JUNE 2026

Everglades Stormwater Treatment Areas Quarterly Performance Update

The South Florida Water Management District (District) is committed to delivering clean water to the Everglades and is complying with all regulatory limits and requirements. The State of Florida built Everglades Stormwater Treatment Areas (STAs) to improve water quality and reduce nutrient pollution.

Everglades STA Performance Updates

Florida has invested billions of dollars in Everglades restoration, including the construction of Everglades STAs that are specifically designed to improve water quality and reduce nutrient pollution before water enters the Everglades.

In the most recent water year (May 1, 2025-April 30, 2026), 4 of the 5 Everglades STAs achieved annual phosphorus concentrations at or below 19 parts per billion (ppb), and 1 of the 5 STAs (STA-3/4) achieved 13 ppb for the water year.

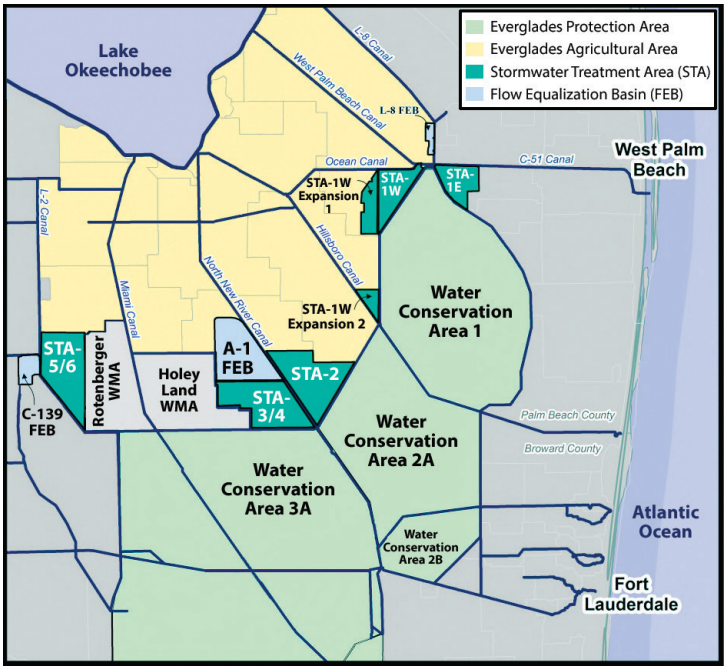
Now, with the completion of the Restoration Strategies projects and several of the Everglades STA Refurbishment projects, Everglades STA performance is improving.

The phosphorus limits referenced in recent reporting took effect May 1, 2026, at the start of water year 2027, and none of Florida's Everglades STAs are currently out of compliance with those requirements.

The data collected prior to May 1, 2026, does not represent operations of a fully constructed treatment complex designed to achieve compliance with the Water Quality Based Effluent Limit.

Many project components are in their first full water year of operation following testing last wet season.

Map of Stormwater Treatment Areas



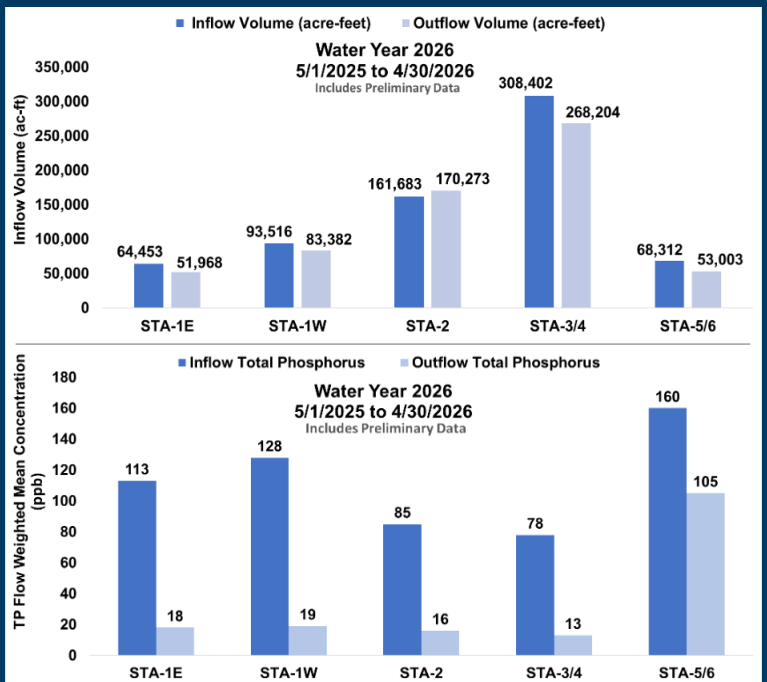
Water Quality Based Effluent Limit (WQBEL)

The annual phosphorus concentration for the total outflow of each Everglades STA:

- **Shall not exceed 19 parts per billion in any water year; and**
- **Shall not exceed 13 parts per billion in more than 3 out of 5 water years on a rolling basis.**

Everglades Stormwater Treatment Areas

- **Everglades STAs treated basin runoff and Lake Okeechobee releases during Water Year 2026**
- **Total Water Year 2026 inflows to Everglades STAs (May 1, 2025 to April 30, 2026): Approximately 696,000 acre feet**
- **Approximately 150,000 pounds of phosphorus were retained by the Everglades STAs in WY2026**



4 of the 5 Everglades STAs achieved annual phosphorus concentrations at or below 19 ppb, and 1 of the 5 STAs (STA-3/4) achieved 13 ppb for the water year.

Data includes a combination of provisional data and quality-assured flow and water quality data.

