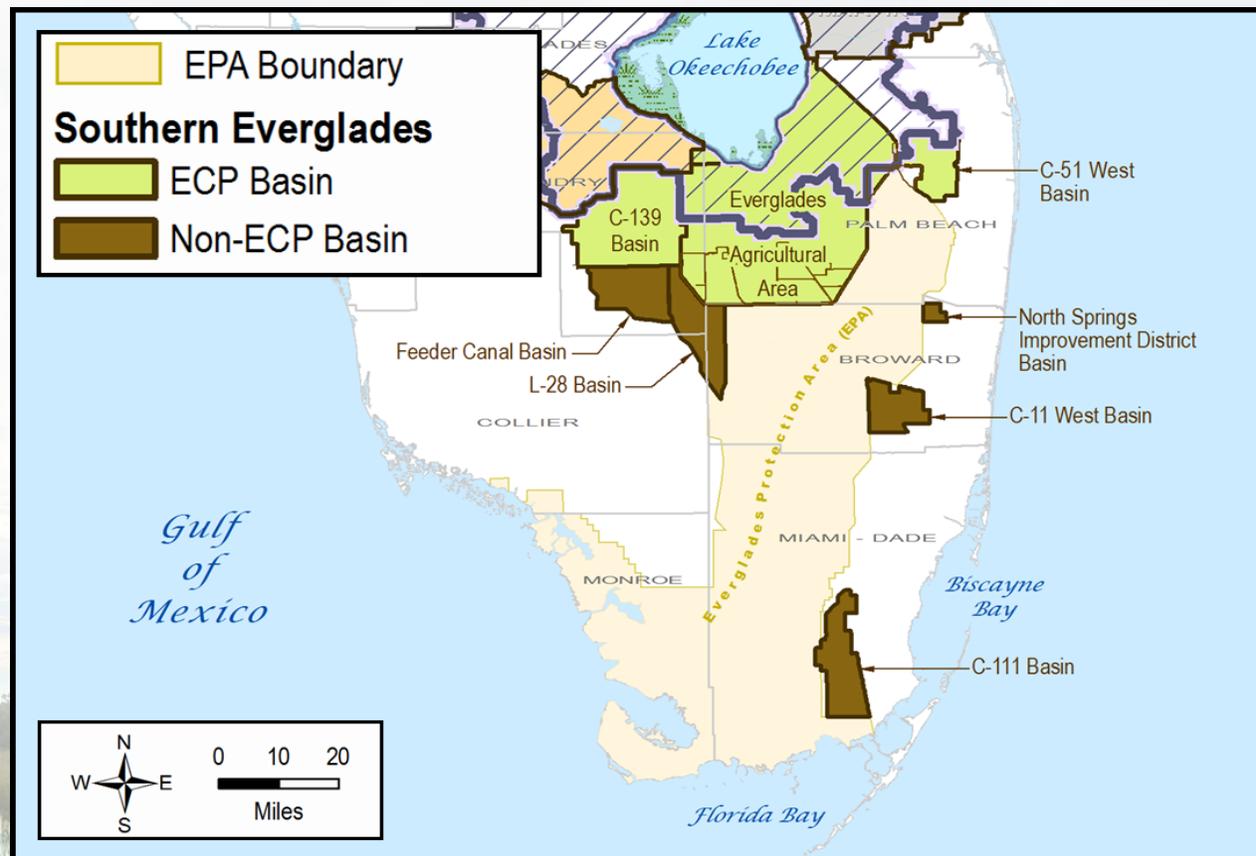
SFWMD Southern Everglades Nutrient Source Control Program Update

Everglades
National Park

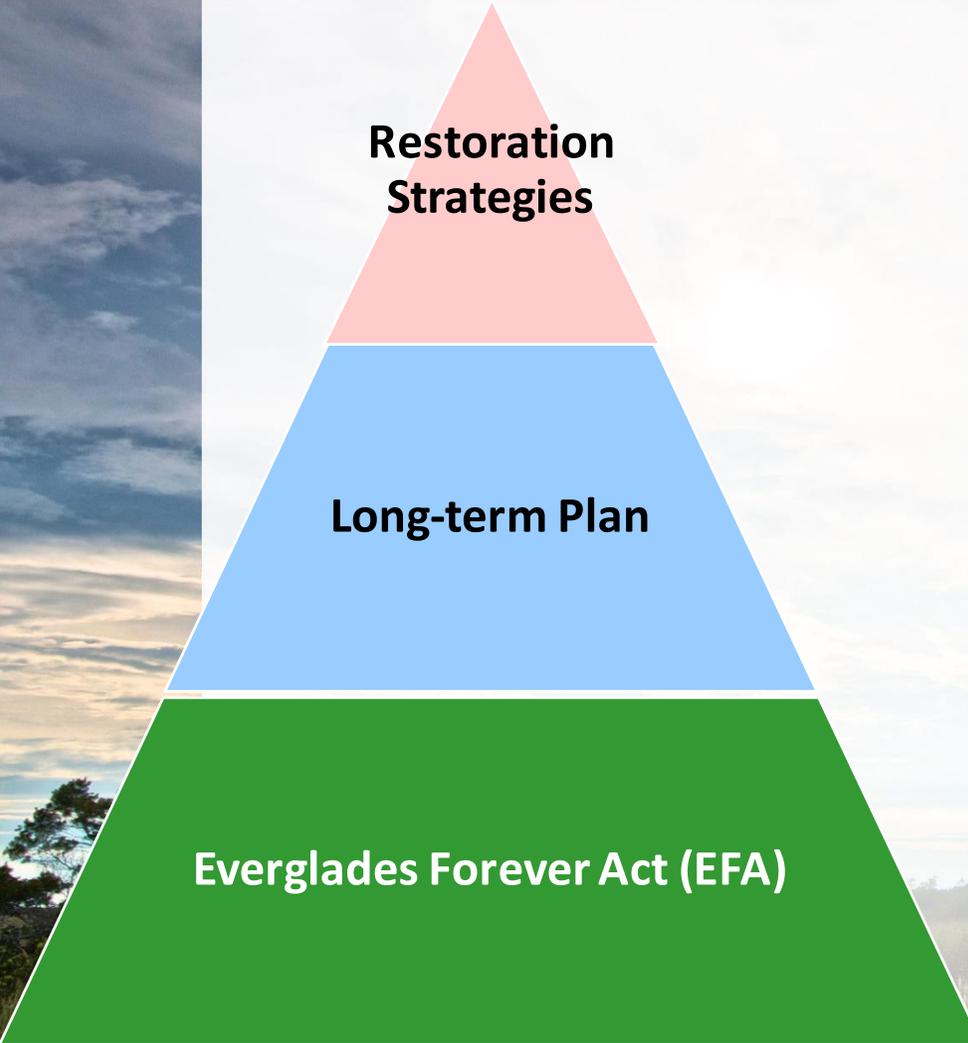
Youchao Wang, P.E.
Steve Sarley, P.E.
Everglades and Estuaries Protection
sfwmd.gov

**19th Annual Public Meeting on the Long-term Plan
for Achieving Water Quality Goals for the
Everglades Protection Areas Tributary Basins
February 28, 2022**

Basins Tributary to the Everglades Protection Area



Long Term Plan Project Objectives



Restoration
Strategies

Long-term Plan

Everglades Forever Act (EFA)

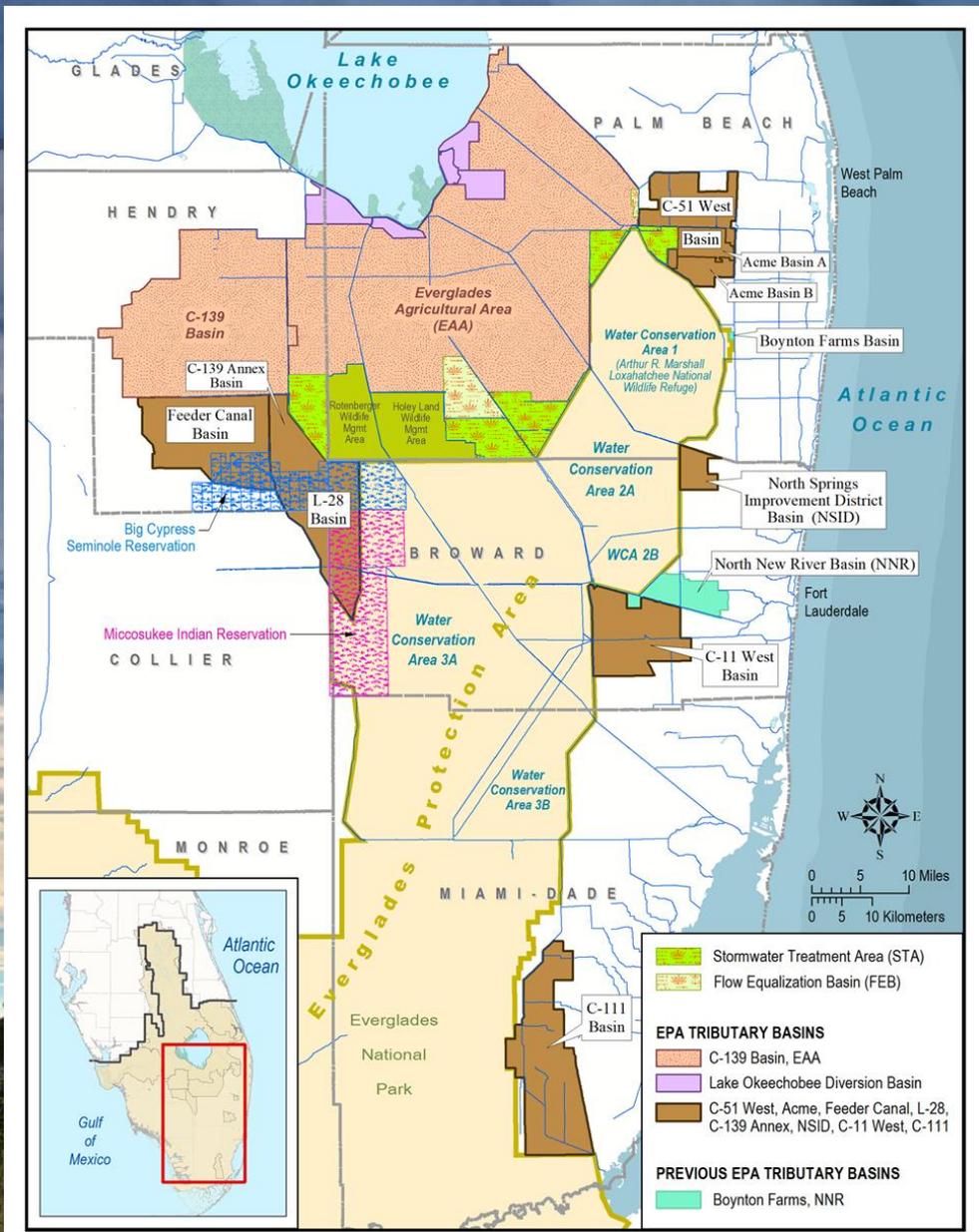
The Long-Term Plan recommends activities designed to:

*“**Maintain and improve** upon the contribution of source controls to overall water quality improvement goals.”*

Specifically:

- **Identify** discharges that are candidates for implementation of **cost-effective** source controls
- Characterize management practices on lands or processes tributary to those discharges
- Implement these source controls **in concert with** landowners or municipalities

