



Audit Recommendations Follow-Up Report

**For the Period January 1, 2025
Through March 31, 2025**

Project #25-15

**Prepared by
Office of Inspector General**


**J. Timothy Beirnes, CPA, Inspector General
Ann E. Haga, Executive Assistant**



SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

Memorandum

To: Governing Board Members

From: J. Timothy Beirnes, CPA, Inspector General
Office of Inspector General 

Date: April, 24, 2025

Subject: Audit Recommendations Follow-Up Report -
For the Period January 1, 2025 through March 31, 2025
Project No. 25-15

This report was performed pursuant to the Inspector General's authority set forth in Section 20.055, F.S. Enclosed is the subject report that was conducted to assess the progress made in implementing audit recommendations.

In our efforts to continue to improve the audit process we utilize an audit recommendations tracking system as an integral part of monitoring the implementation status of audit recommendations. This system contains the basic audit information and recommendations. This system provides us with a vehicle to communicate and gather feedback on the status of the audit recommendations with the Governing Board, District management, and the audited organizational units.

Should you have any questions concerning the enclosed report, please feel free to call me at (561) 682-6398.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Audit recommendations target the economy and efficiency of District operations and compliance with our policies and statutory responsibilities. Our recommendations also focus on providing District management with suggestions that facilitate their achievement of program goals and objectives. To be effective, audit recommendations must be implemented. Additionally, *Government Auditing Standards* require following up on audit recommendations in previously issued audit reports. Accordingly, the Office of Inspector General has performed follow-up audit work since the office was established in 1996. Every quarter our office surveys departments to determine the implementation status of recommendations and to encourage their completion. This information is maintained in the Inspector General's audit recommendation tracking system. The system allows each audit staff member to update the recommendation's "status" after reviewing information provided by the departments and offices.

This report on the implementation status of audit recommendations is for the period January 1, 2025 through March 31, 2025 (the "Reporting Period"). As shown in Exhibit 1, as of December 31, 2024, for previously issued audit reports, seven (7) recommendations were not yet Fully Implemented. The status of the (7) seven recommendations remain In-Process as of March 31, 2025.

Following is a brief description of the attached exhibits:

- **Exhibit 1:** Displays a summary of recommendation statuses for all audit reports with recommendations in process of implementation. Exhibit 1 also shows the changes in the status of recommendations from the beginning of the period to the end of the period.
- **Exhibit 2:** Shows a summary of the changes in the status of recommendations by audit report. Exhibit 2 shows only those audit reports that contained one or more recommendations that had not been fully implemented at the beginning of the reporting period.
- **Exhibit 3:** Displays detail information regarding the status of each audit recommendation. This includes the status of the recommendation for the prior reporting period and the status at the end of the current period. The comment column provides narrative information regarding implementation progress.

EXHIBIT 1
Summary of Recommendations Status
As of March 31, 2025

	In	Partially	
<u>Prior Period Reports</u>	Process	Implemented	Total
Status Prior Period (December 31, 2024)	7	-	7
Implemented, Partially Implemented, or Status Changed to No Longer Applicable, During Period	-	-	-
Remaining Recommendations to be Fully Implemented	7	-	7
<u>Recommendations from New Reports Issued</u>			
New Recommendations*	-	-	-
Implemented or Partially Implemented	-	-	-
Remaining Recommendations to be Fully Implemented	-	-	-
<u>Current Status</u>			
Remaining Recommendations to be Fully Implemented	7	-	7

* Initial Status is set as "In-Process"

EXHIBIT 2
Audit Reports With Implementation of Recommendations in Progress
As of March 31, 2025

Audit No.	Audit Title	No. of Recs		In Process	Partially Implemented	No Longer Applicable	Implemented	
	Recommendations - Prior Period Reports							
18-08	Audit of Kissimmee River Restoration Project Cost Share for Land Acquisition Expenditures	19	Initial Status	1	0	0	18	Open
			Change in Status	0	0	0	0	
			Current Period Status	1	0	0	18	
22-24	Audit of Land Sales Proceeds	4	Initial Status	1	0	0	3	Open
			Change in Status	0	0	0	0	
			Current Period Status	1	0	0	3	
23-15	Audit of Land Sales Proceeds	11	Initial Status	5	0	0	6	Open
			Change in Status	0	0	0	0	
			Current Period Status	5	0	0	6	
	Recommendations from New Reports Issued							
			Initial Status					
			Change in Status					
			Current Period Status					
	Recommendations - All Reports							
	TOTAL	34	Prior/Initial Status	7	0	0	27	
			Change in Status	0	0	0	0	
			Status Current Period	7	0	0	27	
	Number of Recommendations Remaining to Be Fully Implemented	7		7	0			

EXHIBIT 3
Detail of In-Process and Partially Implemented Audit Recommendations
As of March 31, 2025

