



Reviving  
*THE river OF grass*

**“River of Grass” Land Acquisition Progress**

Governing Board Workshop  
October 8, 2008

# Presentation Overview



- Due Diligence Progress
  - Appraisals
  - Environmental Assessments
  - Engineering/Major Asset Assessments
  - Asset Management Reporting & Property Control
- Financing
  - Bond Resolutions/COP Documents
  - Market Conditions
- Outreach Activities
- Community Project Funding



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**Due Diligence Progress - Appraisals**  
Ruth Clements, Land Acquisition Director

# Appraisal Update

## Current Status



- Written reports scheduled for late October
- SFWMD review process approx 1 week
  - Review Criteria
    - Compliance with Uniform Standards of Appraisal
    - Full justification for value opinion
  - Review appraiser recommends single appraisal negotiation purposes

# Appraisal Update Work Product

- Snapshot in time
- Represents fair market value
- Utilizes comparable sales, income and cost approach
- Does not represent subsequent sales' value





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**Due Diligence Progress –  
Environmental Assessments**  
Ruth Clements, Land Acquisition Director

# Environmental Assessment Update

## Current Status



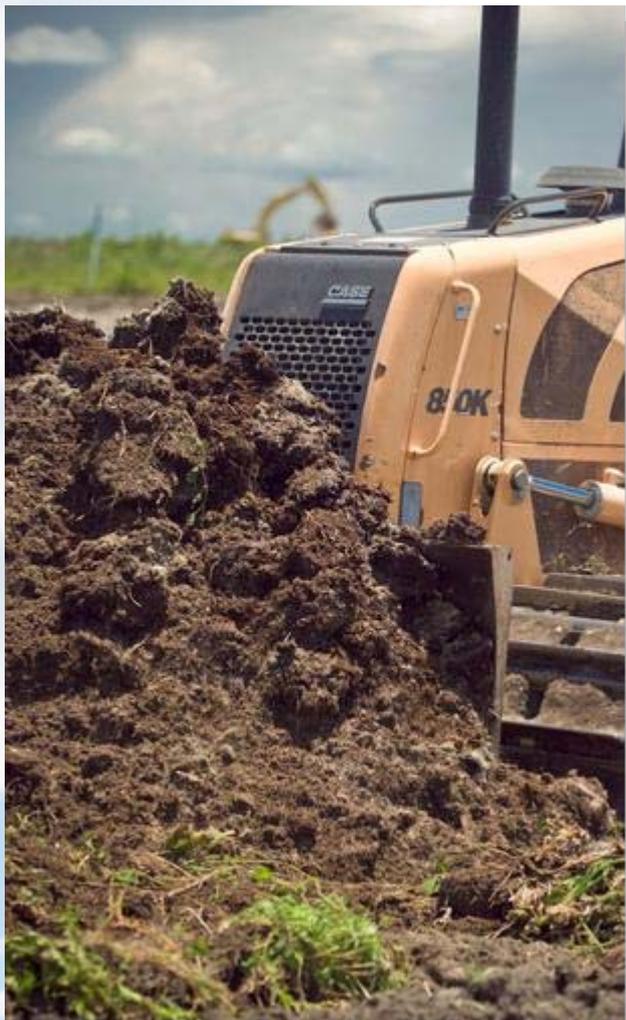
- Environmental report due late October
- Team effort cuts down on additional review period
  - DEP
  - SFWMD
  - FWS

# Environmental Assessment Update Work Product

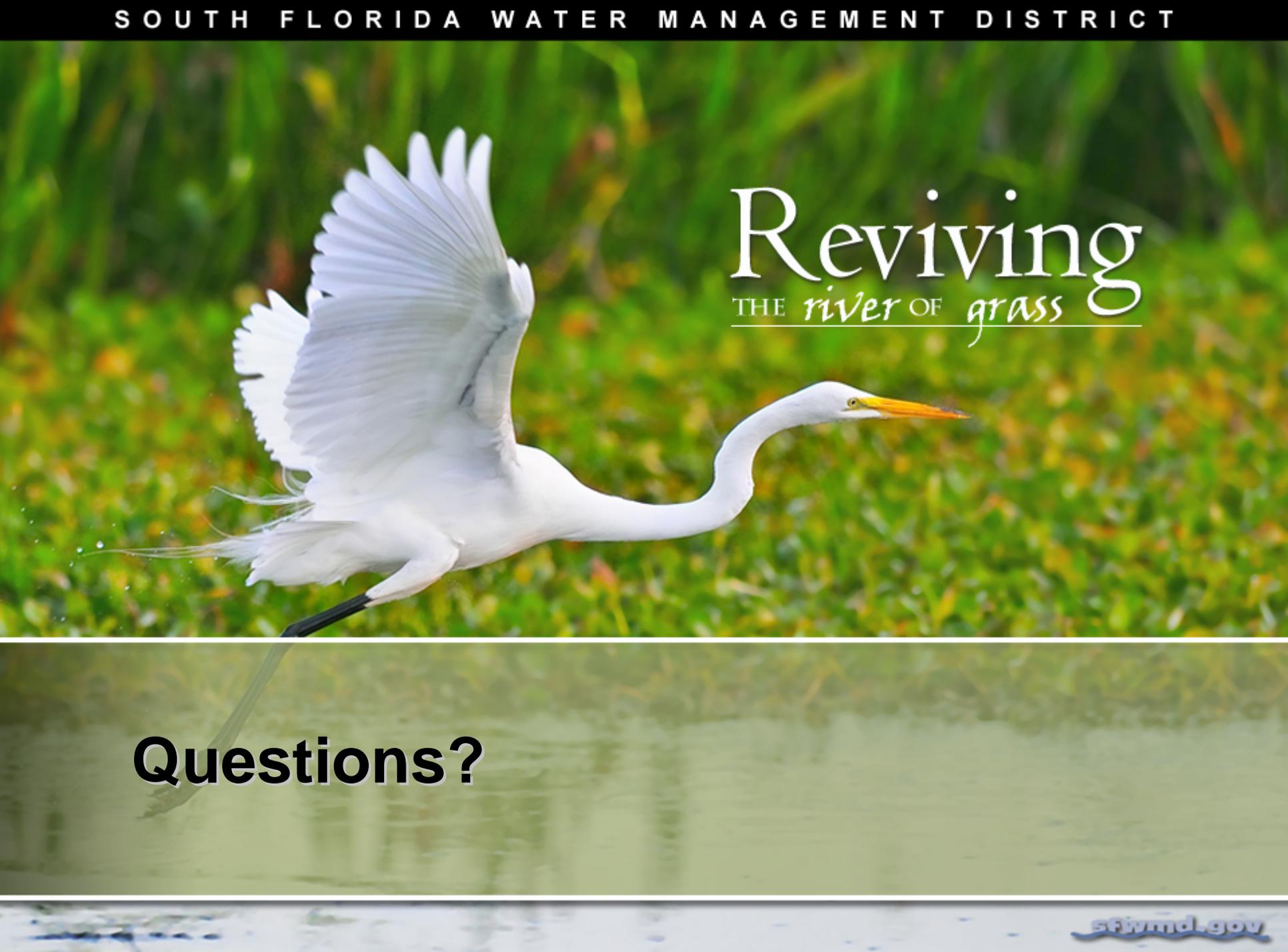


- 5 volumes
  - Phase I
  - Phase II w/remediation costs
  - Eco risk assessment
  - Asbestos
  - Nutrient
  - Contaminant

