

Lower Kissimmee Basin Stormwater Treatment & Recreation Area Project Update

South Florida Water Management District
August 28, 2025

Agenda

- LKBSTA project history and Lake Okeechobee Watershed water quality: Jennifer Reynolds
- LKBSTA project overview and design update: Jenna Bobsein
- Recreation opportunities at SFWMD STAs: Justin Nolte
- Public comment

Project Timeline

Project Planning: 2019-2021

➤ 2019

- **September:** SFWMD and FDEP begin a public exploration of a project to address Lake Okeechobee pollution

➤ 2020

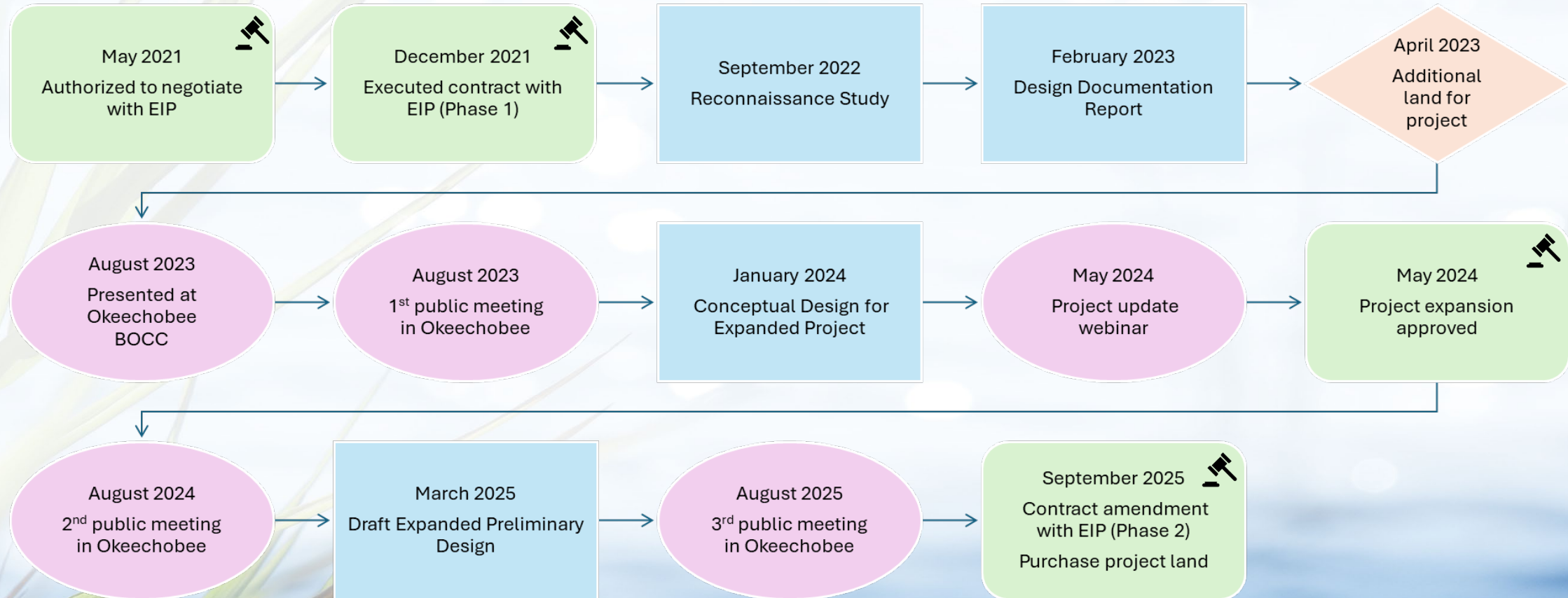
- **January:** A conceptual project is placed in the Lake Okeechobee BMAP Update to address 3 priority basins
- **October:** Grant funding from FDEP is made available for the project