Contents



➤ EAA and C-139 Basins

- Regulatory compliance and activities
- Research and demonstration projects
- Sub-regional source control projects

➤ Other Tributary Basins

- Regulatory and cooperative activities
- Permit integration

WY2021 Total Phosphorus Data by Basin

Basin	Receiving Water Body	WY2021 TP Load (metric tons)	WY2021 TP FWMC (µg/L)
Everglades Agricultural Area (EAA)	STAs and Lake Okeechobee	168	116
C-139	STA 5/6 and EAA	46	266
C-51 West (incl. Acme Improvement District)	STA-1E, C-51 East Basin, and WCA-1	30	131
L-28	WCA-3A	18	78
Feeder Canal	WCA-3A	16	139
C-11 West	WCA-3A	9	25
C-111	ENP	4	7
North Springs Improvement District (NSID)	WCA-2A	0.01	5

EAA and C-139 Basin Source Control Programs

Chapter 40E-63

Permit-level compliance

Basin-level water quality compliance

Research and Demonstration

Supplementary Projects

EAA

- Comprehensive BMPs
- Permittee water quality monitoring
- Post-permit compliance activities

Reduce TP Loads by 25% in comparison to pre-BMP period levels

EAA Everglades Protection District (EAAEPD) Research Master Permit

Restoration Strategies EAA Eastern Flow path source control projects

C-139 Basin

- Comprehensive BMPs
- Sub-basin water quality monitoring
- Post-permit compliance activities

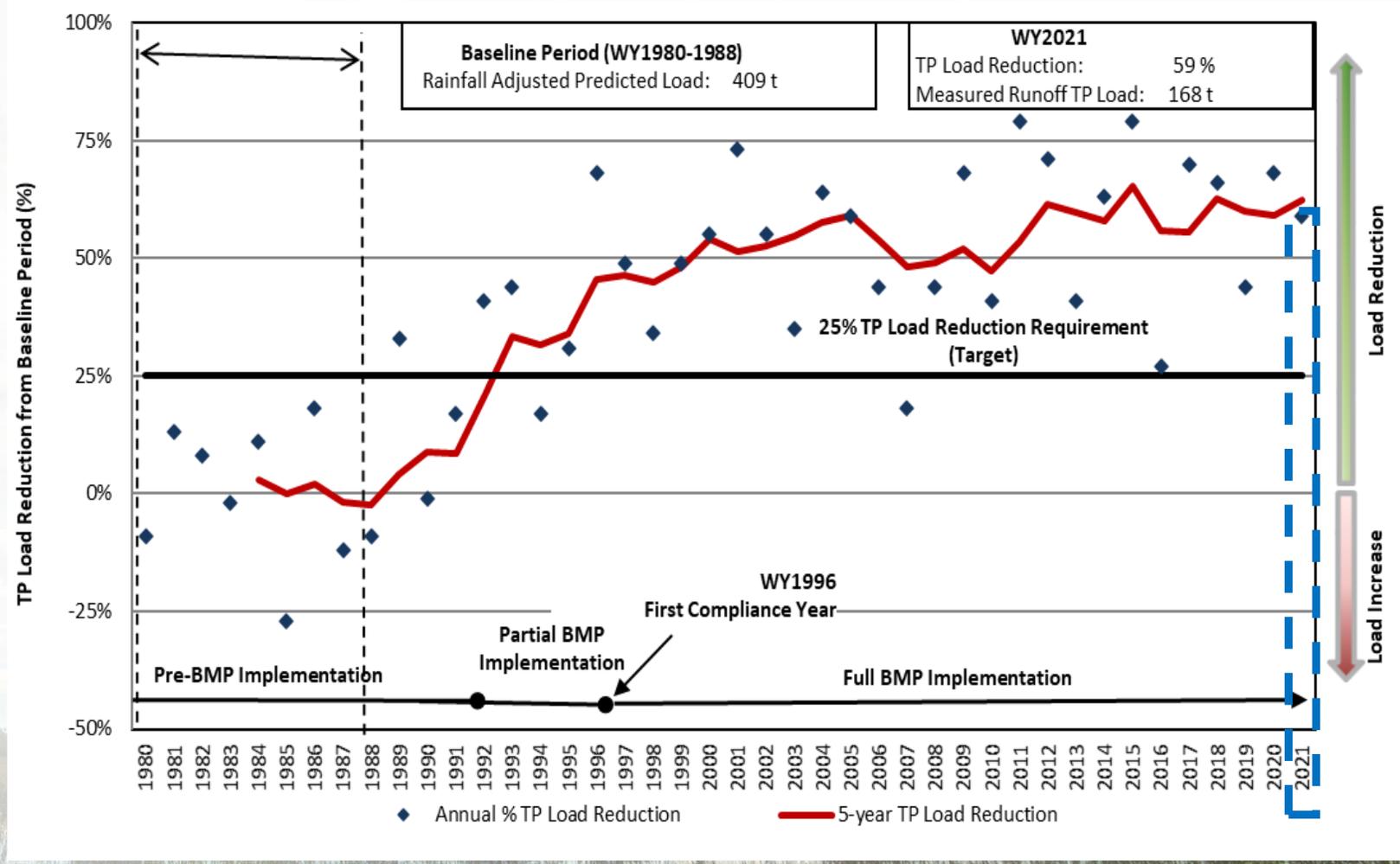
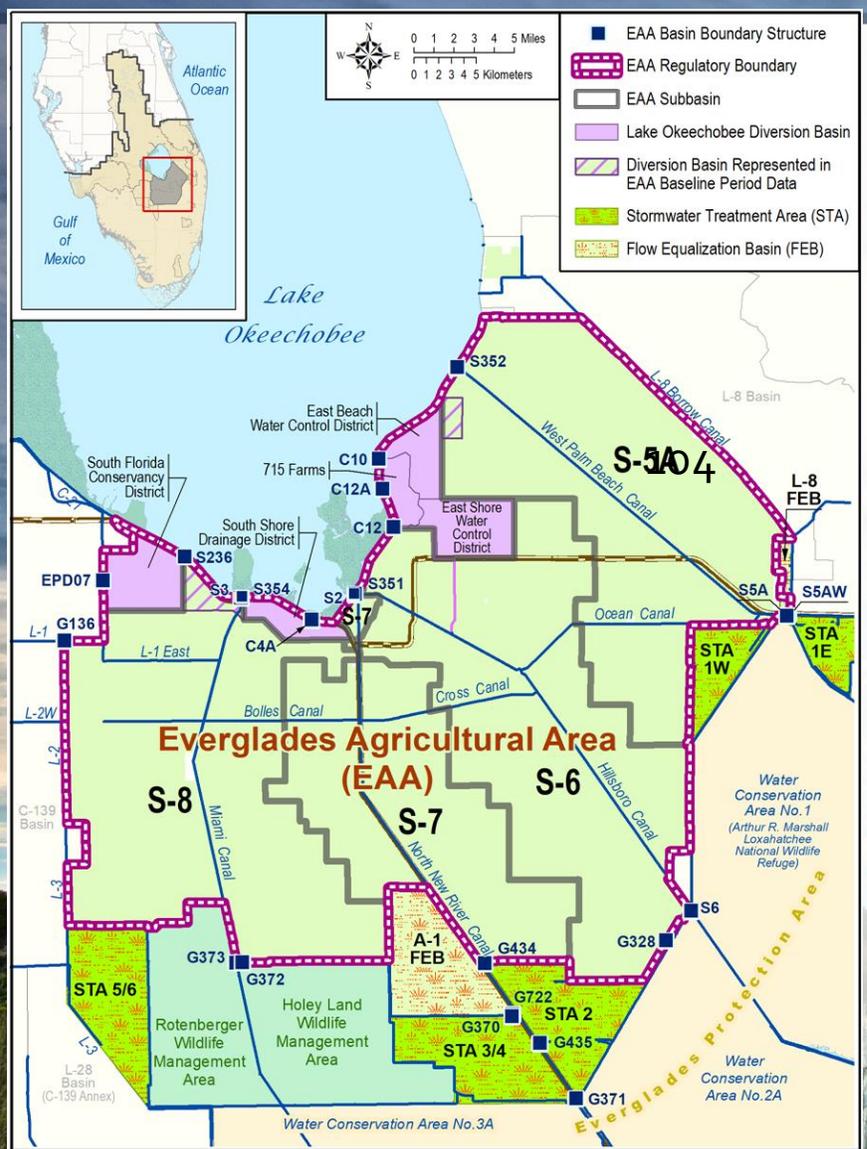
Maintain TP Loads below pre-BMP period levels

Demonstration projects in partnership with landowners

Upstream monitoring initiatives

EAA Basin-Level Compliance

25% Reduction in TP Load



Presenters: Youchao Wang and Steve Sarley

EAA BMP Master Research Permit

- The Everglades Forever Act (EFA) requires a comprehensive program of research, field testing and implementation of BMPs.
- Sponsored by EAA landowners through the EAA Environmental Protection District (EAAEPD).
 - Qualified experts (IFAS)
 - Identify appropriate BMPs
- BMPs field-tested in representative sites
 - Soil, crops, other factors affecting BMP design and effectiveness
- Outreach and Training provided by IFAS