Audit No.	Rec No.	Audit Title	Status Prior Report	Status Current Report	Due Date		Recommendation	Management Response	Current Period Comments Regarding Status
					Original	Current			
18-08	1	Audit of Kissimmee River Restoration Project Cost Share For Land Acquisition Expenditures	In Process	In Process	12/31/2019	6/30/2025	Expedite KRRP claim submittals to the USACE for acquired tracts not yet submitted, donations, and relocation costs.	Agreed. Workload has been shifted to delete 1 FTE full-time and 1 FTE part-time to submit the backing of claims (37 acquired tracts, 350 relocations and 50 donated tracts) within the next calendar year.	Sept 30, 2024: 18 donation tracts remain to be submitted. Appraisals complete on 9 tracts and staff is compiling claim requests for submittal; remaining 9 tracts are being appraised June 30, 2024: Submitted 1 relocation claim and 1 acquired tract. Appraisal complete for 1st donated tract containing 620 acres and claim is being prepared. Working on the appraisal for 7 donated tracts; claim to follow. The only claims remaining are on donated tracts, which require historical appraisals that are extremely time consuming. Dec. 30, 2024: Claim submitted for 1 tract (620 acres). Appraisals complete on 12 tracts and staff is working on claims; appraisals on 5 tracts are in progress. (17 donation tracts remain to be submitted) March 31, 2025 update: Claims submitted for 6 donation tracts; staff working on claims for 6 tracts with completed appraisals; appraisals on 4 tracts are in progress; 10 donation tracts remain to be submitted.
22-24	2	Audit of Land Sales Proceeds	In Process	In Process	9/30/2024	6/30/2025	Determine whether the \$173,544 remitted to DEP as part of unspent surplus funds in the Water Management Land, Preservation 2000, and Florida Forever Trust Funds was remitted erroneously. If so, determine the appropriate action to resolve this issue.	Management concurs. February 26, 2024, this was discussed with DEP, and they requested a copy of the audit. Staff will work with DEP to try and resolve.	October 2024 Update - A copy of the Audit was provided and staff are still working with DEP. DEP is to discuss with Division of State Lands. December 2024 Update - There has been no change in the status of this finding. March 31, 2025 Update - There has been no change in the status of this finding.
23-15	1	Audit of Land Lease Compliance	In Process	In Process	7/31/2025	7/31/2025	Implement a process to ensure land managers follow-up with lessees to determine whether inspections deficiencies are resolved. Consider requiring land managers to document communications and resolutions.	Management concurs with recommendation. 1) Request IT amend inspection report to include date violations are to be rectified. 2) Staff will request IT provide a violation report from the Survey 123 software.	On target. Meeting with IT in February to start revisions. March 31, 2025 Update: In progress. Planned due date for completion remains on target.
23-15	2	Audit of Land Lease Compliance	In Process	In Process	7/31/2025	7/31/2025	Consider tracking and monitoring the status of inspection deficiencies the District is responsible for resolving.	Management concurs with recommendations. 1) The Land Stewardship Section is developing a process to identify, track, and monitor assets and management needs outside of the lease inspection process. 2) The Lease Inspection survey will be limited to those items specifically identified as a lessee responsibility.	In progress. On target. March 31, 2025 Update: In progress. Planned due date for completion remains on target.

Audit No.	Rec No.	Audit Title	Status Prior Report	Status Current Report	Due Date		Recommendation	Management Response	Current Period Comments Regarding Status
					Original	Current			
23-15	3	Audit of Land Lease Compliance	In Process	In Process	7/31/2025	7/31/2025	Ensure that all Land Stewardship Section land managers are aware of lease inspection guidelines.	Management concurs with recommendation. Land Stewardship management will review lease inspection guidelines with land managers.	Projected completion by July 31, 2025. Completion of revisions to Survey 123 is needed to complete this recommendation. March 31, 2025 Update: In progress. Planned due date for completion remains on target.
23-15	4	Audit of Land Lease Compliance	In Process	In Process	7/31/2025	7/31/2025	Consider implementing the following process enhancements to ensure that all land managers are applying consistent criteria when identifying lease deficiencies: 1.) provide training, if necessary, 2.) require supervisors to periodically accompany land managers during inspections to assess inspection consistency among land managers.	Management concurs with recommendation 1.) Management will provide necessary training to land managers. 2.) Supervisors will periodically accompany land managers on inspections.	Projected completion by July 31, 2025. Completion of revisions to Survey 123 is needed to complete this recommendation. March 31, 2025 Update: In progress. Planned due date for completion remains on target.
23-15	11	Audit of Land Lease Compliance	In Process	In Process	12/31/2024	7/31/2025	Ensure land managers make extra efforts to obtain lessees' signatures on semi-annual inspection results.	Management concurs with recommendations. Lessee will be sent a copy of the inspection with any violations noted to their email address on file with a response requirement.	Current phase of semi-annual inspections are in progress. Lessees will be sent copies of inspection reports by July 31, 2025. March 31, 2025 Update: In progress. Planned due date for completion remains on target.