➤ 2021

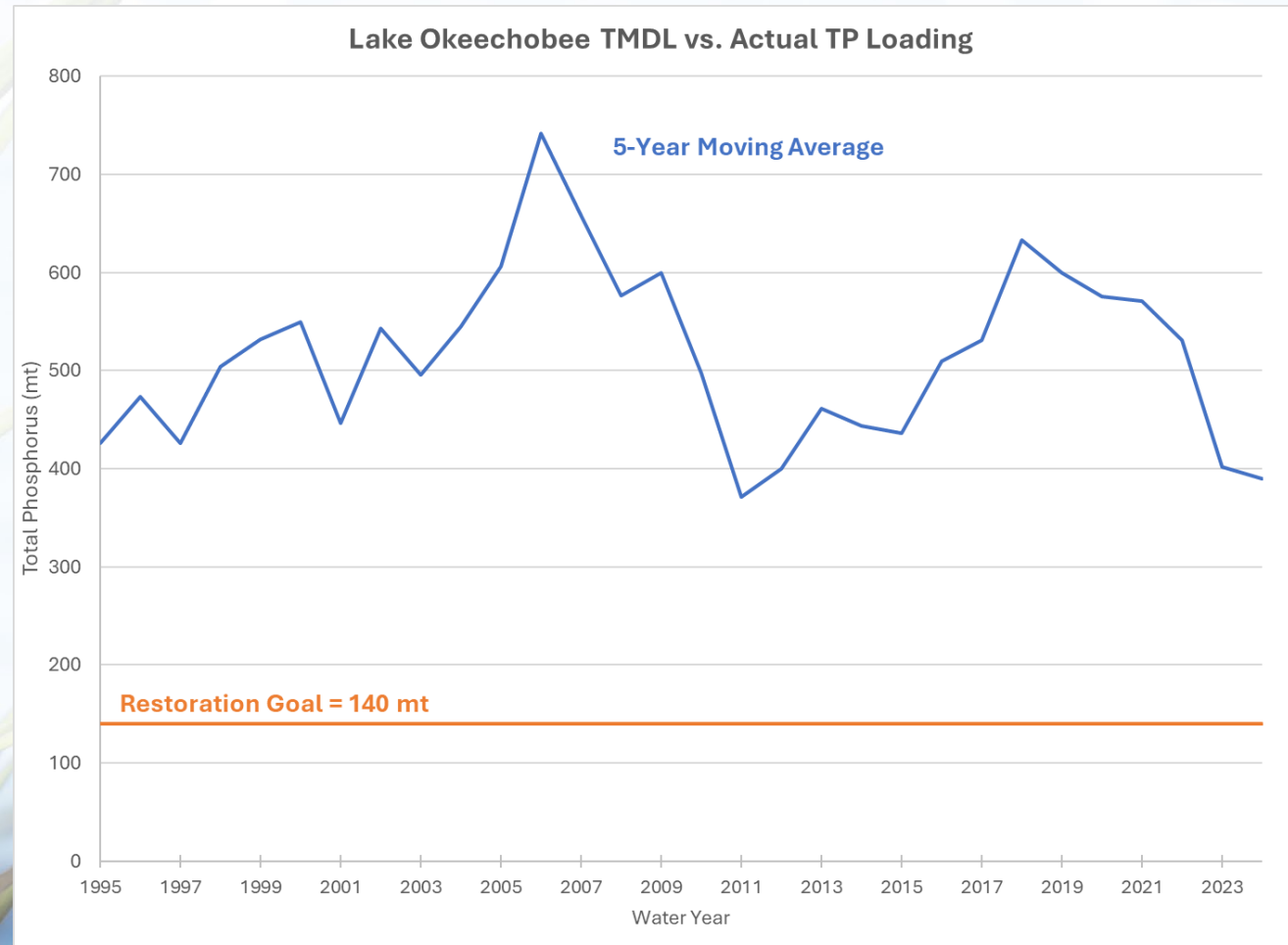
- **March:** SFWMD solicits proposals to design, construct, and operate the Lower Kissimmee Basin Stormwater Treatment Project
- **April:** SFWMD receives proposals from 2 respondents: Ecosystem Investment Partners (EIP) and Resource Environmental Solutions (RES)

