Lake Okeechobee Protection Plan Update

Northern Everglades Interagency Meeting
March 17, 2010

Pinar Balci, Ph. D.
Section Leader, Federal & State Policy Division
South Florida Water Management District

Legislative Requirements

SFWMD

- In 2000, the Legislature passed the Lake Okeechobee Protection Act (LOPA) to reduce phosphorus (P) inflows into the Lake through a comprehensive, phased, program linked to meeting the TMDL target by 2015.
- The coordinating agencies submitted the initial LOPP to the Legislature in 2004.
- In 2007, the Legislature expanded LOPA to also include protection of the Caloosahatchee and St. Lucie watersheds and estuaries (Northern Everglades and Estuaries Protection Program).
- This update covers the three-year period since submission of the Lake Okeechobee Watershed Construction Project Phase II Technical Plan to the Legislature in 2008. The LOPP Update will be submitted to the Legislature in March 2011.

LOPP Update Outline

- Executive Summary, Main
- Document and Appendices
- Section 1: Purpose of Document, Legislative Mandate
- Section 2: Overview of Lake Watershed Protection Program

Fisheating Creek

LOPP Update Outline (Cont.)

- Section 3: Current Status of Lake
  - 3.1 Ecological Status
  - 3.2 Water Quality Trends (2001-2009)
- Section 4: Challenges in the Watershed
  - 4.1 Legacy P in the watershed
  - 4.2 In-lake phosphorus loading
  - 4.3 Funding constraints
  - 4.4 Others

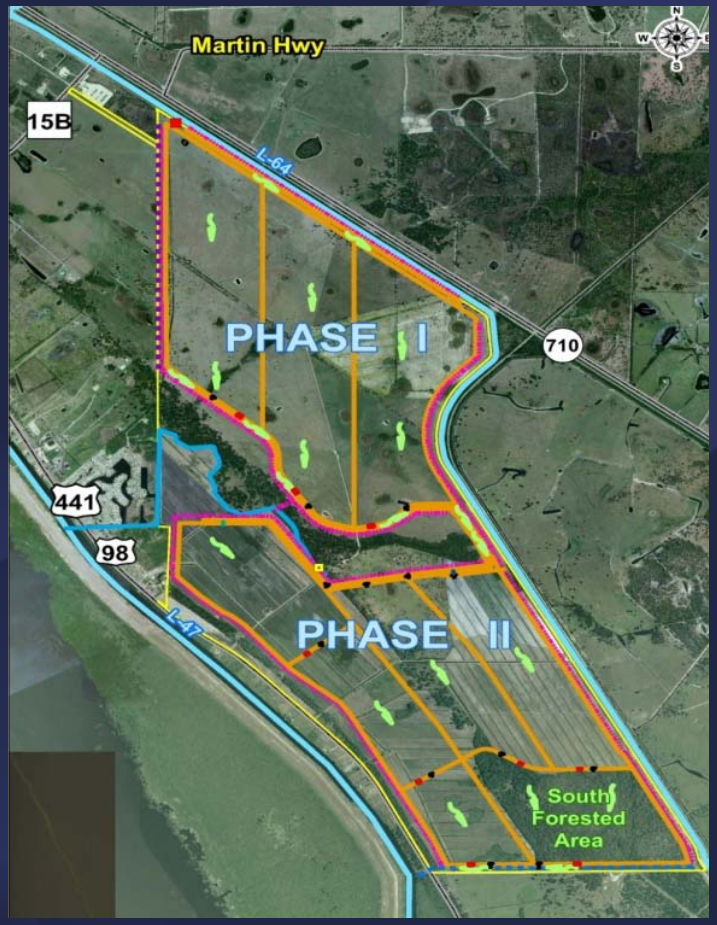
Lake Okeechobee Littoral Zone

LOPP Update Outline (Cont.)

- **Section 5 – Ongoing Programs**
  - **5.1 Watershed Phosphorus Control Program**
    - History of Lake P Control Programs
    - FDACS BMP Program
    - FDEP Non-Agricultural Program
    - Revision of Regulatory Rules
    - Dairy Best Available Technologies
    - Former Dairy Remediation projects
    - Wetland BMP Research & Restoration project
    - Permeable Reactive Barriers
    - Others

LOPP Update Outline (Cont.)

- **5.2 Lake Okeechobee Watershed Construction Project - Phase II Technical Plan**
  - Status of on-going project features
    - Example: Lakeside Ranch STA; Taylor Creek STA
    - Chemical Treatment
    - Hybrid Wetland Treatment Technology
  - Development of Sub-Watershed Conceptual Plans
    - Fisheating Creek Feasibility Study
    - Taylor Creek Feasibility Study



Lakeside Ranch STA

LOPP Update Outline (Cont.)

- **5.3 Research and Water Quality Monitoring Program**
  - Watershed and In-lake Monitoring
  - Model Refinements
- **5.4 Lake Okeechobee Exotics Species Control Program**
- **5.5 Lake Okeechobee Internal Phosphorus Management Program**
- **5.6 Other Related Activities**
  - Kissimmee River Watershed Activities
  - CERP Lake Okeechobee Watershed Activities

LOPP Update Outline (Cont.)

- **Section 6: Strategies for Moving Forward**
  - **6.1 Action Plan for Control of Phosphorus Imports, Legacy P and In-lake P**
    - Phosphorus Source and Import Controls
    - Strategies to Minimize Mobilization of Legacy P
    - In-lake P Management Study

LOPP Update Outline (Cont.)

- **6.2 Strategic Projects and Promising Technologies**
  - Regional Storage and Treatment Projects
  - Dispersed Water Management & Treatment Projects
  - Chemical Treatment & Hybrid Wetland Treatment Tech
  - Sub-watershed Conceptual Plans
  - Research Projects
  - River of Grass Planning Initiatives

HWTT Project- Nubbin Slough

LOPP Update Outline (Cont.)

- **Section 7: Schedule and Funding**
  - **7.1 Plan Schedule**
  - **7.2 Budget and Funding Requirements**
- **Section 9: Literature Cited**
- **Section 10: Appendices**

LOPP Update Schedule (Cont.)

SFWMD

- NE Interagency Meeting - LOPP Update 06/10
- NE Interagency Meeting - Draft LOPP 08/10
- Lake Okeechobee WRAC Meeting - Draft LOPP 08/10
- Draft LOPP Public Release - 09/10
- WRAC Meeting - Draft LOPP 09/10
- GB Meeting - Draft LOPP 09/10
- End Public Comment Review Period - 10/10
- L.O. WRAC/ WRAC/GB Meetings - Final LOPP 12/10
- Final LOPP to the Legislature - 3/11


Questions?