



March 1, 2024

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

The Honorable Kathleen Passidomo
President, Florida Senate
The Capitol
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

The Honorable Paul Renner
Speaker, Florida House of Representatives
The Capitol
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1300

Dear Governor DeSantis, President Passidomo, and Speaker Renner,

Under the leadership of Governor Ron DeSantis, the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) and Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) have made incredible progress on Everglades restoration projects including significant advancements building water storage north, south, east, and west of Lake Okeechobee while also enhancing the resiliency of the state's largest water management system. Close to 70 significant restoration milestones have been achieved over the past five years for the benefit of more than 9 million Floridians and the communities in which we serve.

On behalf of the SFWMD and the DEP, we are pleased to provide you with the 2024 South Florida Environmental Report, a consolidated compilation of reports and information in accordance with Subsection 373.036(7), Florida Statutes.

This peer-reviewed, three-volume report provides the science and data used to drive decisions at the South Florida Water Management District. The report also documents restoration, water quality, scientific and engineering accomplishments in the Kissimmee Basin, Lake Okeechobee, Everglades, and South Florida's coastal areas during the 2023 Water Year (WY).

The full report is available online and covers environmental information of WY 2023 (May 1, 2022–April 30, 2023) and budgetary information for the SFWMD Fiscal Year 2023 (October 1, 2022–September 30, 2023). The report and a summary of highlights as well as previous consolidated reports are available at [SFWMD.gov/SFER](https://www.sfwmd.gov/SFER).

Our agencies continue to focus on ensuring environmental restoration and resiliency move forward as expeditiously as possible to support taxpayers' investments in our water management infrastructure and protection of our natural resources. Thank you for your support as we work together toward restoring America's Everglades and protecting our water resources.

Respectfully,



Digitally signed by Shawn
Hamilton
Date: 2024.03.01 12:24:16
-05'00'

Shawn Hamilton, Secretary
Florida Department of Environmental Protection

Respectfully,



Drew Bartlett, Executive Director
South Florida Water Management District

cc: The Honorable Jeanette Núñez, Lieutenant Governor
Members, Florida Senate and Florida House of Representatives
Members, SFWMD Governing Board

Attachment: *2024 South Florida Environmental Report Highlights*