# Environmental Assessment Update Pilot Project



- Soil inversion
  - Contaminant/muck depth break point



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**Questions?**

A white egret is captured in mid-flight, its wings fully extended, against a background of lush green grass. The bird's long neck is curved forward, and its yellow beak is pointed. The overall scene is bright and natural.

# Reviving

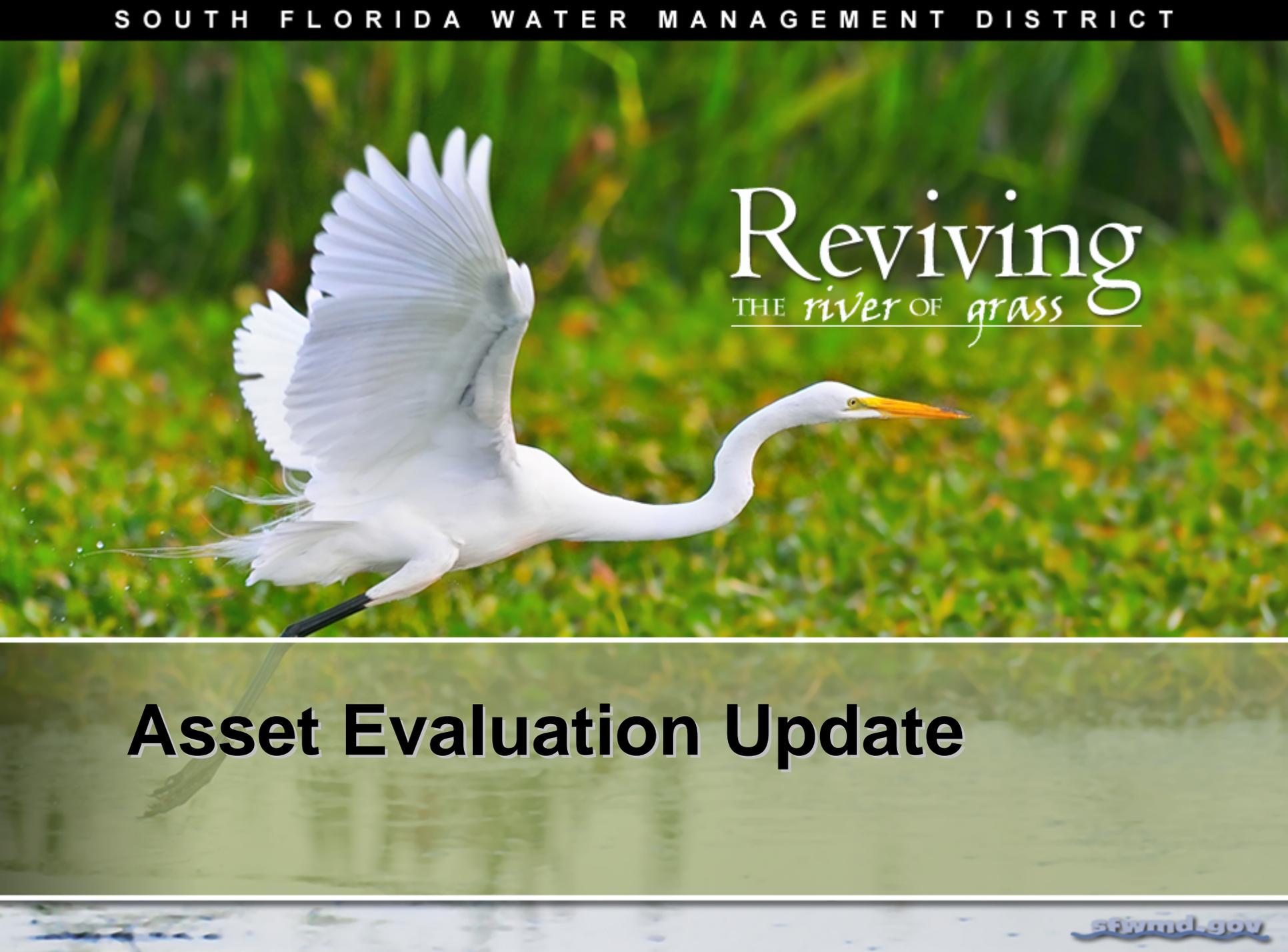
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## **Due Diligence – Engineering Assessments**

**Tommy B. Strowd, P.E., Assistant Deputy Executive Director,  
Everglades Restoration Resource Area**

# Presentation Overview

- Asset Evaluation Update
- Hydrologic Evaluation Update
  - Environmental Needs
  - Challenges of Hydrologic Restoration
  - Due Diligence Hydrologic Analysis