Photo 1

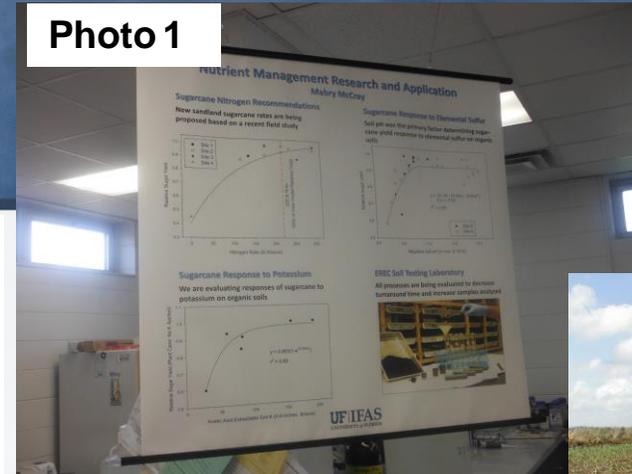


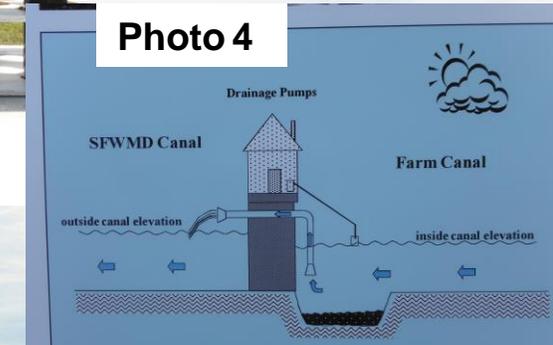
Photo 2



Photo 3



Photo 4

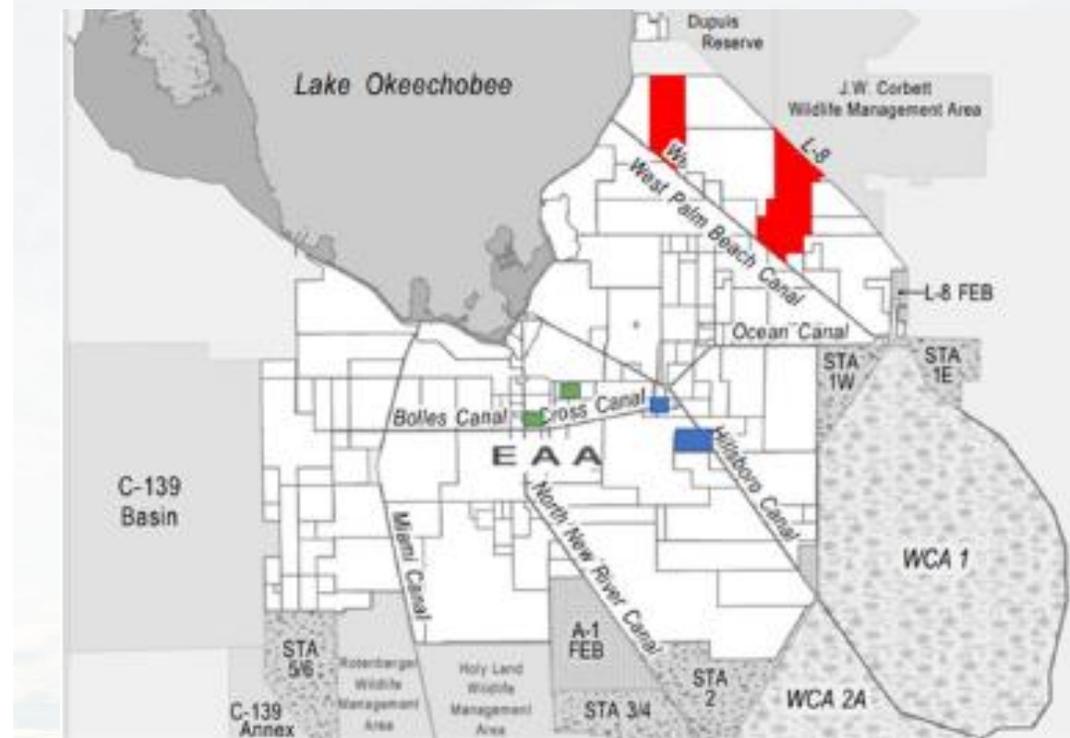


Photos:

1. Soil Testing Research at UF-IFAS Belle Glade
2. Controlled application
3. Aquatic vegetation and sediments research at UF-IFAS
4. Discharge pump diagram at UF-IFAS

EAA BMP Master Research Permit

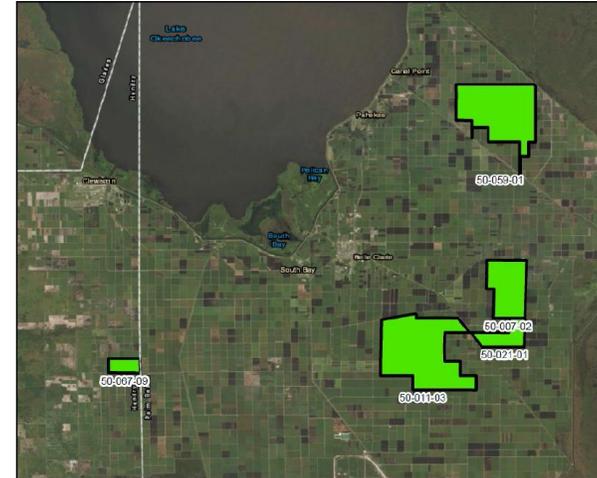
- A 5-year EAA-EPD Master Research Permit was issued on September 15, 2020.
- This research evaluates performance differences between EAA farm basins with similar BMPs.
- Six farms were selected for this research project that started on October 1, 2020.
- Performed soil analyses, phosphorus chemistry, and phosphorus saturation analyses.
- 2021 annual report completed in July 2021.



Legend	Farm Basin ID
	50-018-01 and 50-018-03
	50-028-01 and 50-048-01
	50-061-07 and 50-061-12

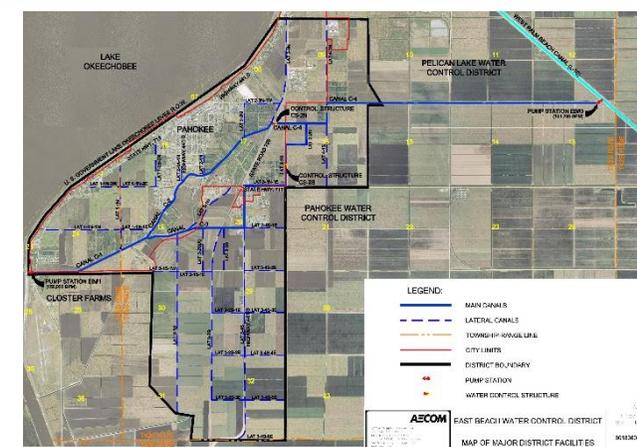
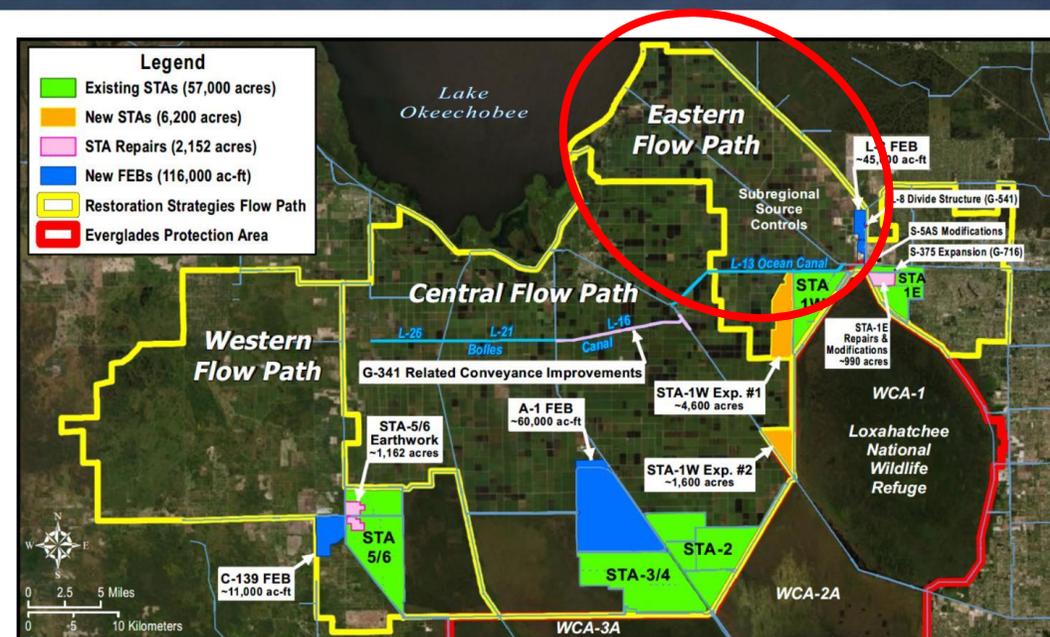
Priority Permit Basins Consultations

- Six permit basins were identified in the EAA as priority based on the TP load contribution in EAA Restoration Strategies flow paths.
- Virtual and field consultations conducted by UF IFAS in the selected **five** permit basins.
- Performed analysis of basins conditions and sediment control BMPs.
- Final report titled "Report of IFAS Extension Services for Selected Basins in the EAA" completed in October 2021.



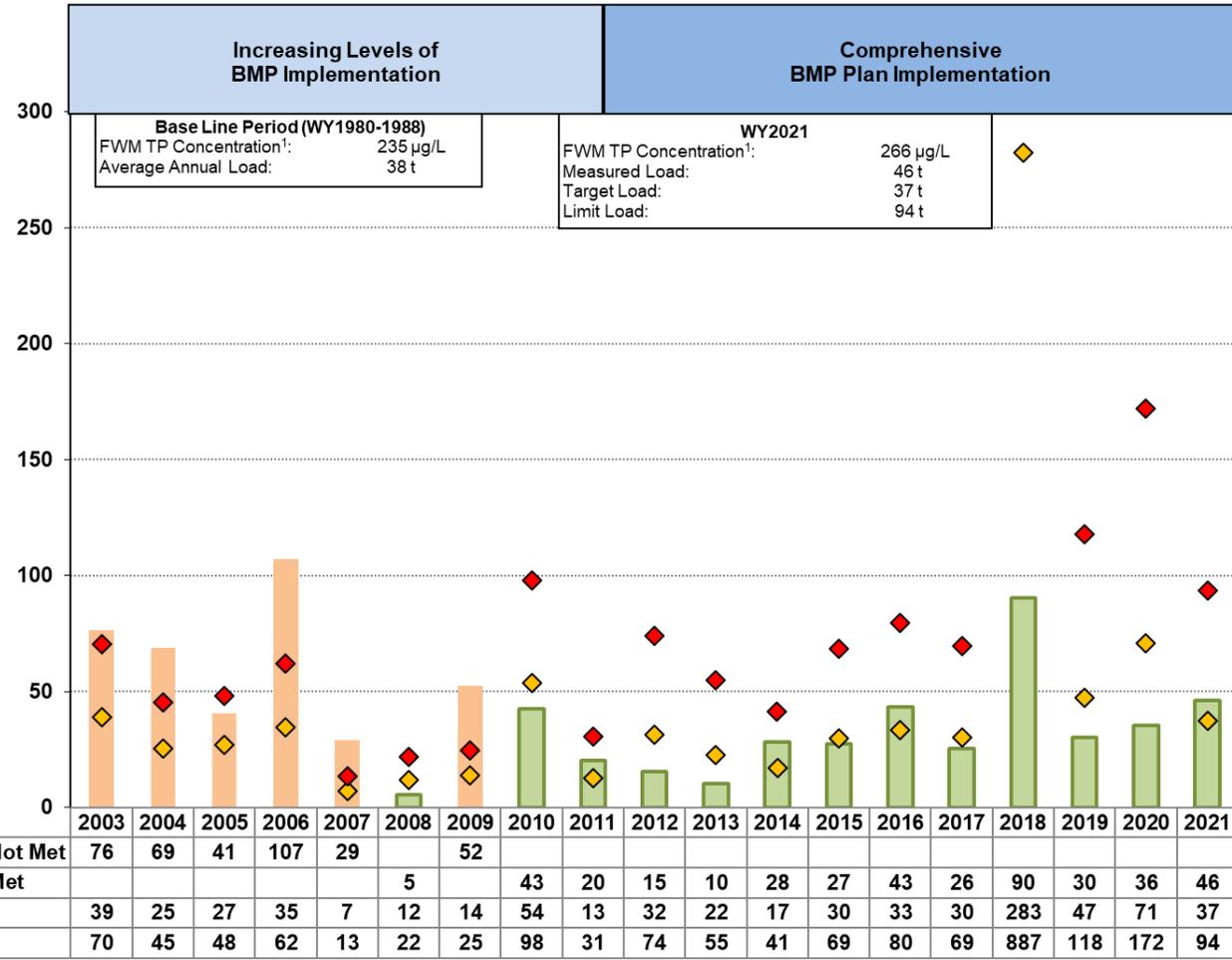
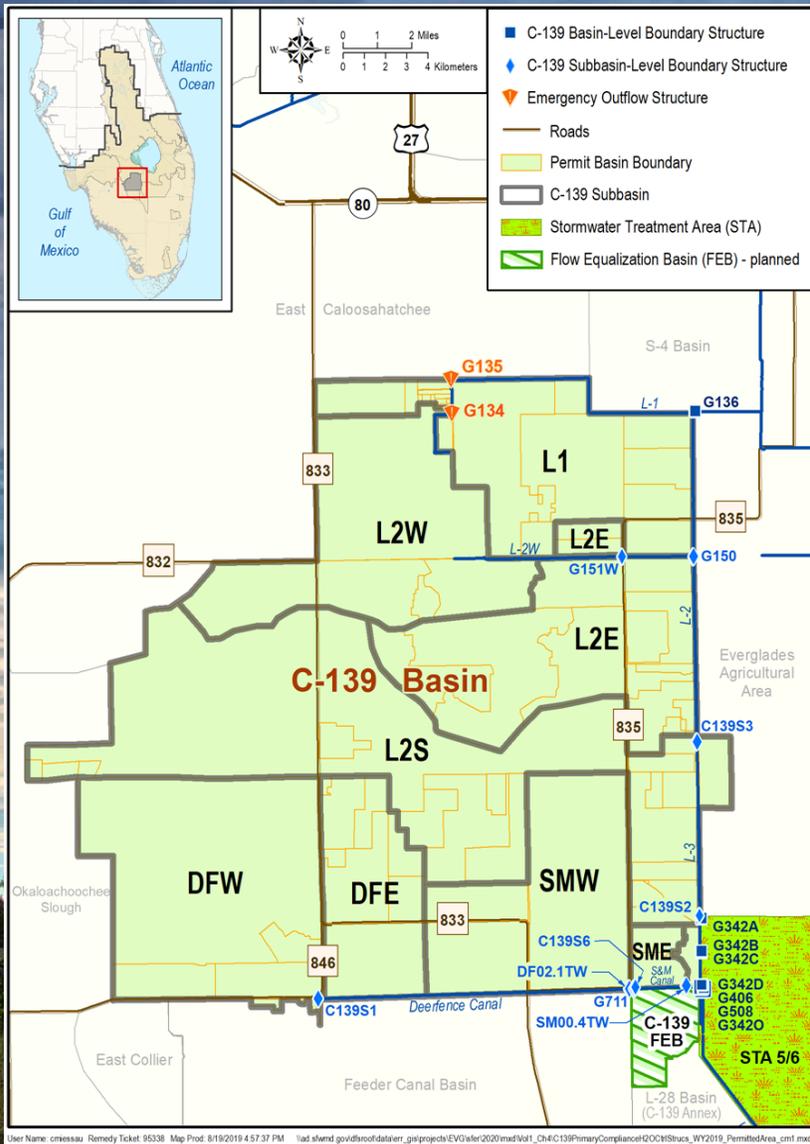
Restoration Strategies Sub-regional Source Controls

