

40E-8.221 Minimum Flows and Levels (MFLs): Surface Waters.

The MFLs contained in this Part identify the point at which further withdrawals would cause significant harm to the water resources, or ecology, of the area as applicable, pursuant to Sections 373.042 and 373.0421, F.S. It is the District's intent to correct or prevent the violation of these MFLs through management of the water resources and implementation of a recovery strategy.

(1) No change.

(2) Caloosahatchee River. The MFL for the Caloosahatchee River is the 30-day moving average flow of 457 cubic feet per second (cfs) at S-79. A minimum mean monthly flow of 300 CFS is necessary to maintain sufficient salinities at S-79 in order to prevent a MFL exceedance. A MFL exceedance occurs during a 365-day period, when:

(a) A MFL exceedance occurs during a 365-day period when the 30-day moving average flow at S-79 is below 457 cfs. A 30-day average salinity concentration exceeds 10 parts per thousand at the Ft. Myers salinity station (measured at 20% of the total river depth from the water surface at a location of latitude 263907.260, longitude 815209.296); or

(b) A MFL violation occurs when a MFL exceedance occurs more than once in a 5-year period. A single, daily average salinity exceeds a concentration of 20 parts per thousand at the Ft. Myers salinity station. Exceedance of either paragraph (a) or (b), for two consecutive years is a violation of the MFL.

The flow, combined with tributary contributions below S-79, shall be sufficient to maintain a salinity gradient that prevents significant harm to mobile and immobile indicator species within the Caloosahatchee River. If significant harm occurs once the Caloosahatchee MFL recovery strategy is fully implemented and operational, the recovery strategy and MFL will be reviewed in accordance with Rule 40E-8.421, F.A.C. Mobile and immobile indicator species shall be monitored as described in the recovery strategy.

(3) through (5) No change.

Rulemaking Authority §§ 9, 10 P.L. 83-358, 373.042, 373.044, 373.113, 373.119, 373.129, 373.136, 373.171 FS. Law Implemented 373.016, 373.036, 373.042, 373.0421, 373.175, 373.216, 373.219, 373.223, 373.246, 373.709 FS. History—New 9-10-01, Amended 4-1-03, 12-12-06._____.