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**Asset Evaluation Update**

# Asset Evaluation



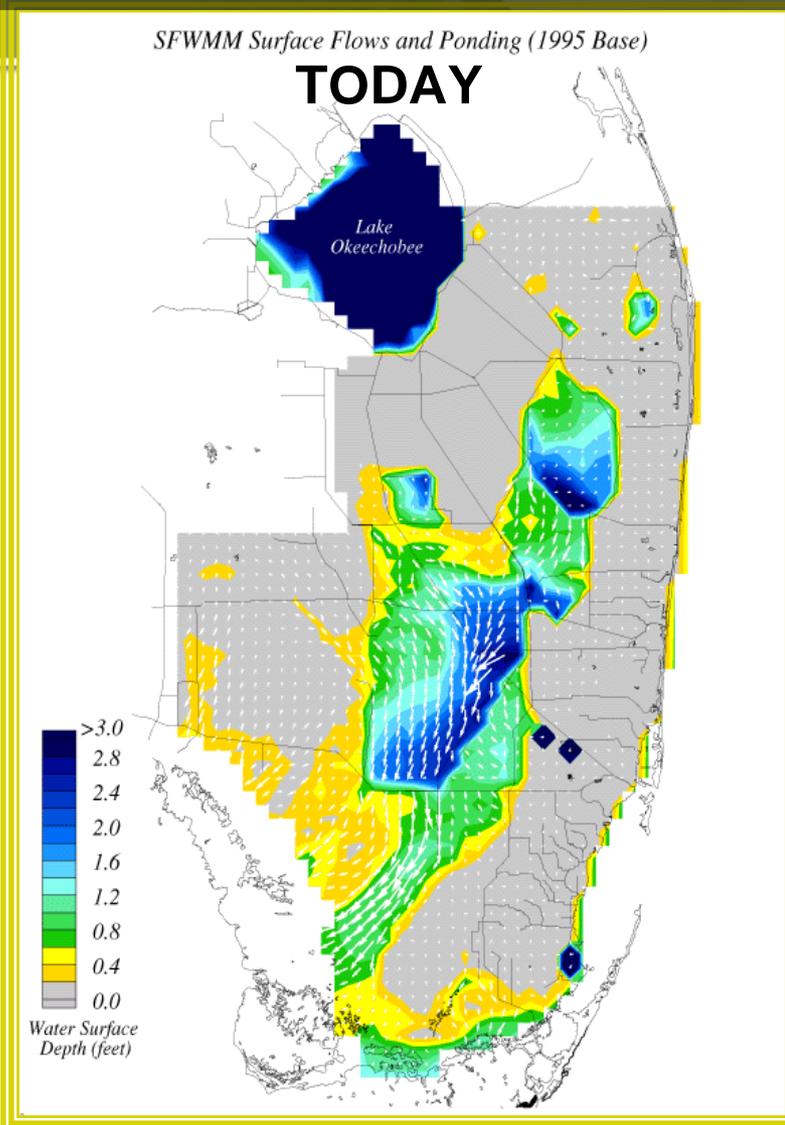
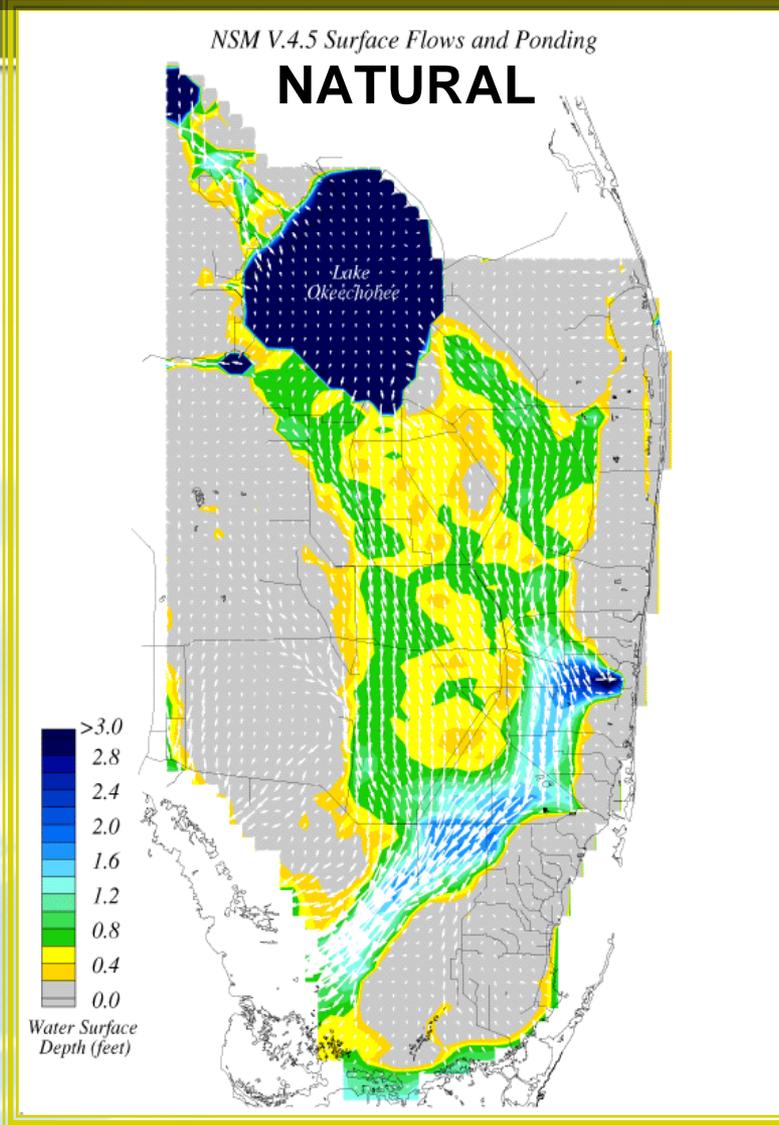
- Shaw Environmental, Inc. continues to perform site investigations to obtain detailed asset information
  - Team of over 45 staff working across the major asset categories
- Draft Full Evaluation Report due late October
- Draft Maintenance, Repair and Transition Plan due late October



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**Hydrologic Evaluation Update -  
Environmental Needs**

# Everglades: Natural vs. AltereD Ponding Depth Patterns



# Environmental Needs

- Lake Okeechobee-
  - Managing the lake within the desirable ecological range
  - Improving the quality of water flowing into and within the lake
  - Eliminate 'Backpumping' to Lake Okeechobee
  - Recognizing the limitations of the Herbert Hoover Dike



# Environmental Needs

- St. Lucie and Caloosahatchee Estuaries
  - Reduce high volume, long duration regulatory discharges
  - Maintaining desirable salinity ranges within the estuaries
  - Improving the quality of water flowing into the estuaries



# Environmental Needs

- Everglades and Florida Bay
  - Restoring pre-drainage flow volumes through the Water Conservation Areas and Everglades National Park to Florida Bay
  - Improving dry period water flows and depths
  - Improving water quality flowing into the Everglades
  - Improving timing and distribution