- Build on the SFWMD regulatory BMP program
- Projects...
 - Strategic on-site locations or sub-regional source control projects in series with on-site BMPs
 - Focus on areas and projects with the greatest potential to improve water quality
 - Designed to increase retention or detention of TP above what is currently required
- Evaluating the feasibility of implementing water quality improvement measures in the East Beach Water Control District



C-139 Basin Level Compliance

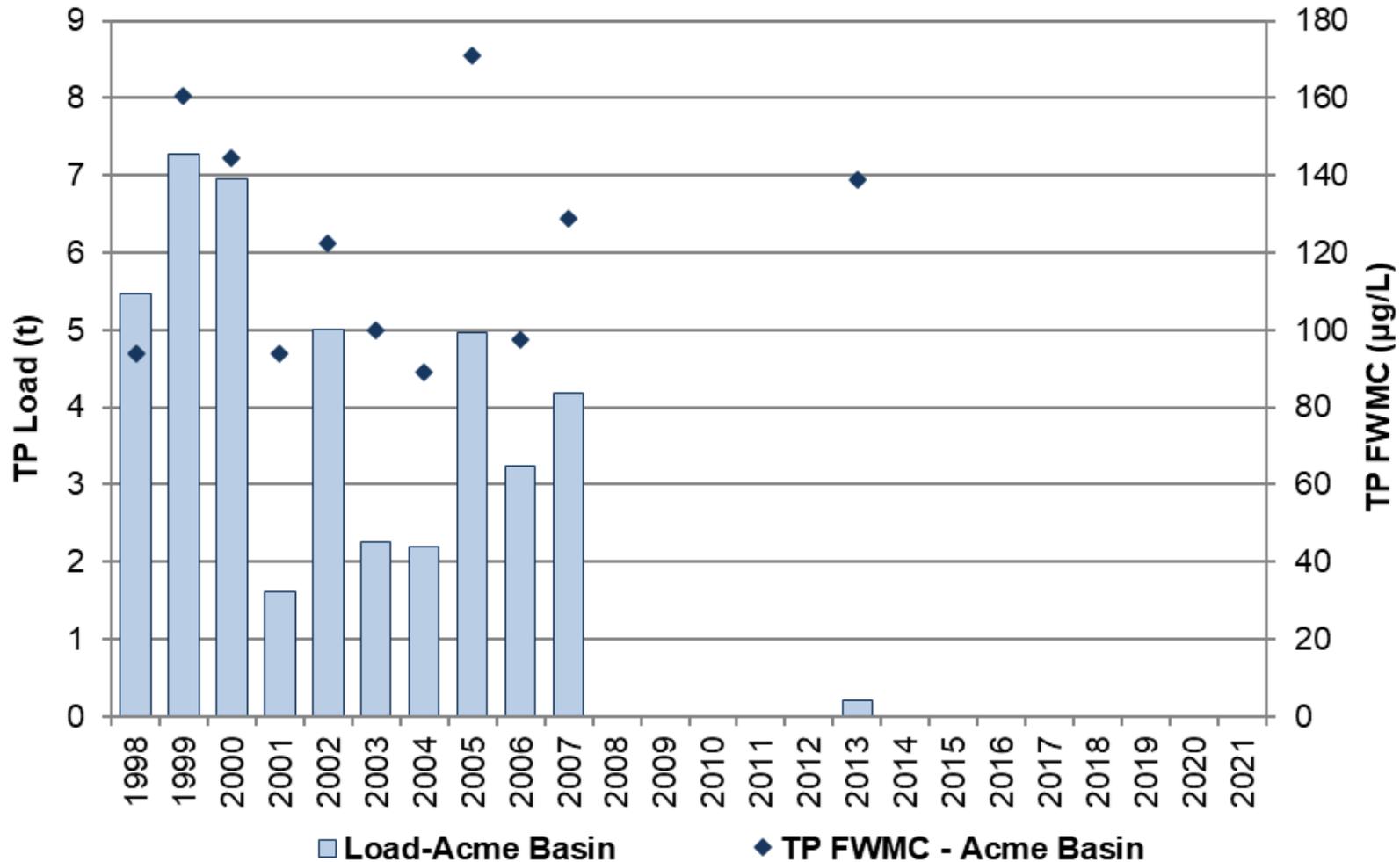
TP Load below historic levels



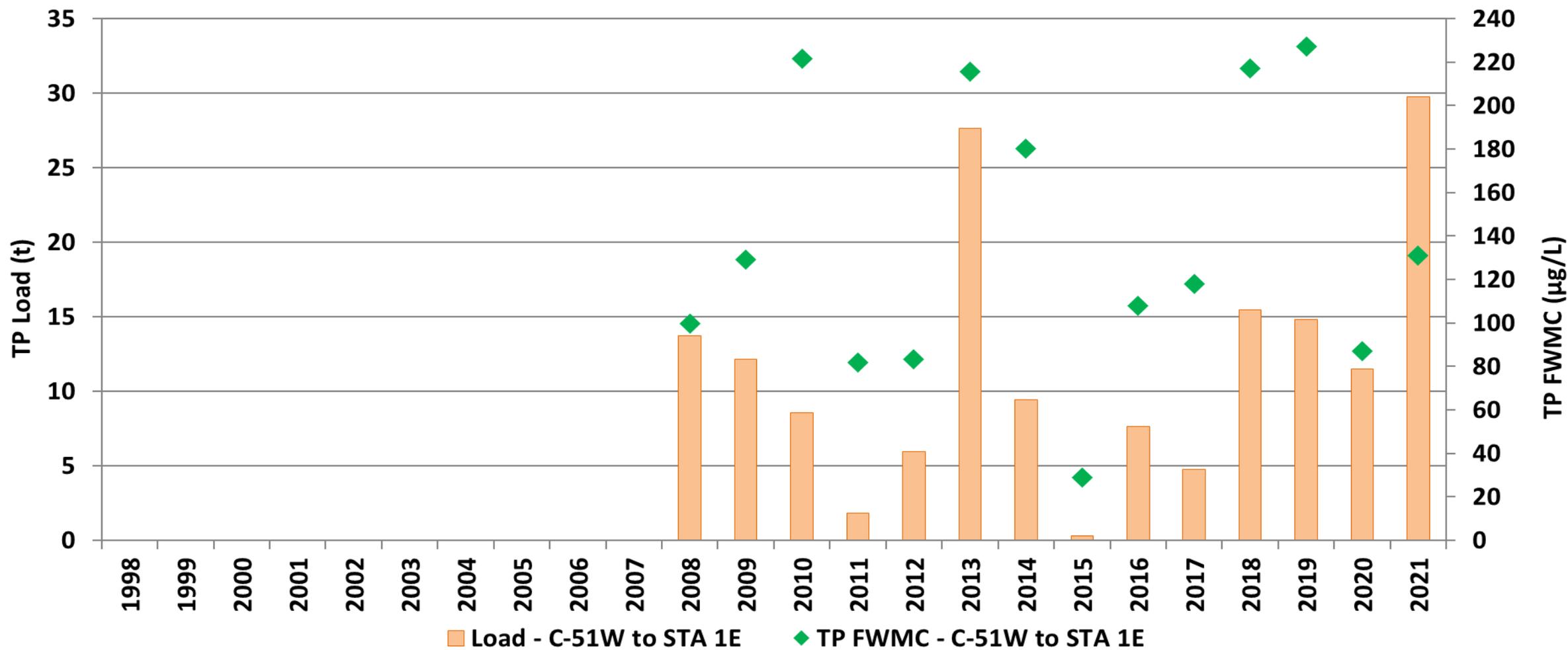
¹ Flow Weighted Mean (FWM) TP Concentration is a calculation rather than a measured value.
² WY2018 Limit Load off-scale

