Emergency Estuary Protection Well (EEPW) Program

FYI

Location:	**TBD**
Subwatershed:	**TBD**
Basin:	**TBD**
Purpose:	**Evaluate the feasibility of EEPW as a long-term solution that, couple with capital projects, aims to reduce harmful discharges to the Caloosahatchee and the St. Lucie estuaries, or as an interim measure to provide additional storage while treatment and conveyance capacity are constructed south of Lake Okeechobee.**
Project Operation Start:	**TBD**
Considerations/Update:	**This project supersedes the "S-154 Basin Deep Injection Well Project". EEPWs were initially included in the Lake Okeechobee Watershed Restoration Project (LOWRP), a joint effort cost-shared between the SFWMD and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to protect coastal estuaries from harmful Lake Okeechobee discharges. However, in April 2017, the USACE recommended removing DIWs as a management measure from the LOWRP study alleging uncertainty regarding the regional impact of this technology and its benefit to the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP) as additional CERP project features are completed.** **In June 2017, the SFWMD Governing Board directed staff to investigate the use of emergency estuary protection wells (EEPWs) as a water management tool to reduce damaging discharges to coastal estuaries. For that purpose, EEPWs may be permitted to inject up to 15 million gallons per day (MGD) of excess surface water into the Boulder Zone, approximately 3,000 feet below ground surface. To date, the following activities have been completed:** • **A phased plan for program implementation was developed. The plan identified tasks, resources, timing and costs associated with this effort.** • **A site evaluation was conducted to determine the best location to proceed with construction of an exploratory well on District owned lands. The location is the Kissimmee River site. The contract was awarded in December 2018. Construction is expected to be completed in 2019.** • **An underground seismic evaluation of various sites to provide additional subsurface data necessary to determine capacities is undergoing. Results from these study are expected in March 2019.**