Natural Ridge & Slough Landscape



Altered Ridge & Slough Landscape

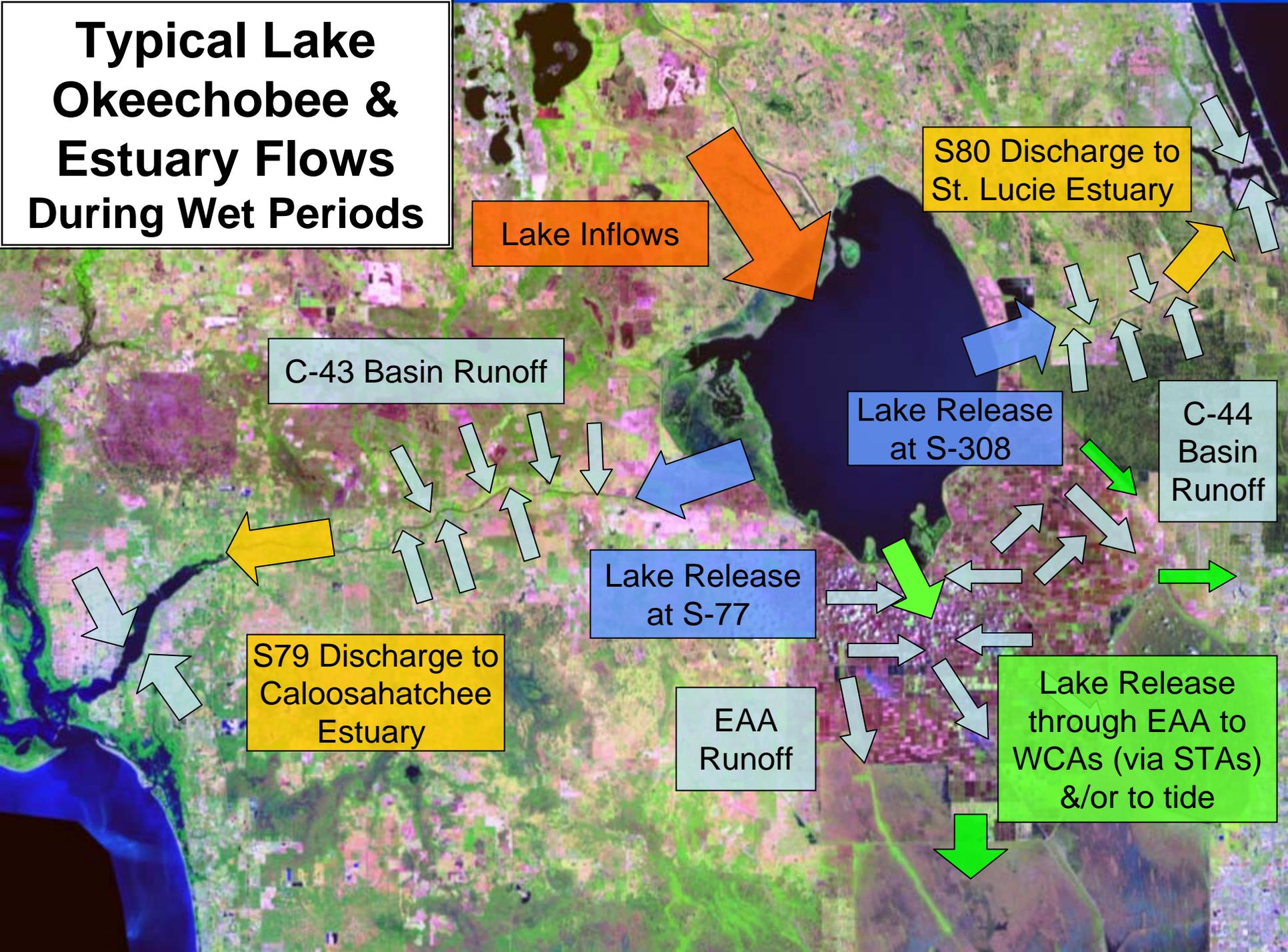




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**Hydrologic Evaluation Update -  
The Challenge**

# Typical Lake Okeechobee & Estuary Flows During Wet Periods



Lake Inflows

S80 Discharge to St. Lucie Estuary

C-43 Basin Runoff

Lake Release at S-308

C-44 Basin Runoff

Lake Release at S-77

S79 Discharge to Caloosahatchee Estuary

EAA Runoff

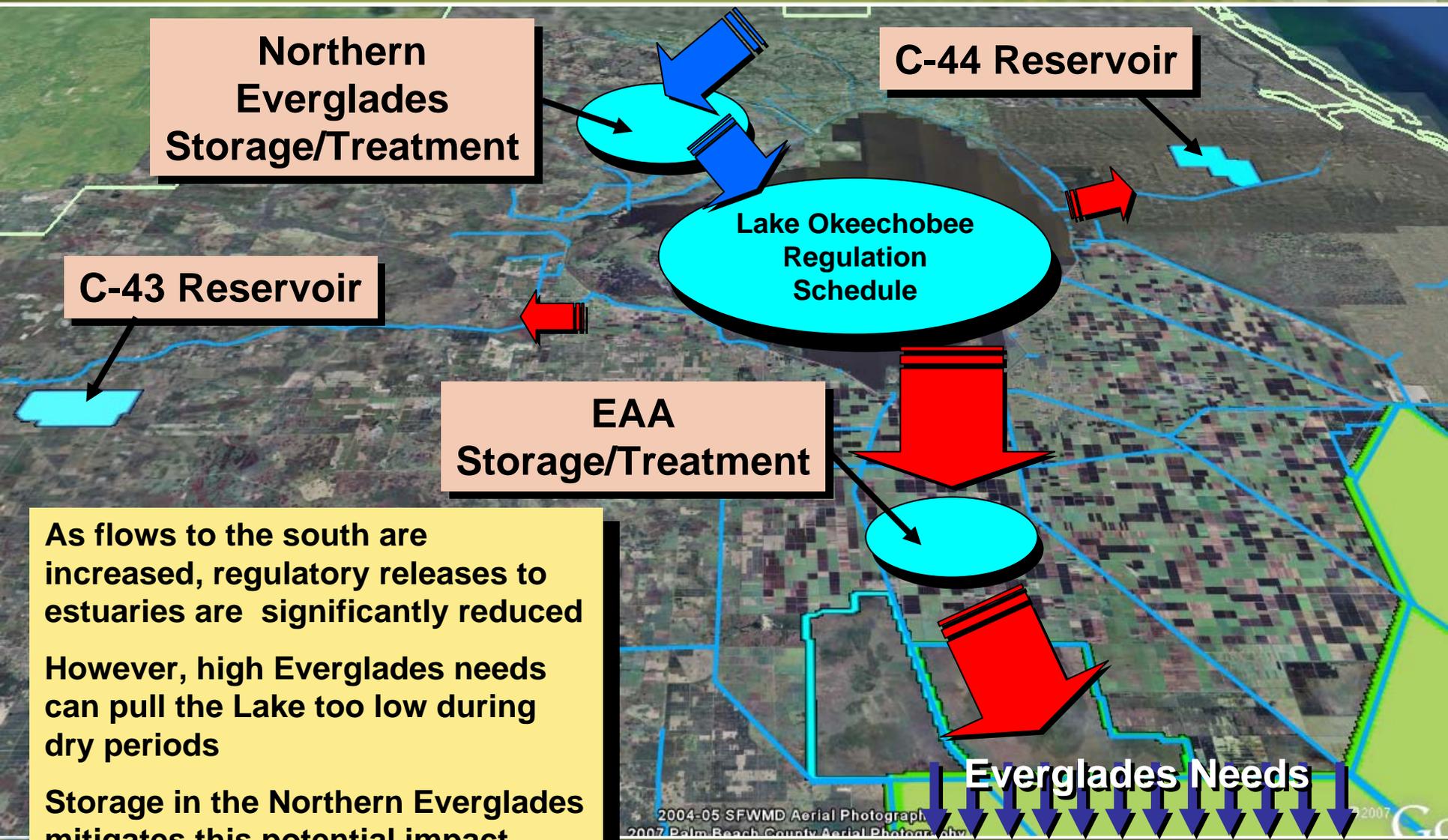
Lake Release through EAA to WCAs (via STAs) &/or to tide

