



SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

May 9, 2017

Mr. Edward C. Smith
Director
Office of Ecosystem Projects
Florida Department of Environmental Protection
3900 Commonwealth Boulevard, MS 24
Tallahassee, FL 32399-3000

Subject: Long-Term Plan for Achieving Water Quality Goals in Everglades Protection Area Tributary Basins - Communications Meetings

Dear Mr. Smith:

The Long-Term Plan for Achieving Water Quality Goals in Everglades Protection Area Tributary Basins (Long-Term Plan) includes strategies for the South Florida Water Management District (District) to improve the performance of the original Everglades Construction Project (ECP) Stormwater Treatment Areas (STAs) and, much like any of the District's planning or joint planning endeavors, was prepared with significant public and agency technical involvement. Over the years, a myriad of scientific and policy issues related to Long-Term Plan implementation have been introduced by stakeholders and discussed with District staff and managers at many venues, including these communication meetings.

In 2012 the Restoration Strategies Regional Water Quality Plan, which was incorporated by law into the Long-Term Plan, was developed to expand the Everglades STAs and construct storage features to assist in achieving the original plan's water quality goals. District staff routinely provide detailed updates on the status of these restoration activities, including others contained within the Long-Term Plan, in a myriad of public venues. These settings include the monthly Water Resources Advisory Commission (WRAC), the Project and Lands Committee and Governing Board meetings, to name a few. In addition to public meetings, detailed information related to ongoing projects intended to improve Everglades water quality are prepared each month for the District's Governing Board and are posted to the Restoration Strategies webpage, www.sfwmd.gov/restorationstrategies. Weekly STA performance summary reports are also prepared and distributed to approximately 40 stakeholders representing the United States government, Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, tribal nations, and non-governmental organizations. Lastly, the

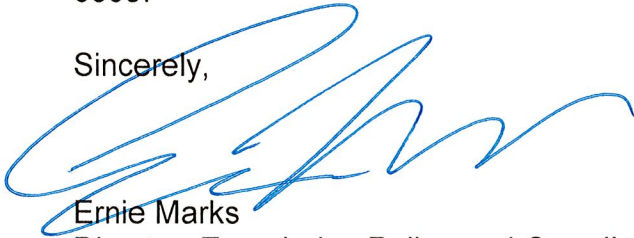
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District broadcasts information on all restoration projects, including those in the Long-Term Plan, to the public regularly via social media outlets such as Facebook and Twitter.

As a result of the aforementioned ongoing communication efforts, and to ensure continued effective and efficient use of taxpayer dollars, the District is recommending that the frequency of Long-Term Plan communications meetings be reduced from quarterly (four times per year) to annual. The District believes that this change is justified based on the numerous other public meetings and communication opportunities.

If you have any specific questions, please contact Jeremy McBryan directly at (561) 682-6355.

Sincerely,



Ernie Marks
Director, Everglades Policy and Coordination Division

EM/ed

c: Jeremy McBryan
Eva Velez



Florida Department of Environmental Protection

Marjory Stoneman Douglas Building
3900 Commonwealth Boulevard
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-3000

Rick Scott
Governor

Carlos Lopez-Cantera
Lt. Governor

Noah Valenstein
Secretary

July 28, 2017

Dear Mr. Marks,

Thank you for your request to reduce the frequency of communications meetings for the Long-Term Plan for Achieving Water Quality Goals in Everglades Protection Area Tributary Basins (Long-Term Plan) with the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD).

Upon review of your proposal and information provided, I have concluded that the request for a frequency reduction from quarterly to annually is acceptable. This conclusion is based on the number of public meeting opportunities provided by the SFWMD throughout the year in which the Long-Term Plan and associated issues are agenda items.

The Department requests the SFWMD strive to maintain the current level of commitment to the public by identifying at least one agenda item per quarter that is labeled or otherwise identified as a Long-Term Plan-related topic to the maximum extent possible.

The Department acknowledges this is not always feasible, therefore does not want to place upon SFWMD staff an unnecessary requirement that would provide no additional benefit to the environment, the public, or the Department.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me directly. I look forward to our continued cooperation and future success.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Edward C. Smith".

Edward C. Smith