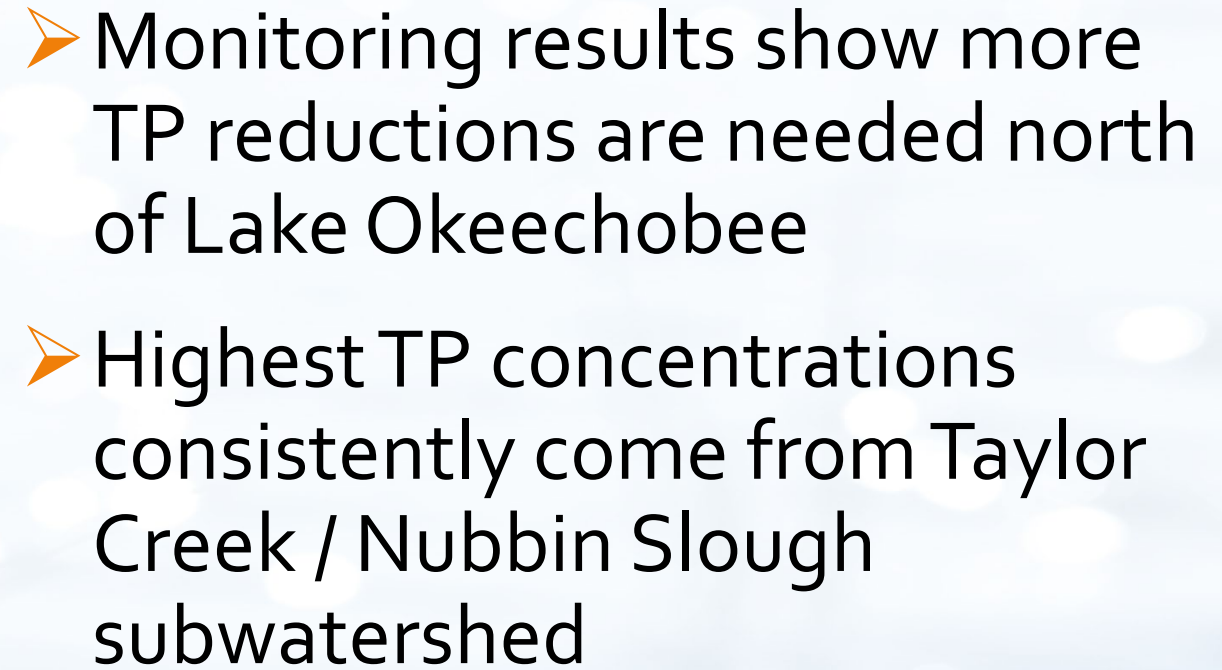
Project Timeline

Phase One: 2021-2025