# Changing the Flow



- Variables we need to consider changing
  - Storage and Treatment within the Everglades Agricultural Area (EAA)
  - Northern Everglades storage
  - Lake Okeechobee operations
  - Everglades needs

# Hydrologic Relationships



As flows to the south are increased, regulatory releases to estuaries are significantly reduced

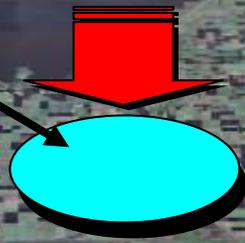
However, high Everglades needs can pull the Lake too low during dry periods

Storage in the Northern Everglades mitigates this potential impact



# Lake Okeechobee

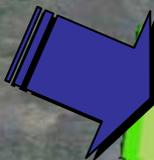
**EAA  
Storage/Treatment**



**Everglades Needs**



**Water  
Conservation  
Areas**



**Everglades National Park**

**As flows to the south are increased, high velocities and deeper water depths could negatively impact WCA-3 ecosystems**

**CERP DECOMP, Tamiami Trail & Seepage Management improvements can mitigate this potential impact**

2004-05 SFWMD Aerial Photography  
2007 Palm Beach County Aerial Photography  
2005 Miami-Dade County Aerial Photography  
2007 Broward County Aerial Photography





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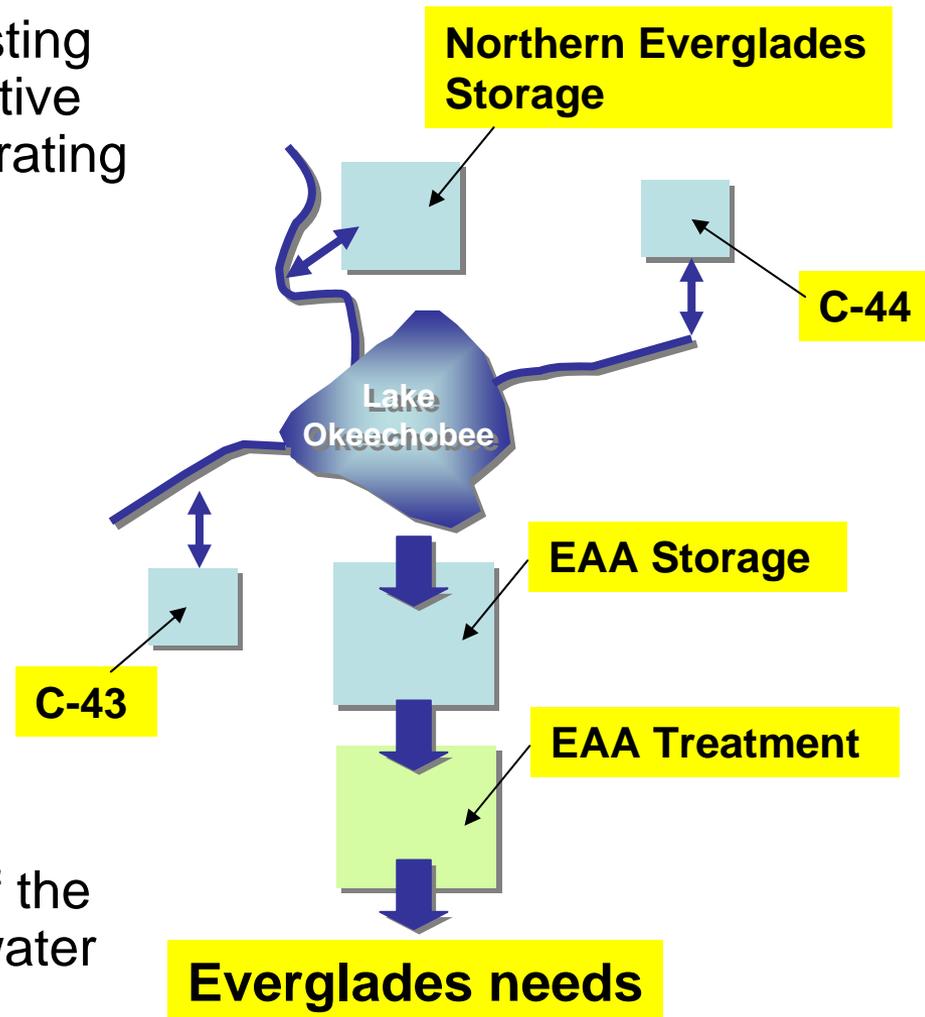
**Hydrologic Evaluation Update -  
Due Diligence - Hydrologic Analysis**

# Hydrologic Analysis Tool Selection

- Due Diligence assessment required a relatively simple tool for screening a large number of facilities and operations in a short period of time
- Regional Simulation Model (RSM) Used in Northern Everglades, requires months to evaluate
- SFWMM (2x2) Used in CERP, can take years to evaluate
- RESOPS was used as a screening tool in the Northern Everglades Plan
  - Simple, flexible and fast water budget analysis tool in an EXCEL spreadsheet format

# What is RESOPS?

- Provides rapid screening-level testing of the integrated effects of alternative reservoir sizes and proposed operating rules for...
  - Lake Okeechobee,
  - Northern Everglades Storage
  - EAA Storage
  - C-43 Storage
  - C-44 Storage
  - Flows to the Everglades Water Conservation Areas.
- Performs 41-year continuous simulations (monthly time-step) of the hydrology and operations of the water management system



## What is RESOPS? (continued)

- The strength of the RESOPS Model is its ability to quickly test the performance of alternative configurations and scenarios to screen ideas for the purposes of the Due Diligence assessment.
- It also includes an optimization routine that can automatically run a multitude of computer generated alternative scenarios
  - For this Due Diligence effort approximately **250,000** individual scenarios were tested in 60 days.

