



Update on Everglades Water Quality Strategies

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**Quarterly Communications Meeting on the
Long-Term Plan for Achieving Water Quality Goals
for the Everglades Protection Area Tributary Basins**

June 16, 2010

Initial Focus

- Initial focus on phosphorus exceedances in Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge (Refuge) in November 2008 and June 2009
 - In December 2009, Settling Parties agreed to work cooperatively to identify additional strategies necessary to achieve applicable water quality requirements to Refuge



Status of Refuge Planning Effort

- State and Federal parties have been meeting regularly since January
- Initial discussions focused on additional phosphorus reduction measures necessary to achieve phosphorus water quality standard for the Refuge
- Various strategies for achieving the phosphorus water quality standard are being evaluated, including source controls, expansion of STAs, and storage
- Combinations of sub-basin, basin, and regional scale projects are being considered

Status of Refuge Planning Effort- Basin Scale Studies

- Basin scale studies are underway for
 - S-5A/East Beach Water Control District
 - C-51W/L-8
- Assess existing water quality, soil and other data and identify phosphorus sources
- Evaluate phosphorus reduction potential of various phosphorus abatement measures at farm and sub-basin scale
- Develop cost estimates and evaluate cost effectiveness of measures
- Stakeholder involvement

Status of Refuge Planning Effort- Regional Evaluation

- Regional scale evaluation has focused on
 - Identifying key assumptions
 - Developing datasets
 - Developing evaluation tools and criteria
 - Evaluating potential combinations of projects



Conceptual Plan: Expanded Scope

- Due to recent Judge Gold ruling, scope of the planning effort has been expanded
 - Relates to all ECP STAs and associated NPDES Permits
- All parties to the litigation have been invited to participate
- Objective: Identify a suite of technically feasible projects to meet a long term flow-weighted mean of 12 ppb for total phosphorus
- Expanded Scope: Phosphorus reduction measures to be identified for all existing STAs
 - Will not limit focus to STA-1E/1W; will be identifying additional strategies for all STAs

Conceptual Plan: Expanded Scope

- Various strategies being evaluated, including source controls, expansion of STAs, storage/flow equalization, and diversion
 - Evaluation of each STA complex being performed
 - C-139 Basin Study underway
- Schedule for expanded scope is being driven by Order's requirement that EPA file an Amended Determination with the Court by September 3rd

Status Updates

- **Status updates and opportunities to provide input and comments will be provided to:**
 - Senior Leadership of the Settling Parties
 - SFWMD Governing Board
 - Water Resources Advisory Commission
 - Technical Oversight Committee
 - South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task Force
 - The Court and Parties to the USA v. SFWMD lawsuit
 - Other Stakeholders





Questions