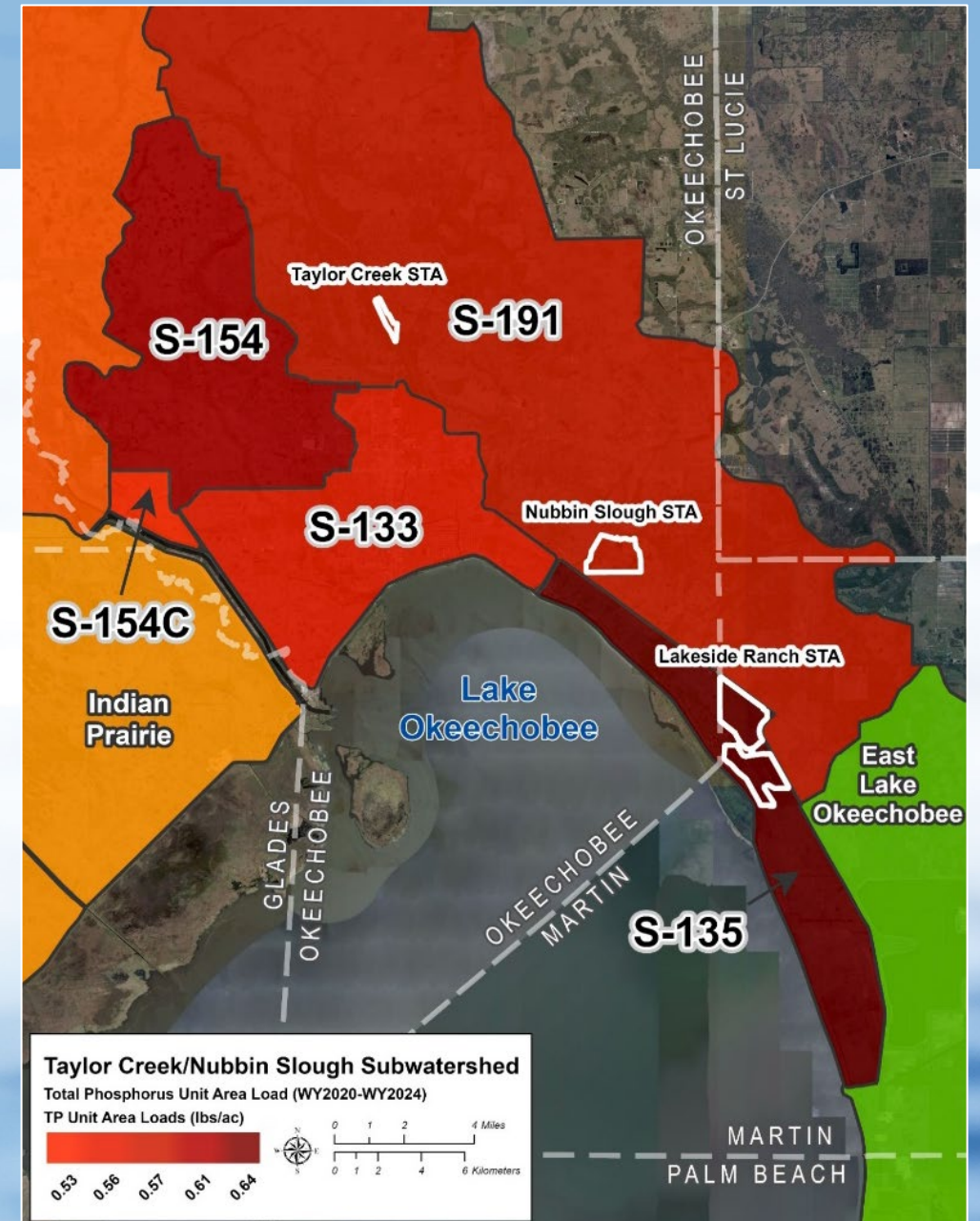
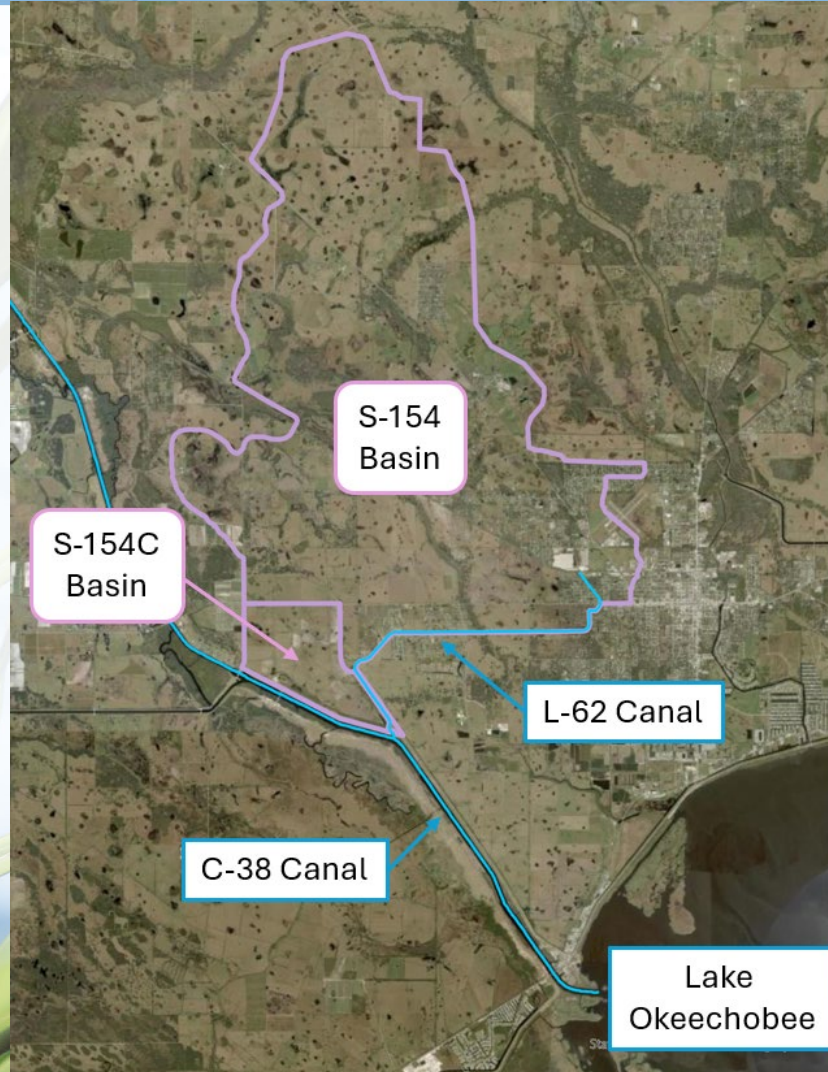
Lake Okeechobee Water Quality