# What is RESOPS? (continued)



- Input requirements include:
  - Reservoir and treatment area capacities & operations, and Lake Okeechobee operations;
  - Monthly time-series (1965-2005) of rainfall, evaporation, tributary basin runoff, service area demands, estuary water needs, and
  - Everglades water needs (flow time-series).

# Reservoir Sizing and Operations Screening (RESOPS) Model

## Reservoir Sizing and Operations Screening (RESOPS) Model v3.0

This simple simulation model allows users to quickly test the system-wide effects of alternative reservoir sizes & operations. The intent is to use this tool to screen ideas so as to provide guidance for more-detailed modeling analysis.

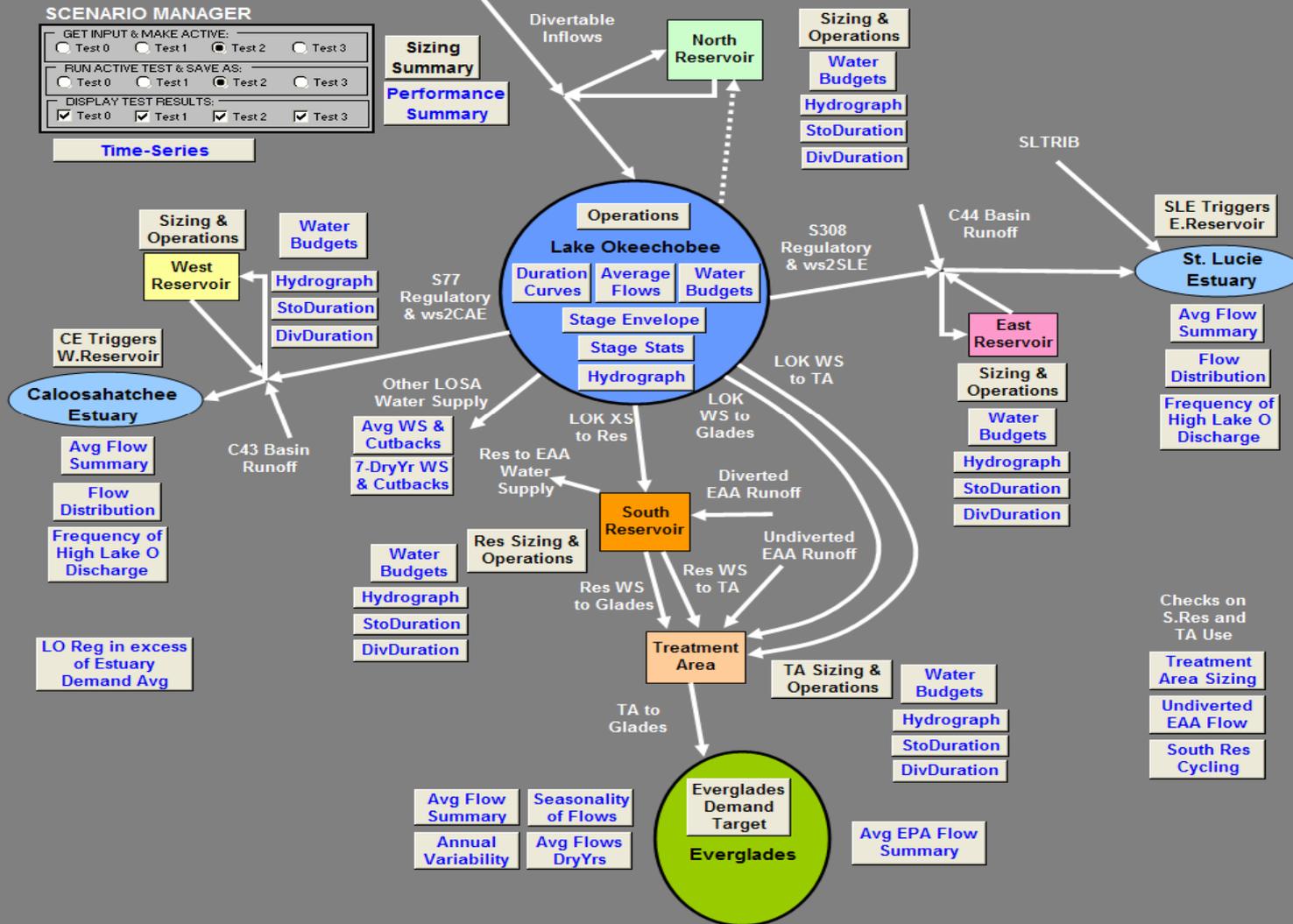
### SCENARIO MANAGER

GET INPUT & MAKE ACTIVE:  
 Test 0  Test 1  Test 2  Test 3

RUN ACTIVE TEST & SAVE AS:  
 Test 0  Test 1  Test 2  Test 3

DISPLAY TEST RESULTS:  
 Test 0  Test 1  Test 2  Test 3

Time-Series



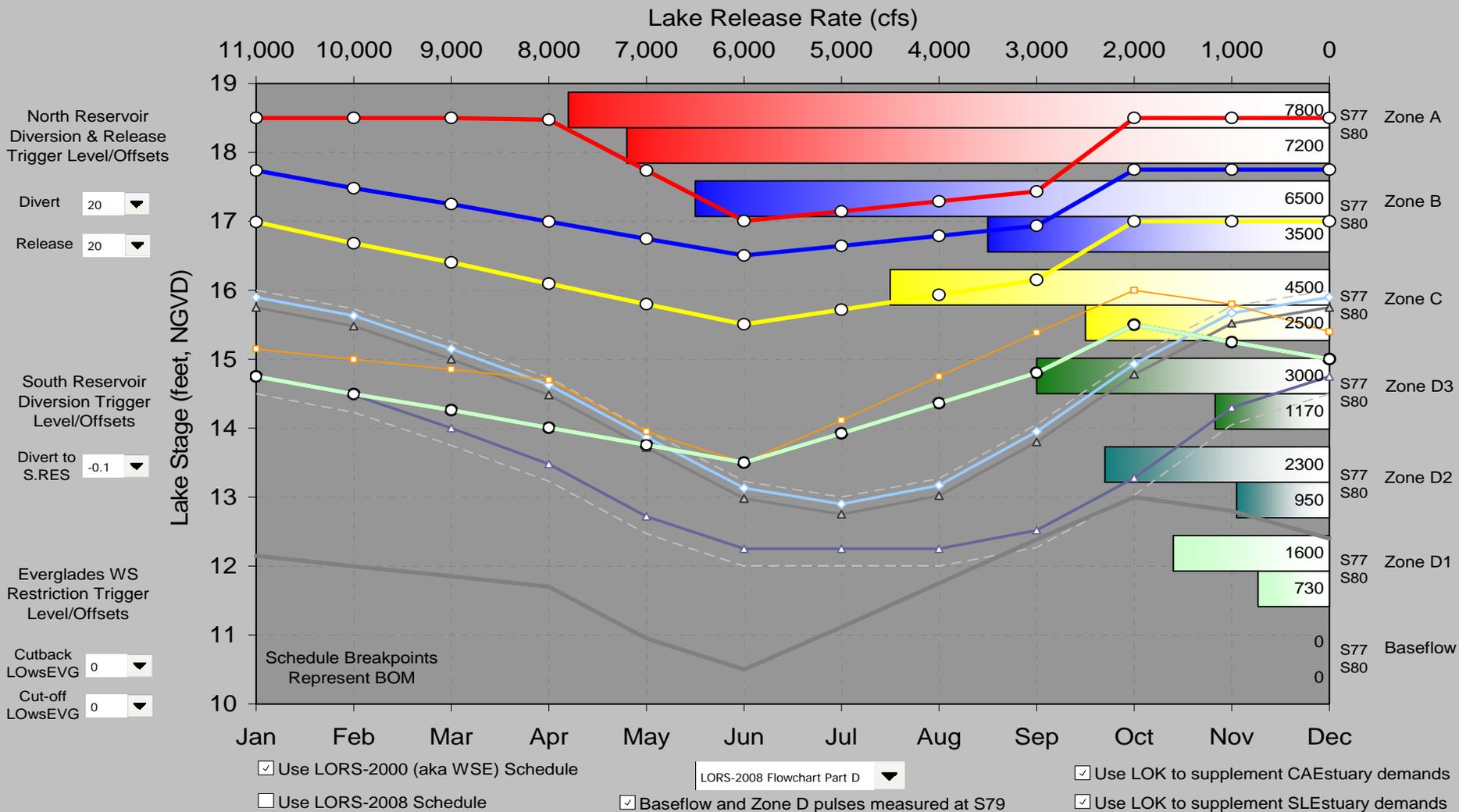
# Input Variables – Storage Facility Capacities

## South Reservoir Sizing & Release Parameters



# Input Variables – Lake Okeechobee Operations

## Lake Okeechobee Regulation Schedule



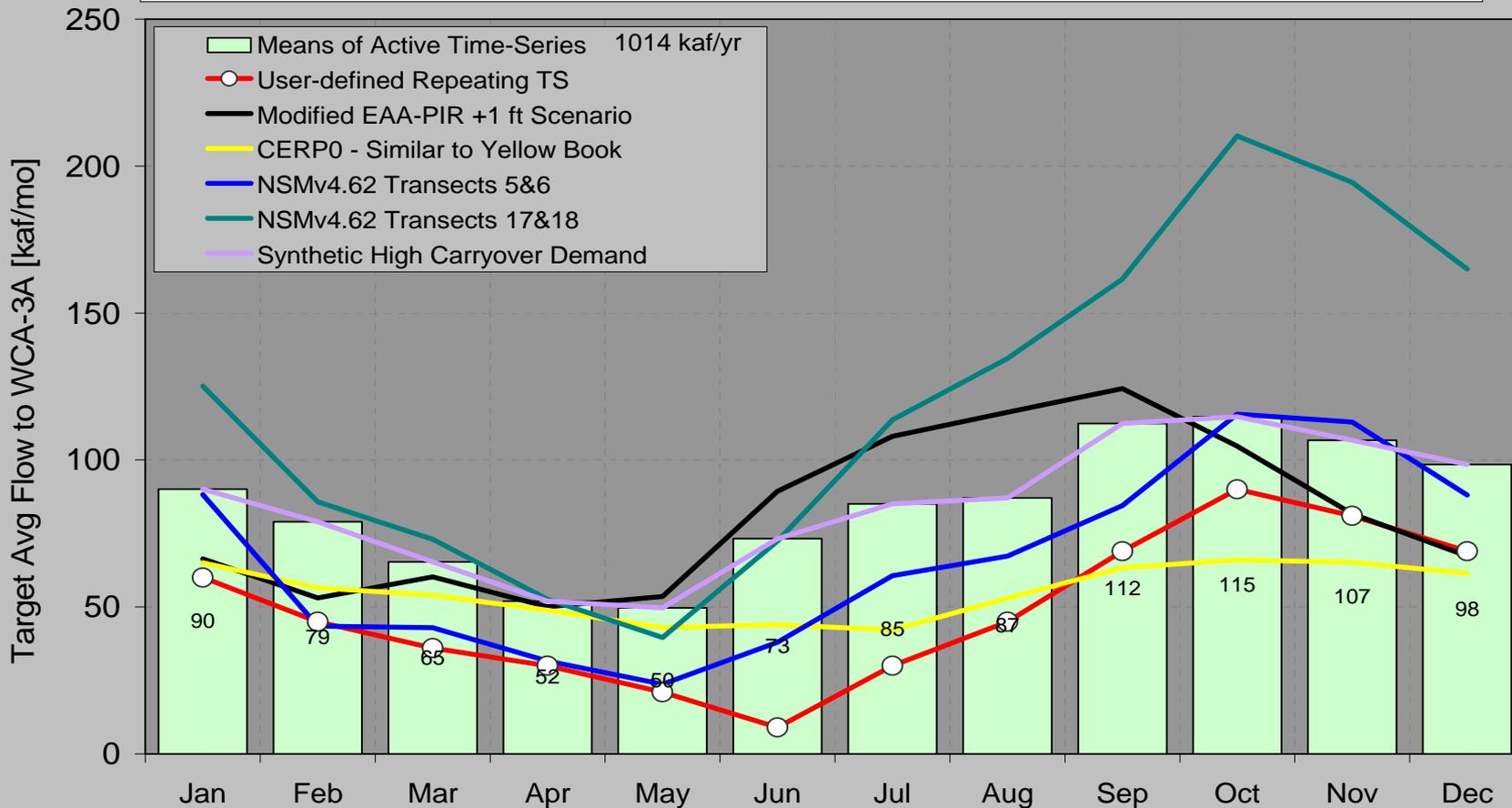
# What is RESOPS? (continued)