Staff planting bulrush in an Everglades STA

Everglades STA-5/6

Prior to completion of the C-139 Flow Equalization Basin (FEB), STA-5/6 experienced frequent dry out in many of the treatment cells in the dry season. Dry out is known to result in elevated phosphorus concentrations in discharges following rehydration.

In WY2026, C-139 FEB was not yet available when a large runoff event occurred and flows were delivered directly to STA-5/6 following an extended dry out. This resulted in an 11-day high phosphorus export. This one event significantly influenced the entire water year's calculated flow weighted mean outflow total phosphorus concentration.

This wet season (WY2027) is the first year of operation of the C-139 FEB upstream of STA-5/6. It will intercept high flows, provide pre-treatment/nutrient reduction before entering STA-5/6, and serve as a source of hydration water during dry periods.

Staff collecting vegetation to evaluate its response to fire

Staff collecting data to evaluate changes in SAV coverage post drawdown

Everglades STA Refurbishment Projects

In WY2020, the District began construction of several Everglades STA Refurbishment Projects in addition to the projects included in the Restoration Strategies program.

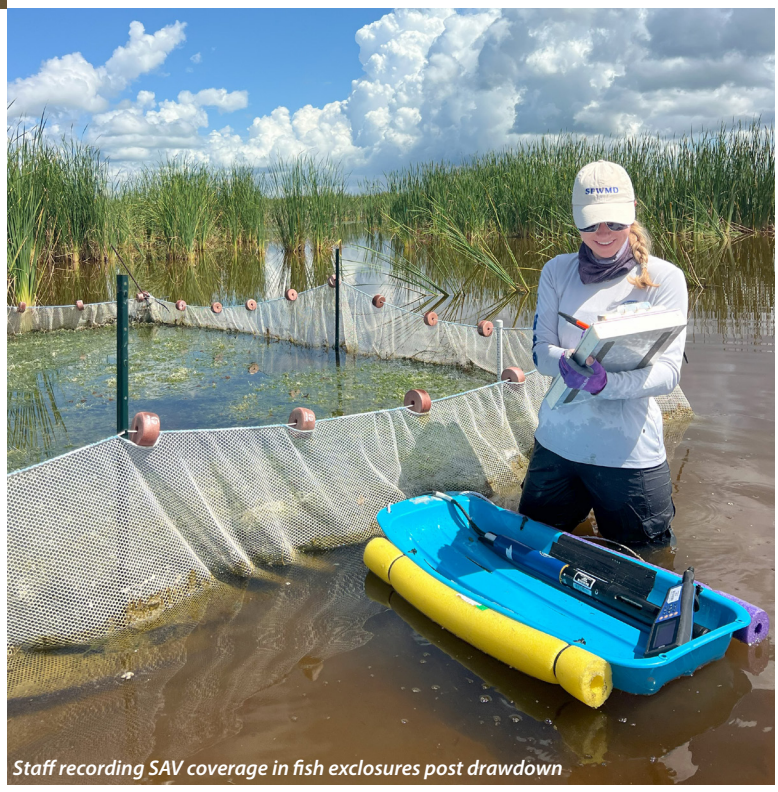
The Everglades STA Refurbishment Projects are designed to improve the hydraulics, vegetation conditions, and treatment performance of the existing Everglades STAs.

These projects are a proactive measure to ensure the facilities are poised to maintain compliance with the Water Quality Based Effluent Limit (WQBEL).

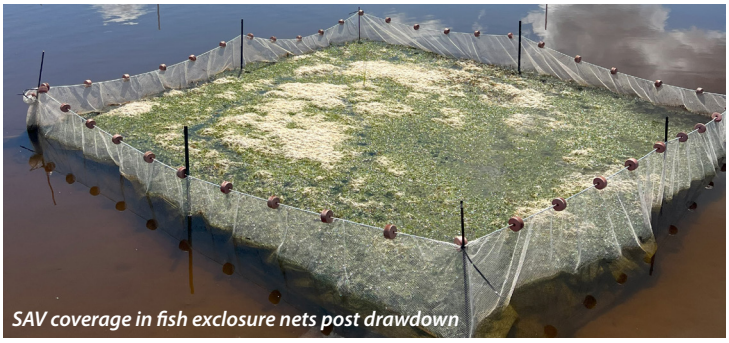
Improving Everglades STA Performance

The District is implementing applied science and adaptive management strategies based on the findings from the Restoration Strategies Science Plan to improve Everglades STA treatment performance. Examples include more precise operations, Submerged Aquatic Vegetation (SAV) Recovery Drawdown and the Evaluation of Fire as a Management Tool.

- The District operates 64,000 acres of Everglades STAs to help restore Everglades water quality and has constructed approximately 19,000 acres of Flow Equalization Basins (FEB) that further optimize the ability of Everglades STAs to treat water.
- Over 1 million plants were planted in the STA's during the last water year.
- A managed drawdown was implemented in STA-2 Cell 3 during the last water year resulting in the regrowth of the submerged aquatic vegetation which is an important component of a well-performing STA.
- STA-3/4, the largest of the Everglades STAs, works together with the upstream A-1 FEB which reduces peak flows and inflow phosphorus concentrations which improves the treatment performance of the STA.



Staff recording SAV coverage in fish exclosures post drawdown



SAV coverage in fish exclosure nets post drawdown

Florida's Everglades restoration efforts are grounded in decades of scientific monitoring, adaptive management and transparent public reporting. Operational data, annual monitoring reports and water quality performance updates remain easily accessible through established reporting systems, including the South Florida Environmental Report and Everglades STA Weekly Performance Summary.