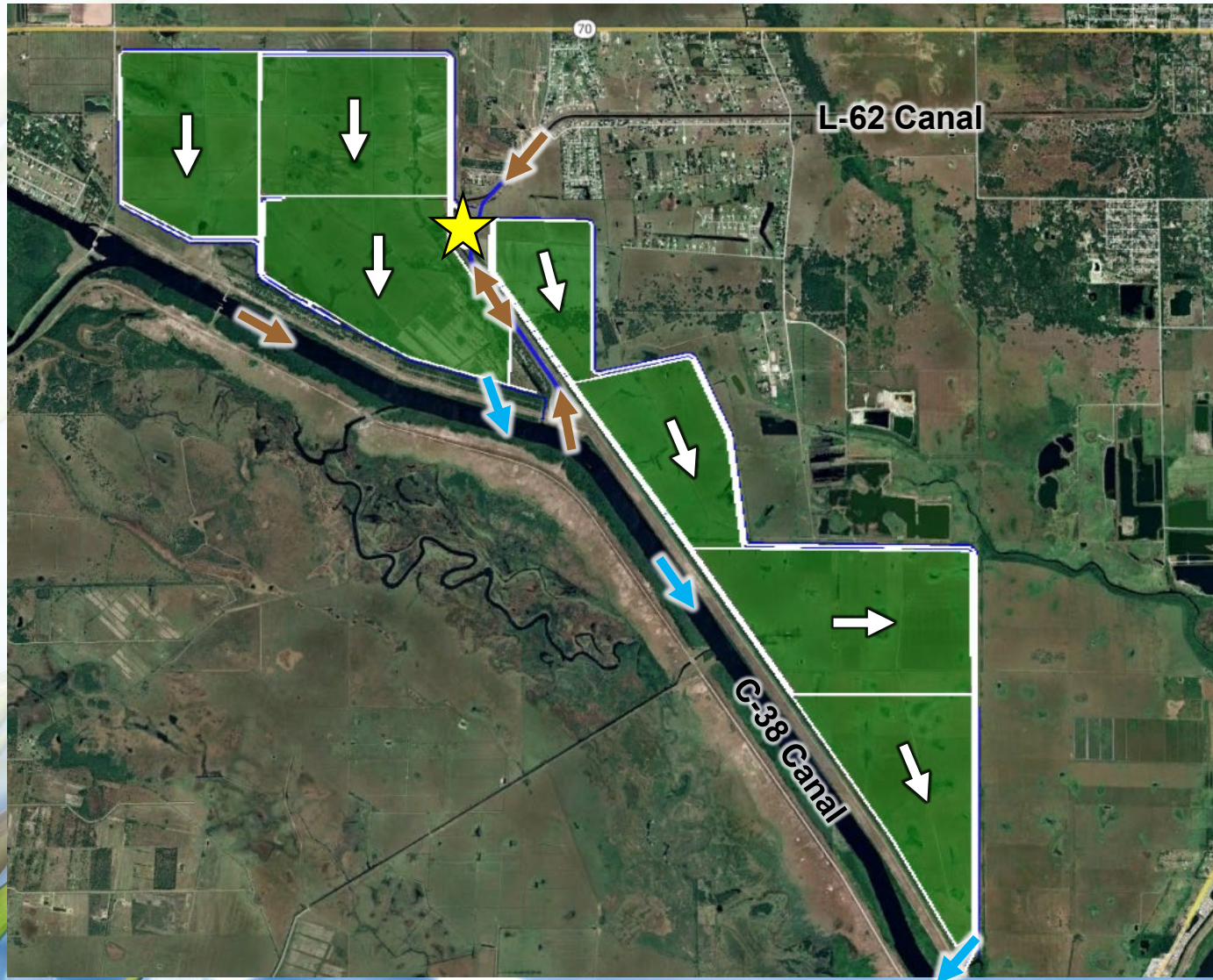


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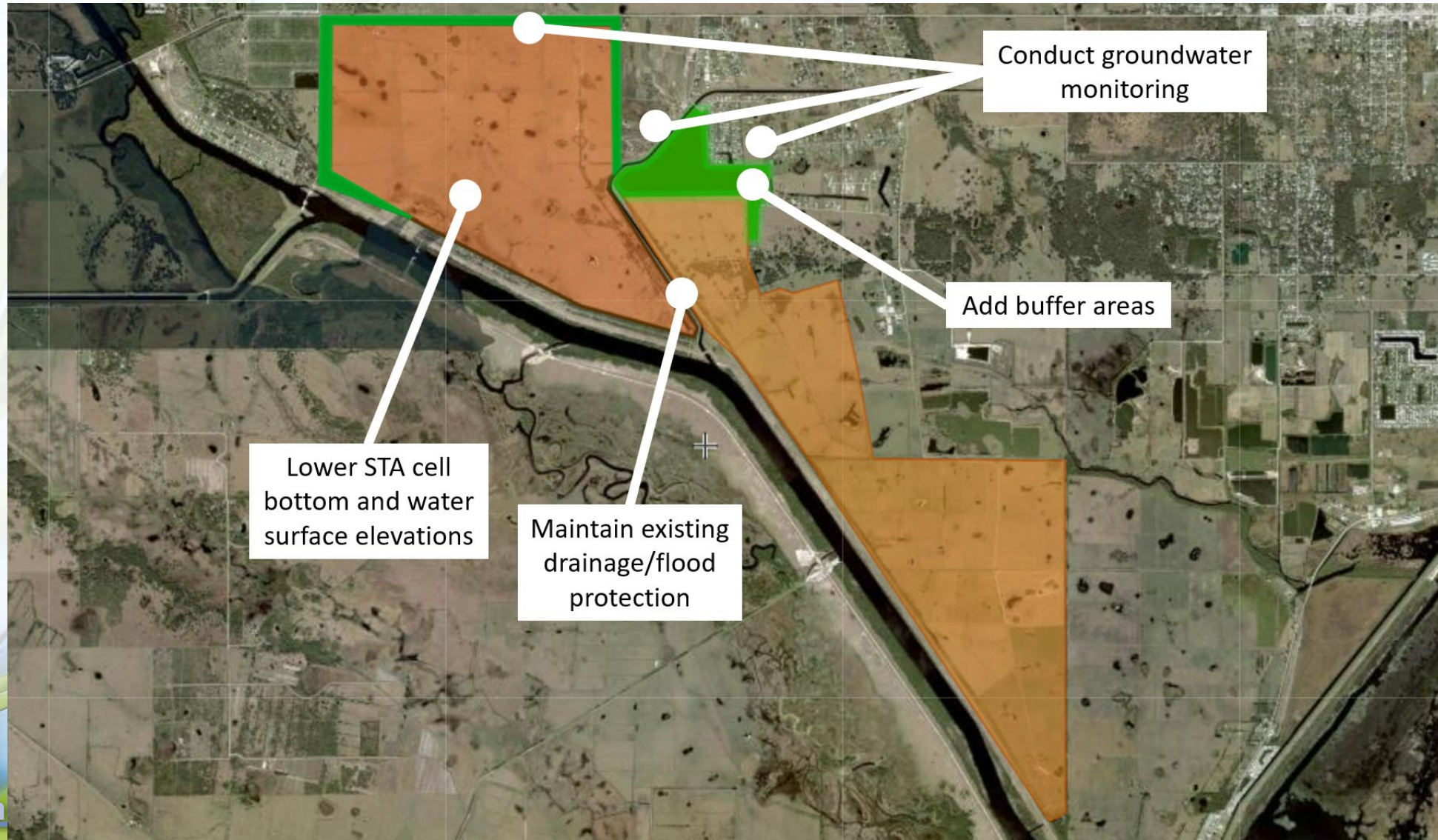
Why This Location?