Other Tributary Basins

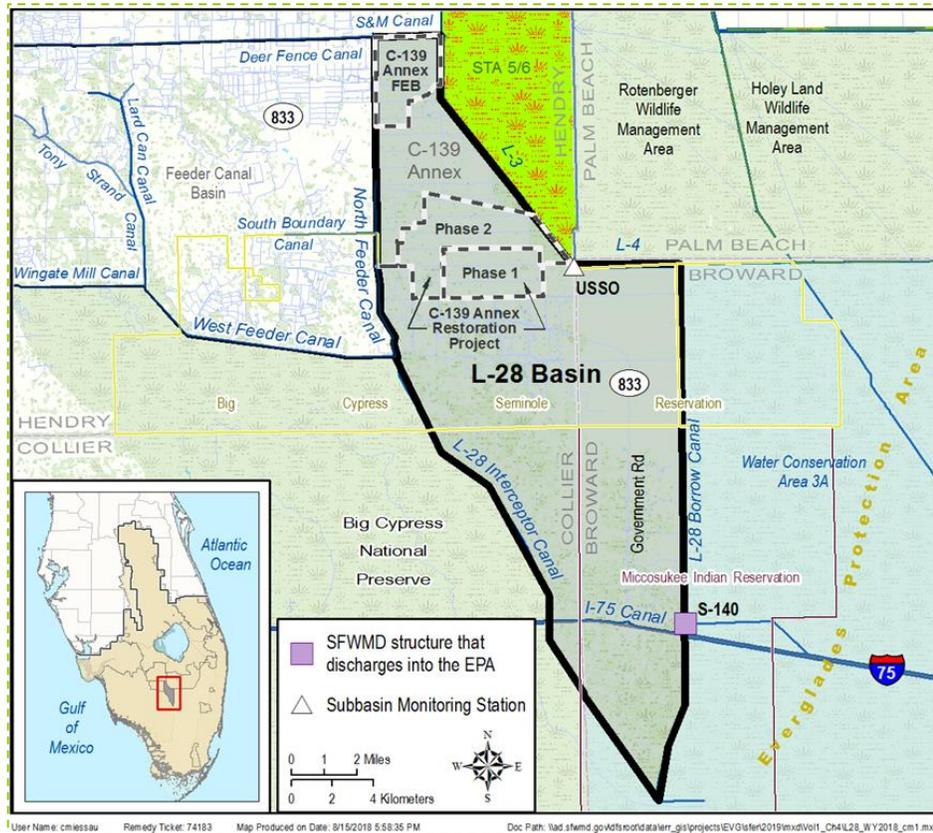
C-51 West and Acme Basin to Refuge



C-51 West and Acme Basin to STA 1E

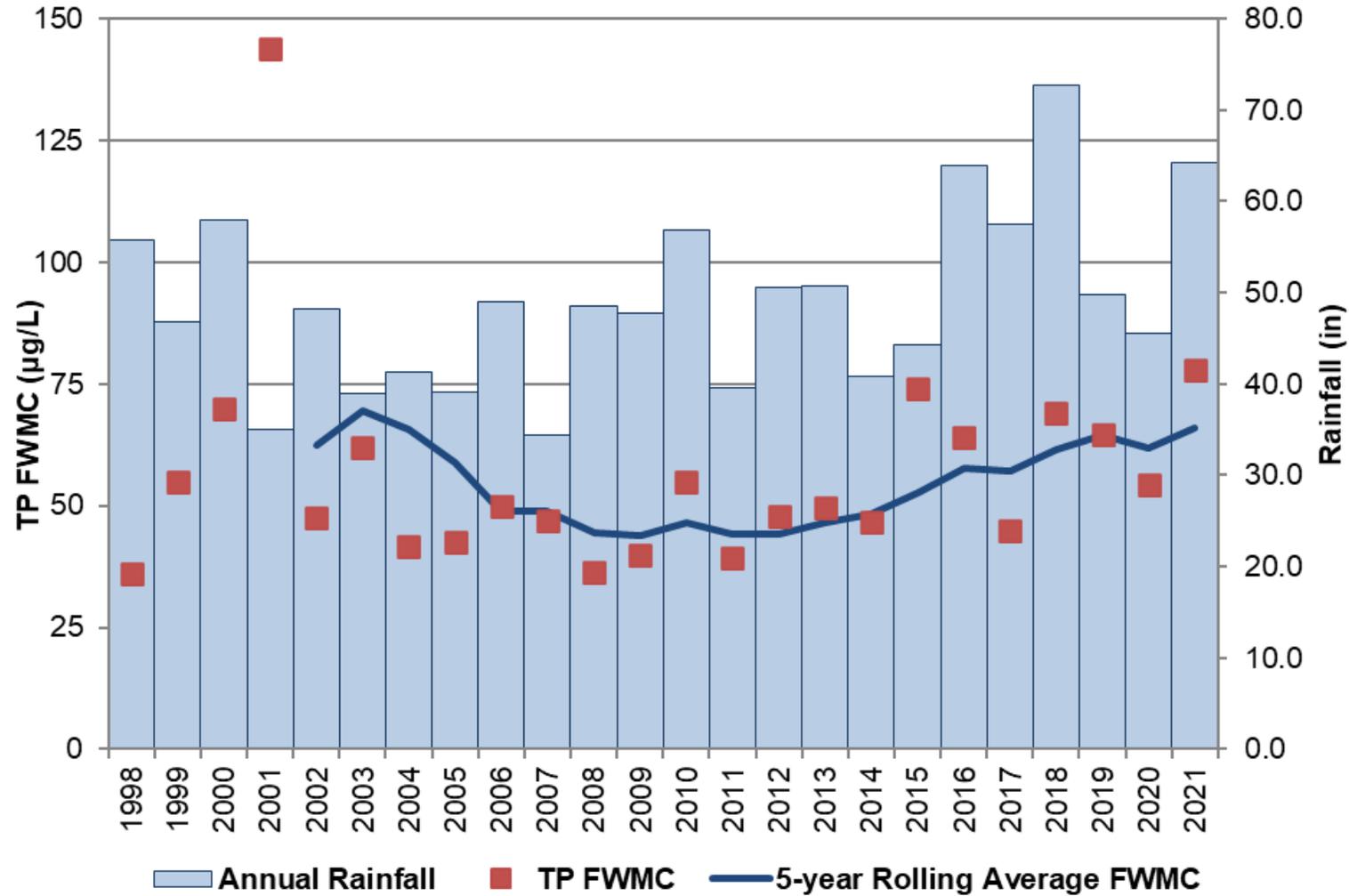


L-28 Basin

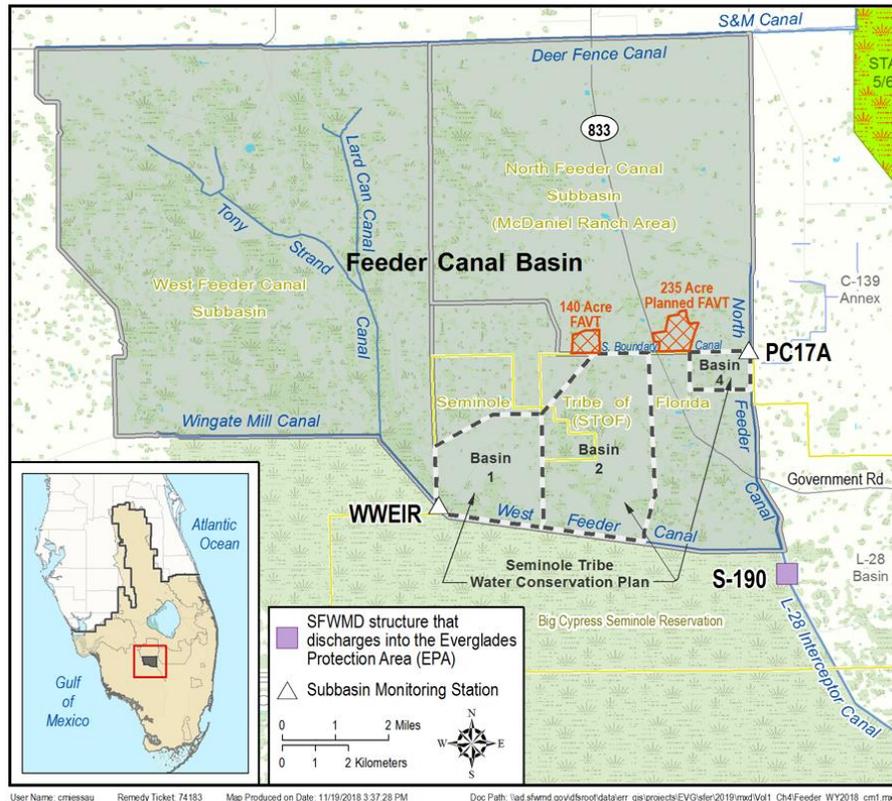


- Environmental Resource Permit issued to Southern Gardens Groves in the C-139 Annex includes conditions for best management practices
- LTP projects:
 - CERP Big Cypress/L-28 Interceptor Modification (WERP)
- Other basin projects:
 - C-139 Flow Equalization Basin
 - Sam Jones Abiaki Prairie Restoration