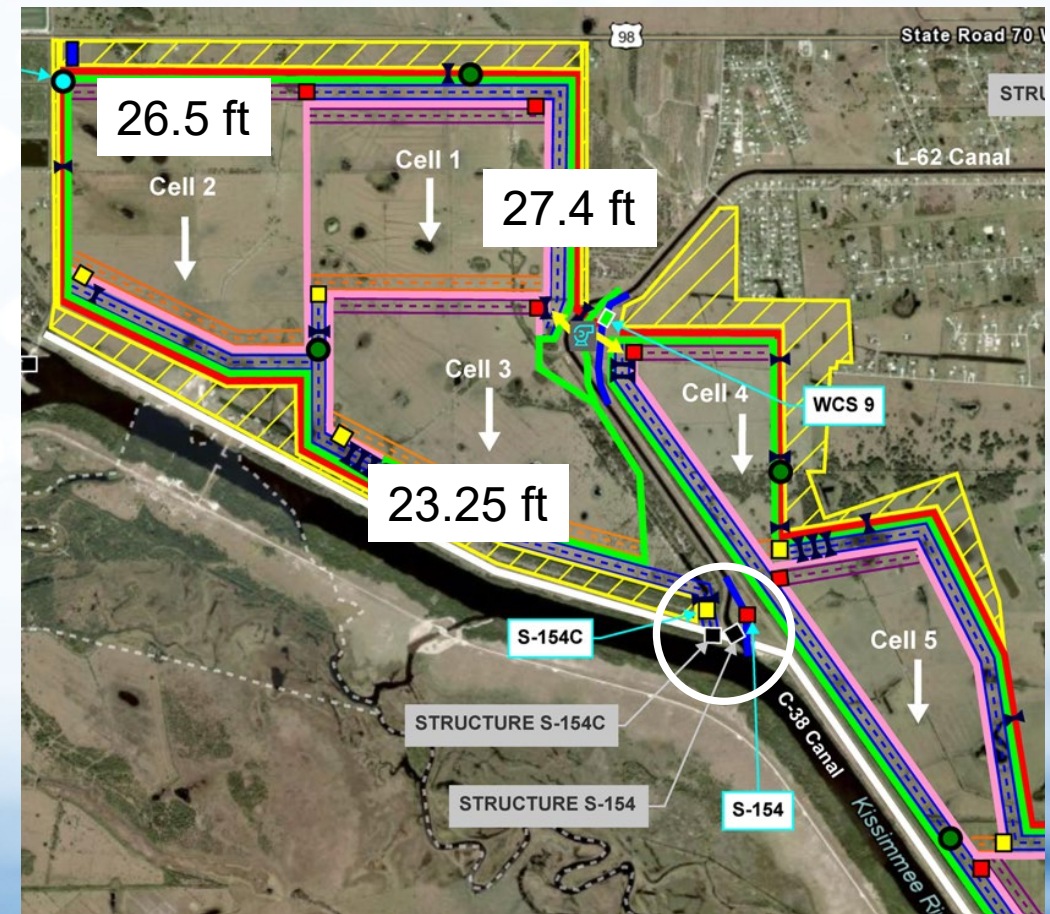
LKBSTA Project Overview



Design Changes Based on Stakeholder Input



Design Change: Lower Cell Elevations, Improved Flood Protection



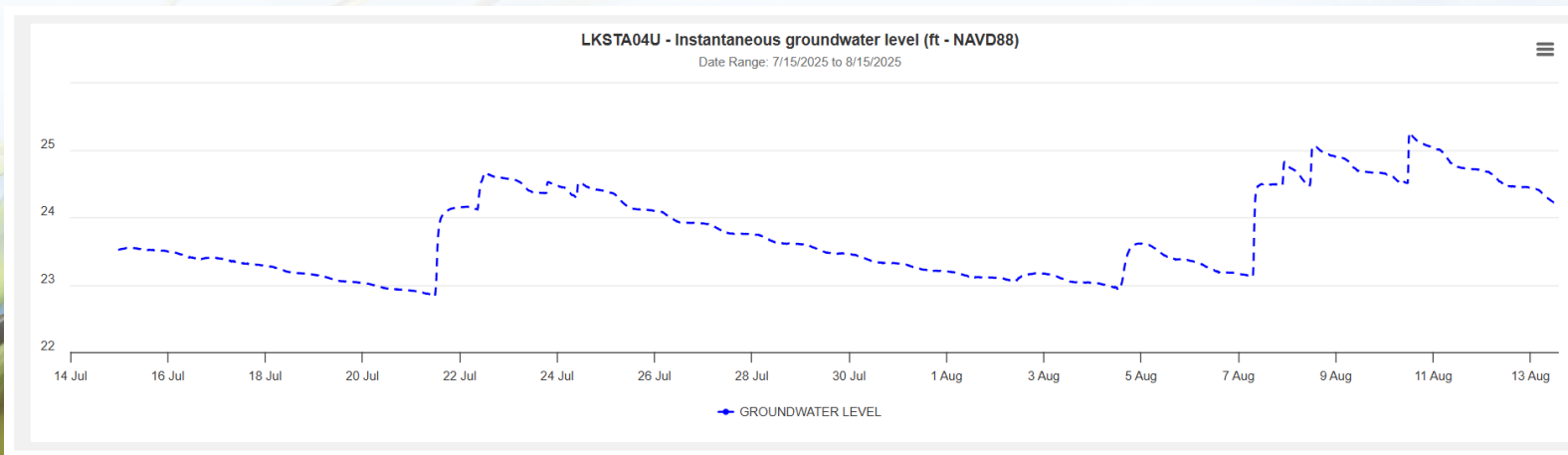
Design Change: Groundwater Monitoring

Groundwater Well Data

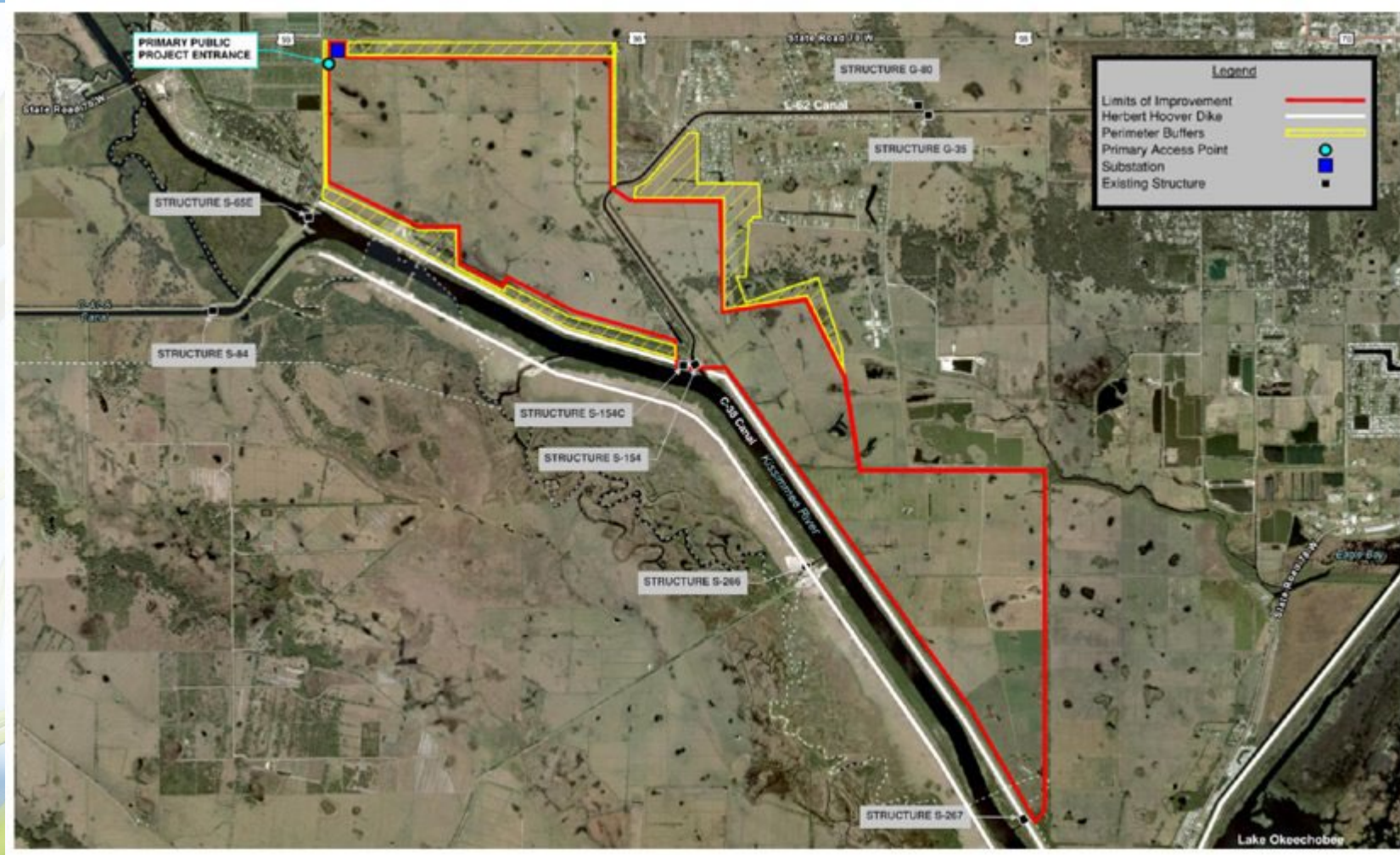
- LKSTA01M: [DbhydroInsightsData](#)
- LKSTA02M: [DbhydroInsightsData](#)
- LKSTA03U: [DbhydroInsightsData](#)
- LKSTA04U: [DbhydroInsightsData](#)
- LKSTA05U: [DbhydroInsightsData](#)
- LKSTA06U: [DbhydroInsightsData](#)
- LKSTA07U: [DbhydroInsightsData](#)