L-28 Basin

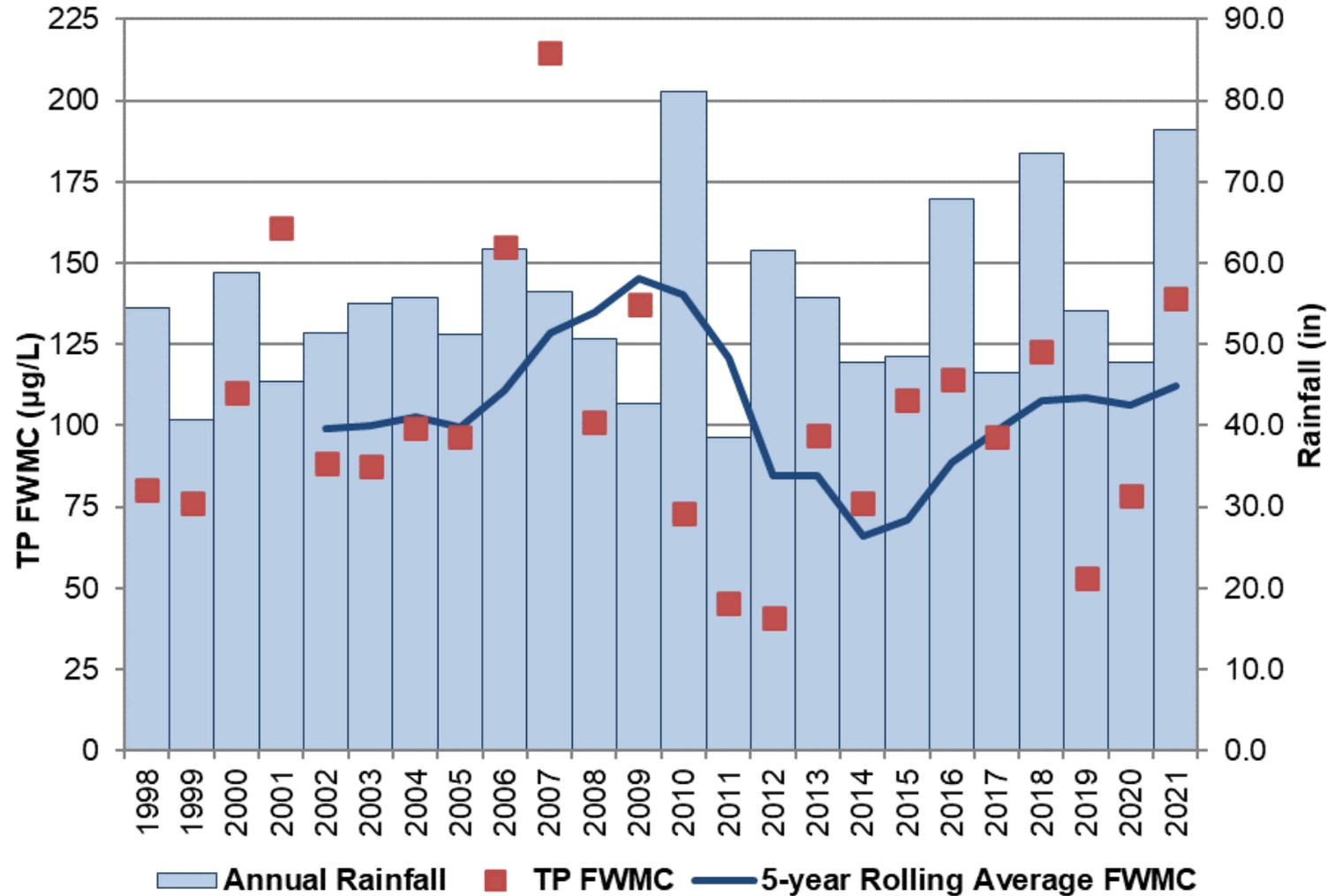


Feeder Canal Basin



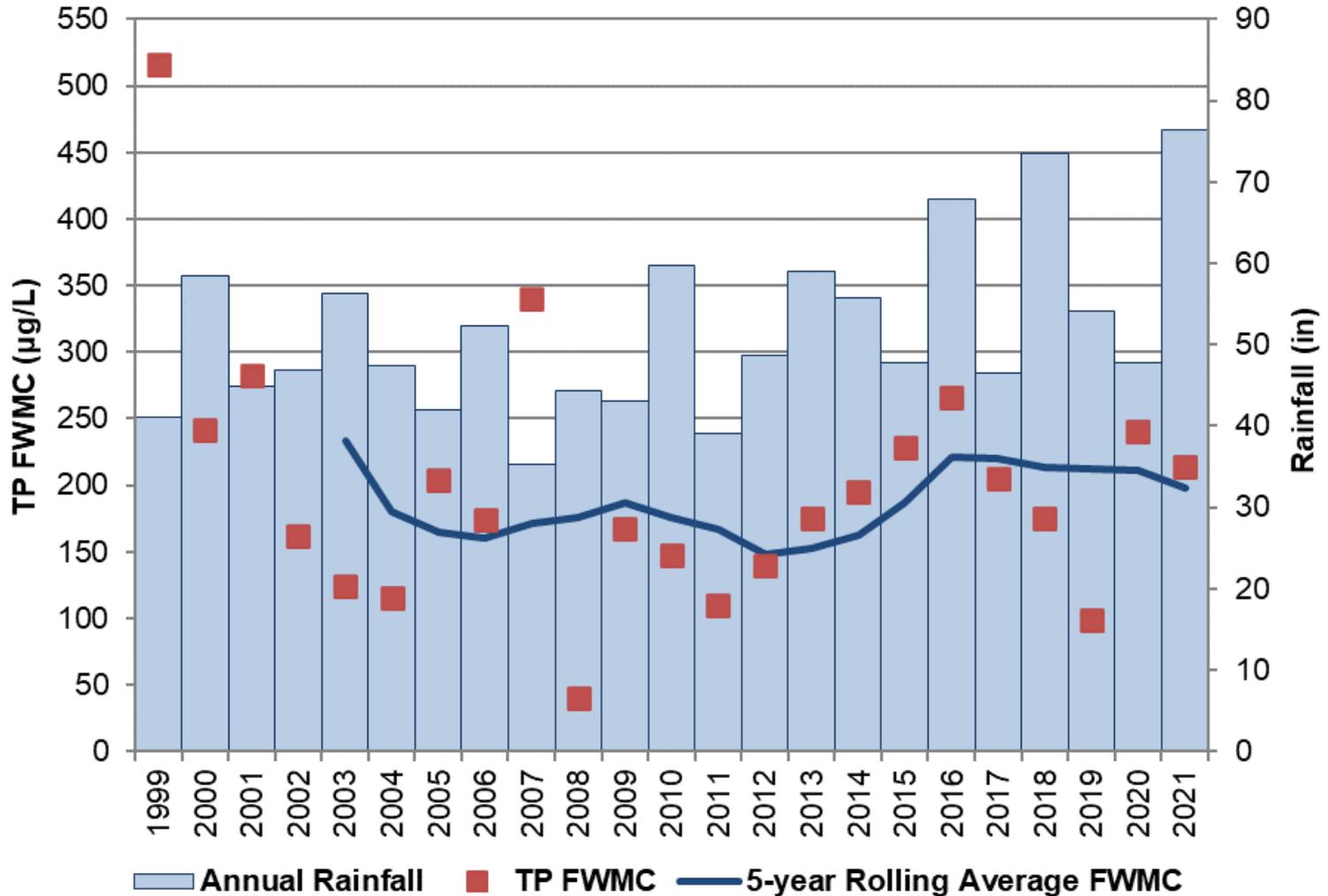
- North Feeder Subbasin:
 - Environmental Resource Permits issued to landowners include conditions for best management practices BMPs and water quality monitoring
 - Voluntary FAV tilling projects
- West Feeder Subbasin:
 - Landowners can enroll in the FDACS BMP program.
- CERP Big Cypress/L-28 Interceptor Modification (WERP)