- LKSTA09U: [DbhydroInsightsData](#)
- LKSTA10U: [DbhydroInsightsData](#)



Groundwater well data available on DBHYDRO Insights. Find links to specific wells at project website: sfwmd.gov/LKBSTA



Design Change: Buffer Areas



Nature-Based Recreation

➤ Nature-based recreation activities on District STAs:

- Hiking
- Biking
- Wildlife viewing
- Day use picnic
- Bank fishing

➤ Possible additional recreation at LKBSTA

- Horseback riding
- Hunting
- Canoeing and kayaking



Recreation Option: Hunting

- Limited Entry Quota System
- Administered by FWC
- Youth Hunts
- Wounded Warrior Hunts



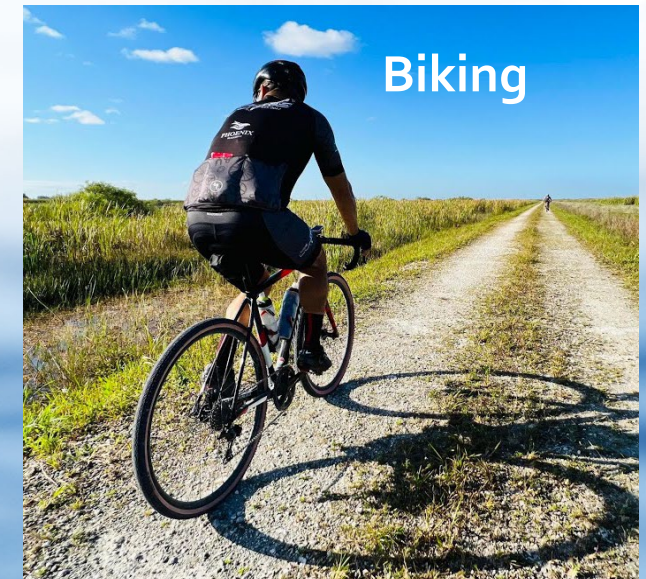
Recreation Option: Horseback Riding



Proposed Recreation Features



Bank Fishing



Biking

Public Use Parking Area with Information Kiosk, Vault Bathroom, and Shelter with Benches



Vault Bathroom with ADA Accessible Parking and STA Rules Sign



Information Kiosk, Shelter and Benches



Shelter with Picnic Benches within STA Cell



Pedestrian/Bicycle/Equestrian Pass-Through Gates



Next Steps

- September Governing Board
- Questions? Submit to LKBSTA@sfwmd.gov



Lake Okeechobee

Public Comment



3:00