Feeder Canal Basin

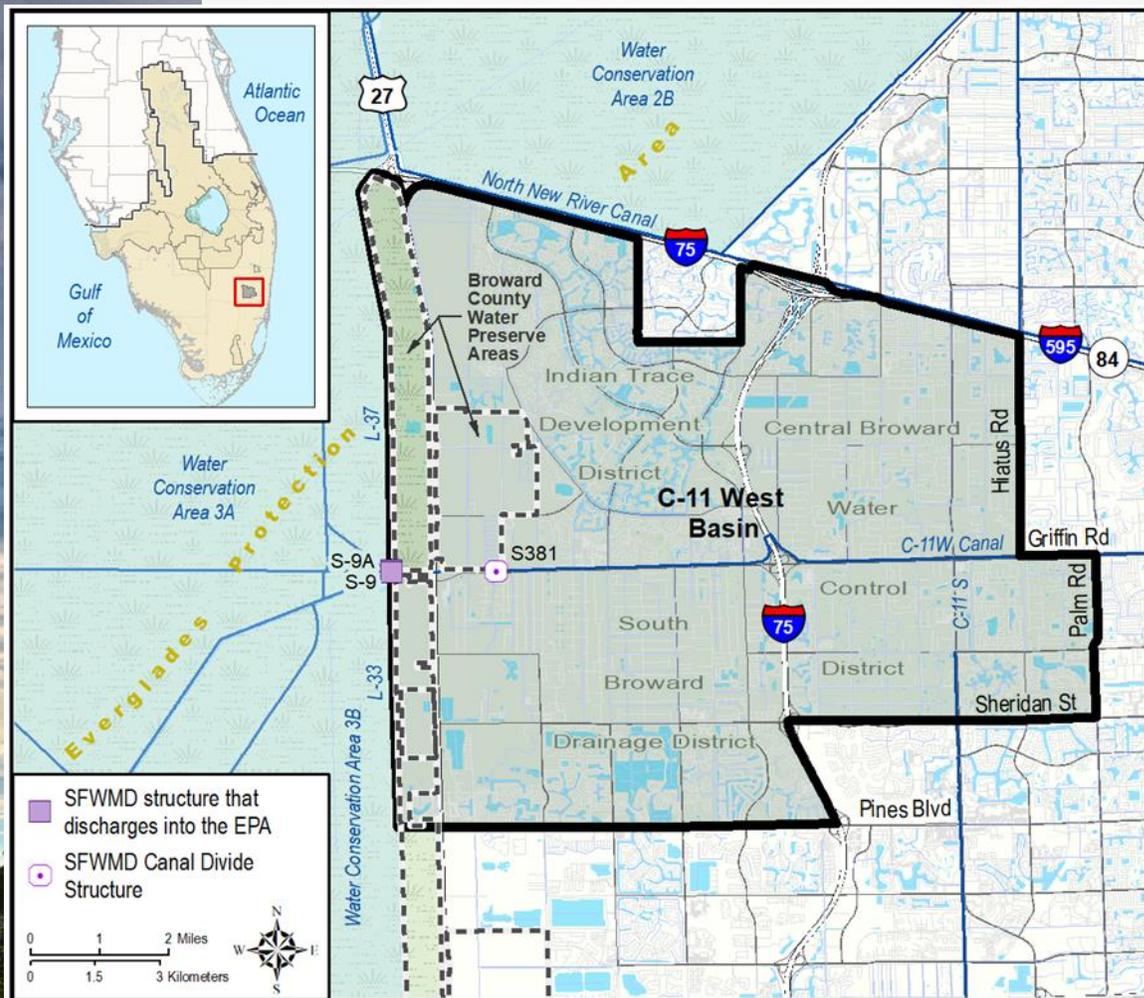


Feeder Canal Basin

North Feeder Canal Sub-basin

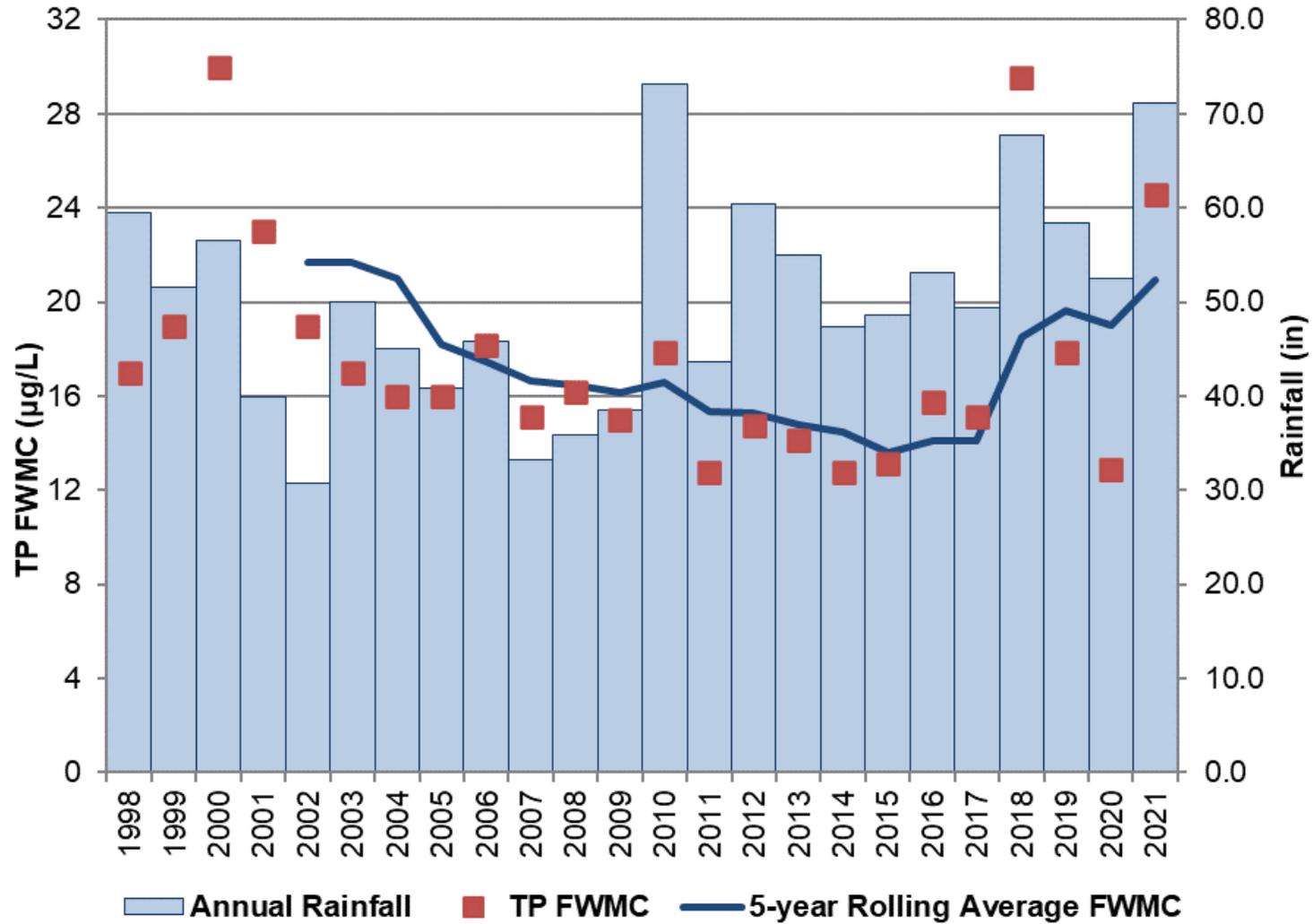


C-11W Basin

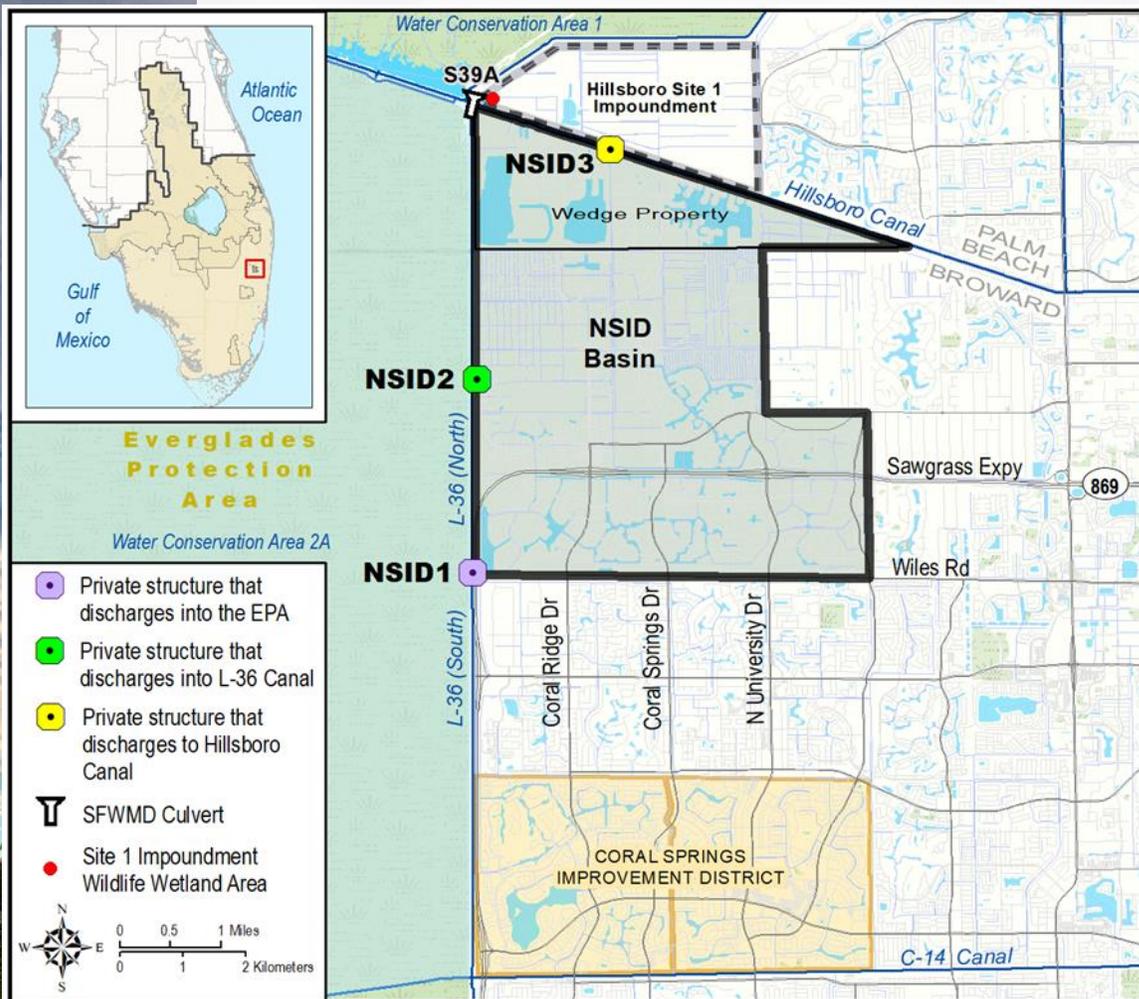


- Environmental Resource Permits issued to water control districts include conditions for best management practices including optimized detention of runoff and water quality monitoring
- Basin project:
 - CERP Broward County Water Preserve Area

C-11W Basin

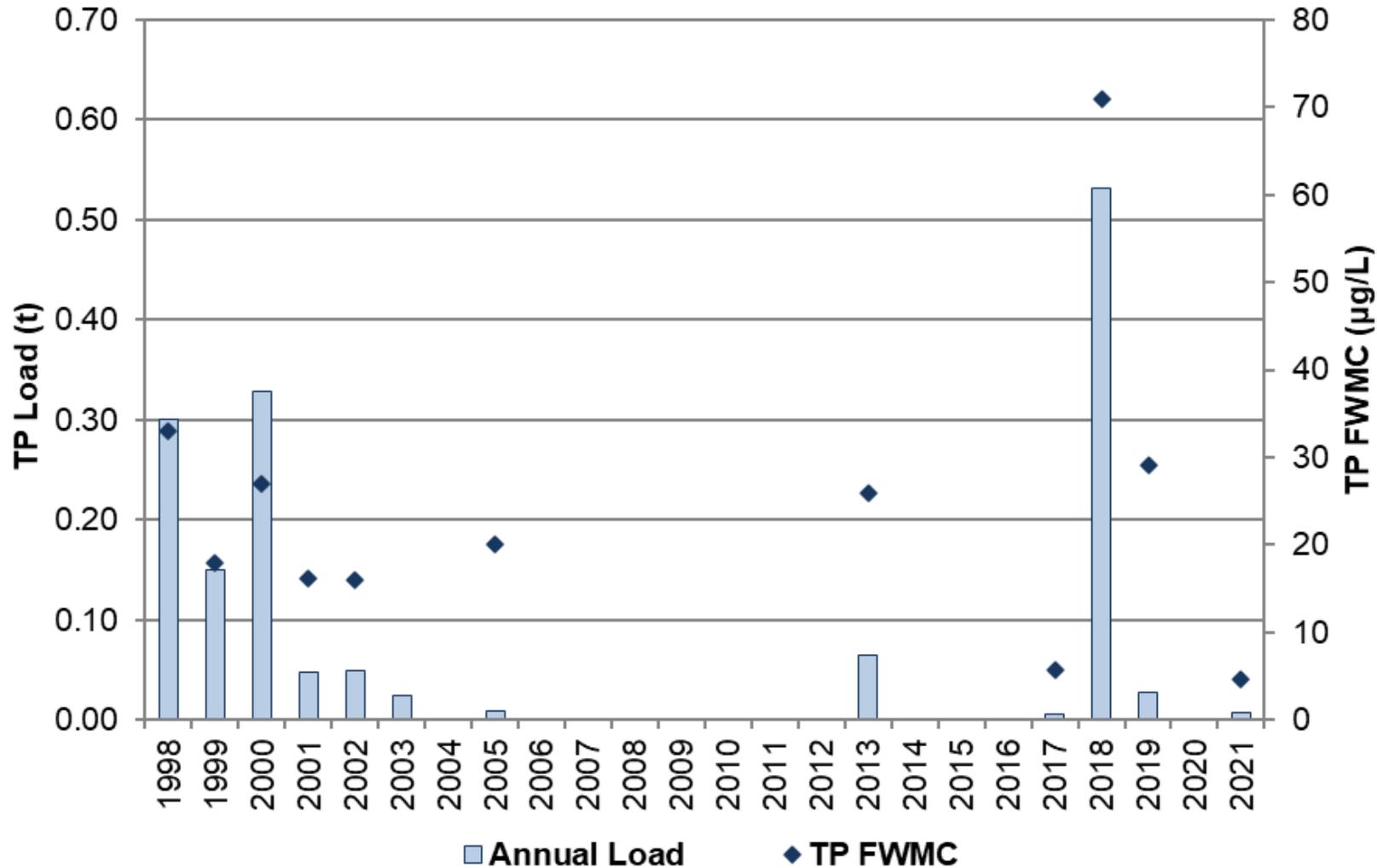


NSID Basin



- Environmental Resource Permits issued to NSID include conditions requiring best management practices implementation, water quality reporting, and phosphorus load limits for discharges to WCA-2A.
- LTP project:
 - CERP Hillsboro Site 1 Impoundment Phase 2 needs congressional authorization before moving forward

NSID Basin



Summary

- For the EAA basin, WY2021 TP load reduction is 59%. With the WY2021 results, the 26-year average annual TP load reduction for the program is 57%.
- For the C 139 basin WY 2021 remained in compliance, although the target level for phosphorus load was exceeded.
- For the other tributary basins during WY2021, voluntary BMP implementation and progress toward the completion of CERP projects continued.
- The continued success of and ongoing improvements to the Southern Everglades source control program rely on verifying BMP implementation, continuing meaningful research and tracking program performance based on WQ data and basin-specific metrics.

Additional Information

Chapter 4:
Nutrient Source Control Programs
in the Southern Everglades

www.sfwmd.gov/sfer

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Public Use on SFWMD Stormwater Treatment Areas

James R. Harbaugh
Recreation Planner
Land Resources
sfwmd.gov

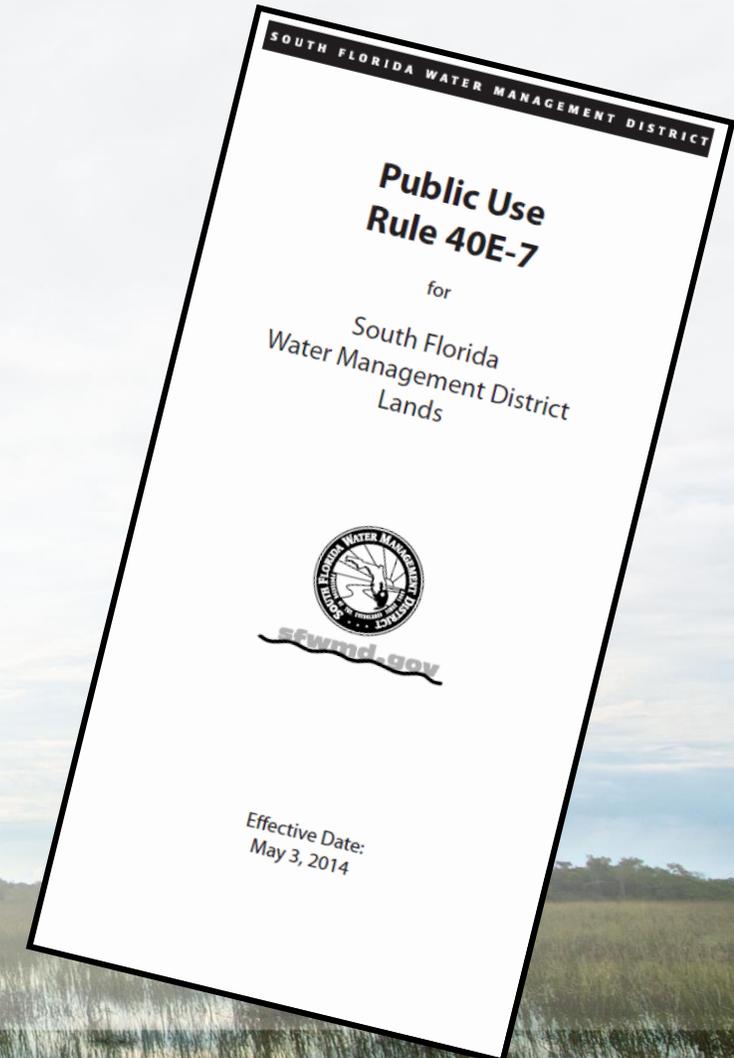


**19th Annual Public Meeting on the Long-term Plan
for Achieving Water Quality Goals for the
Everglades Protection Areas Tributary Basins
February 28, 2022**

Everglades
National Park

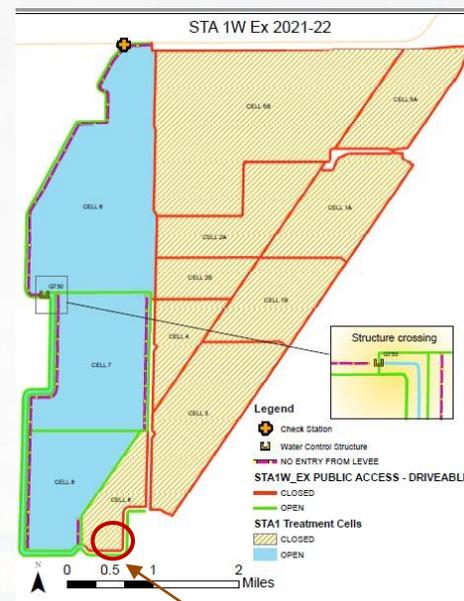
Mission

- **Why have Public Use?**
 - 373.4592 “the district shall allow these areas to be used by the public for recreational purposes... unless such uses are incompatible with the restoration goals of the Everglades Construction Project..”
 - Will not interfere with intent of project purpose



STA Function vs Public Use

- **A working property**
 - Engineered Restoration
 - Managed Wetland to improve water quality
 - **Internal consultation for access**
 - Veg Management Team
 - Construction - Project Manager
 - Field Operations
 - Public access hours
 - Fri - Mon
 - Land Stewardship T/E Wildlife
- **Goal to provide compatible recreation without compromising operation and management activities**



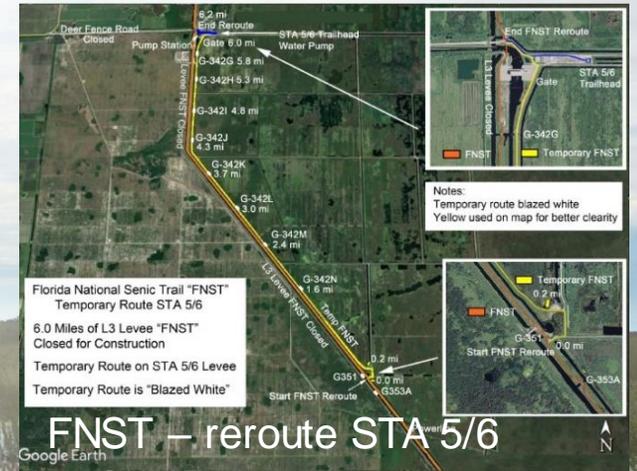
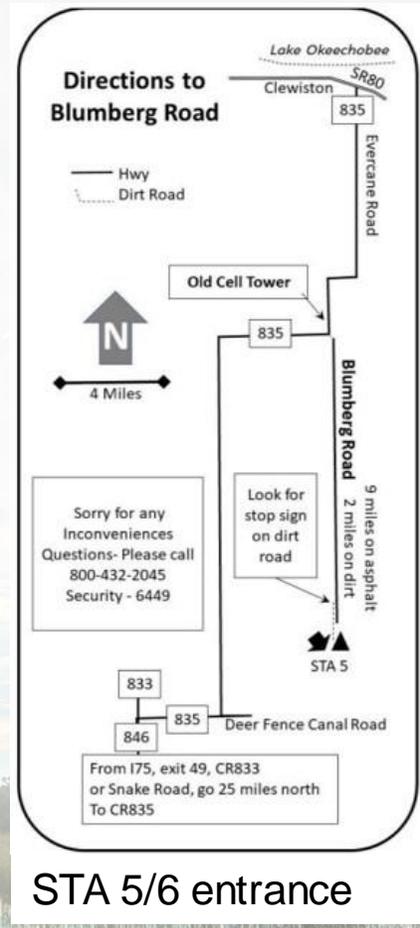
G780



Construction, Maintenance & Wildlife

- Goal to provide compatible recreation without compromising operation and management activities

- Necessary Closures
 - Construction zone
 - Safety/Deadlines
 - Post construction Veg recovery
 - Wildlife considerations



Partnerships

- **SFWMD**
 - Responsibility to provide recreation opportunities
- **Stakeholders/Partners**
 - Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission -FWC
 - Florida National Scenic Trail - FNST
 - Audubon Society
 - Conservation/Recreation Clubs
 - i.e.- United Waterfowlers of Florida
 - South Florida Amateur Astronomer Assoc
 - Many others



Nature Based Recreation Types

- Nature based recreation from levees
 - Hiking
 - Wildlife Viewing
 - Biking
 - Day use picnic
 - Fishing
- Recreation within cells
 - Hunting



Nature Based Recreation

- **Guided Wildlife Viewing**
 - STA 5/6
 - Hendry Glades Audubon
 - STA 1E
 - Everglades Audubon
 - Lakeside Ranch
 - Martin Co. Audubon
- **Hiking/Biking**
 - All STA's
 - Fri - Mon
 - STA 5/6
 - FNST – L3 rerouted

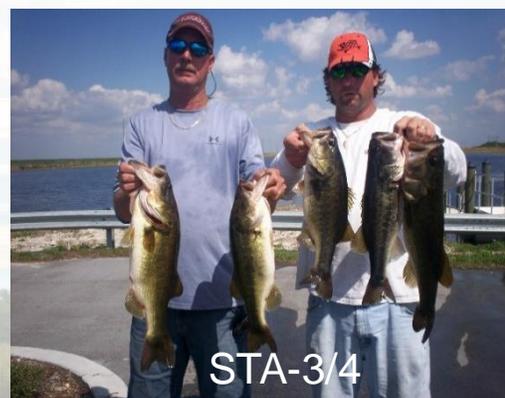


Nature Based Recreation

- **FWC quota hunt – ECP STA's**
 - Waterfowl & Alligator
 - Access into cells limited
 - Designated access points
- **FWC Youth Hunt Program**
 - Waterfowl and alligator
- **FWC -Other specialty hunts**
 - Wounded Warrior
 - Youth Hunt



- **Fishing non impacting area**
 - i.e. Discharge canals
 - STA 1E & 1W
 - Bank fishing
 - STA 3/4 - Harold Campbell
 - Motorboat access
 - non treatment cell



Growing Opportunities

- Since ECP inception - other non ECP water resource projects = more recreation opportunities
 - Lakeside Ranch
 - Phase 2 completed
 - Becoming a popular destination
 - Nubbin Slough
 - Designated STA for open recreation
 - C44 – Reservoir and STA
 - Rec infrastructure designs - finalize
 - Under construction
 - C139 – FEB, C43 – Reservoir
 - Future opportunities
 - C23/C24 Reservoir/ STA
 - And more ...



Nubbin Slough STA

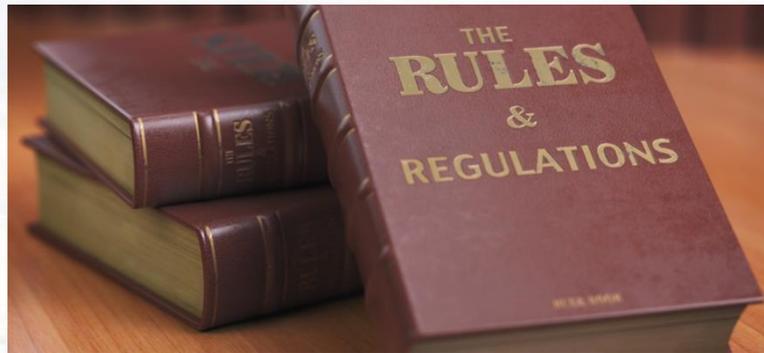
Moving forward – phase involvement

- Recreation Infrastructure Standards incorporated in design phase
- Implement Construction
- Construction completion
- Testing phase/finalizing rec infrastructure
 - ADA considerations, Facilities, Access points, barriers, etc.
- Consulting with internal staff
- Public Input
 - Recreation considerations
 - Hunting
 - Birding tours
 - Etc.
- Testing completion
- Governing Board approval



Public Participation

- Public Meetings - SFWMD
 - [Public Meetings and Forums | South Florida Water Management District \(sfwmd.gov\)](https://www.sfwmd.gov/public-meetings)
 - Rec Forum – Quarterly
- Proposed Rule Changes - FWC
 - [Proposed Rule Changes | FWC \(myfwc.com\)](https://www.myfwc.com/proposed-rule-changes)



Meetings are arranged by date, with the most recent at the top of the list. Click **Video** to listen to the meeting and view agenda documents, or **Agenda** or **Minutes** to see just the documents. You can also search the archives by typing keywords into the Search box.

[Streaming Video Help](#)

Upcoming Events

Name	Date	Agenda	Events	eComments	Agenda Packet
Currently there are no Upcoming Events					

Search Archives:
 [Advanced Search](#) **RSS feeds**
[Agenda](#) [Minutes](#)

Past Meetings

2022 2021

Name	Date	Duration	Agenda	Minutes/Other Documents	Video	Agenda Packet
SFWMD Recreational Forum	Dec 13, 2021 - 5:00 AM	02h 26m	Agenda		Video	
DECEMBER 2021 GOVERNING BOARD MEETING	Dec 9, 2021 - 9:00 AM	05h 08m	Agenda		Video	Agenda Packet
NOVEMBER 2021 GOVERNING BOARD MEETING	Nov 10, 2021 - 9:24 AM	04h 57m	Agenda		Video	Agenda Packet
Audit & Finance Committee	Nov 10, 2021 - 6:16 PM	00h 00m	Agenda		Video	
OCTOBER 2021 GOVERNING BOARD MEETING	Oct 22, 2021 - 10:01 AM	06h 19m	Agenda		Video	Agenda Packet

Contact Information

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jharbaug@sfwmd.gov



PUBLIC COMMENT

If you're participating via Zoom – use the Raise Hand feature

If you're participating via Phone –

*9 Raises Hand

*6 Mutes/Unmutes