- Simulates flows to the Everglades by attempting to meet a flow target time-series at the northern boundary of WCA-3A
  - Users can experiment with alternative time-series, or use a multiplier to simulate what-if scenarios
- Specific benefits or impacts to the Everglades hydropatterns from additional flows cannot be estimated from RESOPS
  - Requires more detailed models such as the SFWMM or RSM to evaluate

# Input Variables – Everglades Water Needs

## Everglades Demand for South Reservoir Operation

(Demand identified at Treatment Area outflow & to be delivered at northern WCA boundary from approx. S140 to S7)

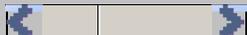


Due to high uncertainties in the Everglades water needs & complexities with modeling the Everglades, the Glades water needs are simulated by the RESOPS Model as a user-defined flow time-series. Users can experiment with alternative time-series, or use a multiplier to simulate what-if scenarios. The impacts to the Everglades hydropatterns from additional flows cannot be estimated from RESOPS. Users need to understand that more flow may cause adverse impacts to the Glades.

Select Everglades Demand

Multiplier 1.000

Synthetic High Carryover Demand ▼



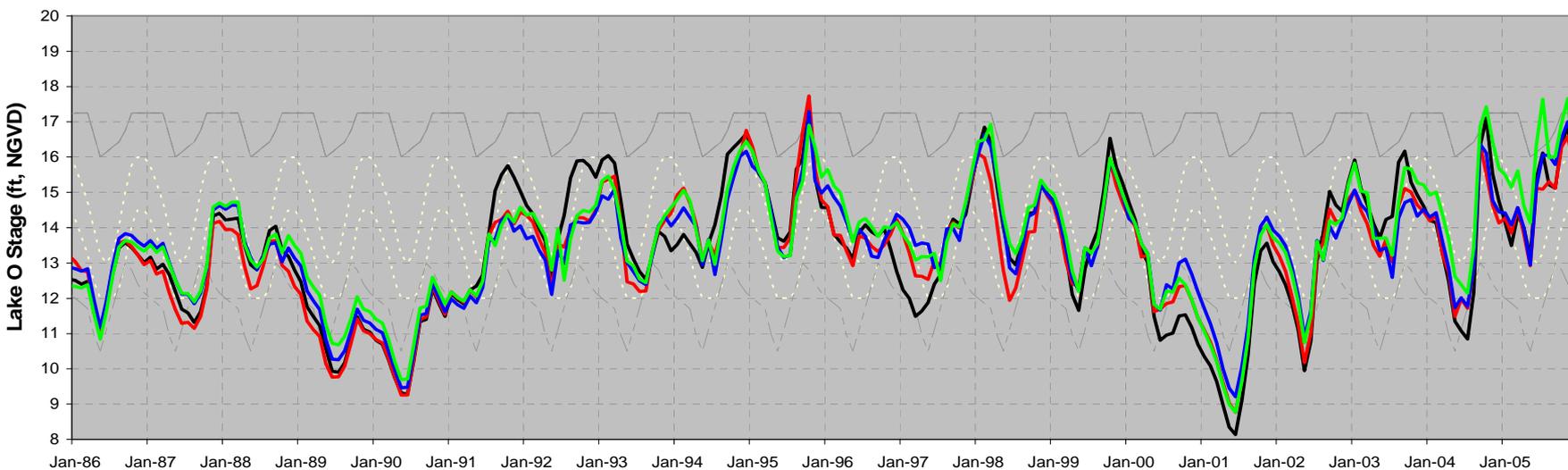
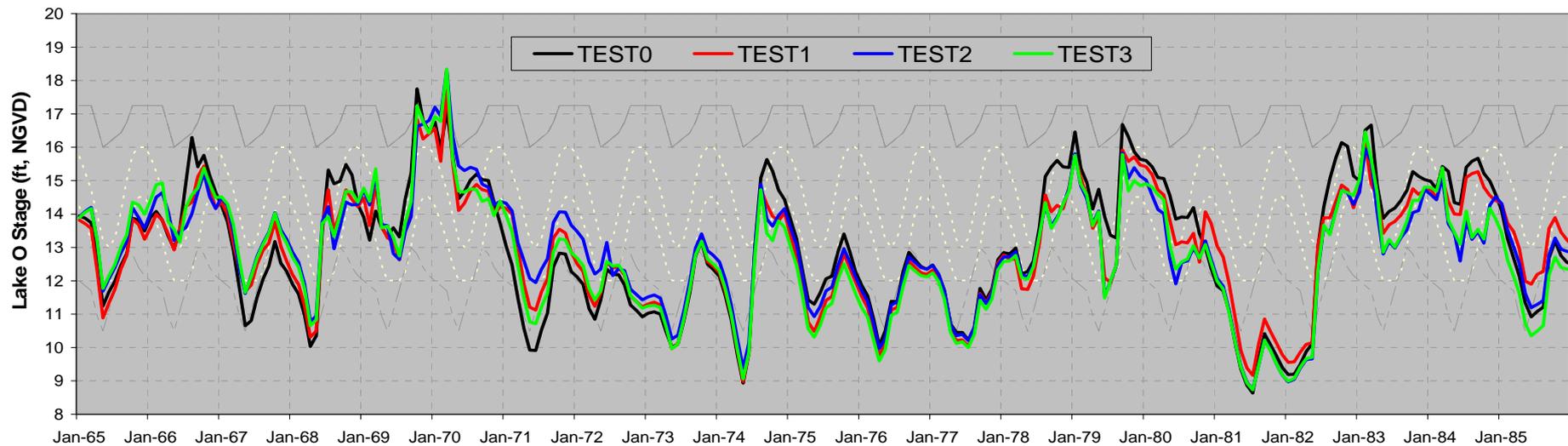
# What is RESOPS? (continued)



- Outputs include:
  - Water budgets,
  - stage hydrographs,
  - stage and flow duration curves
    - Lake Okeechobee
    - Storage;
  - Typical planning-level hydrologic performance measures
    - Lake stage envelope scores,
    - estuary flow distributions,
    - water deliveries to the Everglades,
    - water shortage indicators; and
  - Performance curves that enable systematic evaluation of multiple storage facility capacity configurations.

# RESOPS sample outputs - Lake hydrograph

## Lake Okeechobee Stage Hydrographs

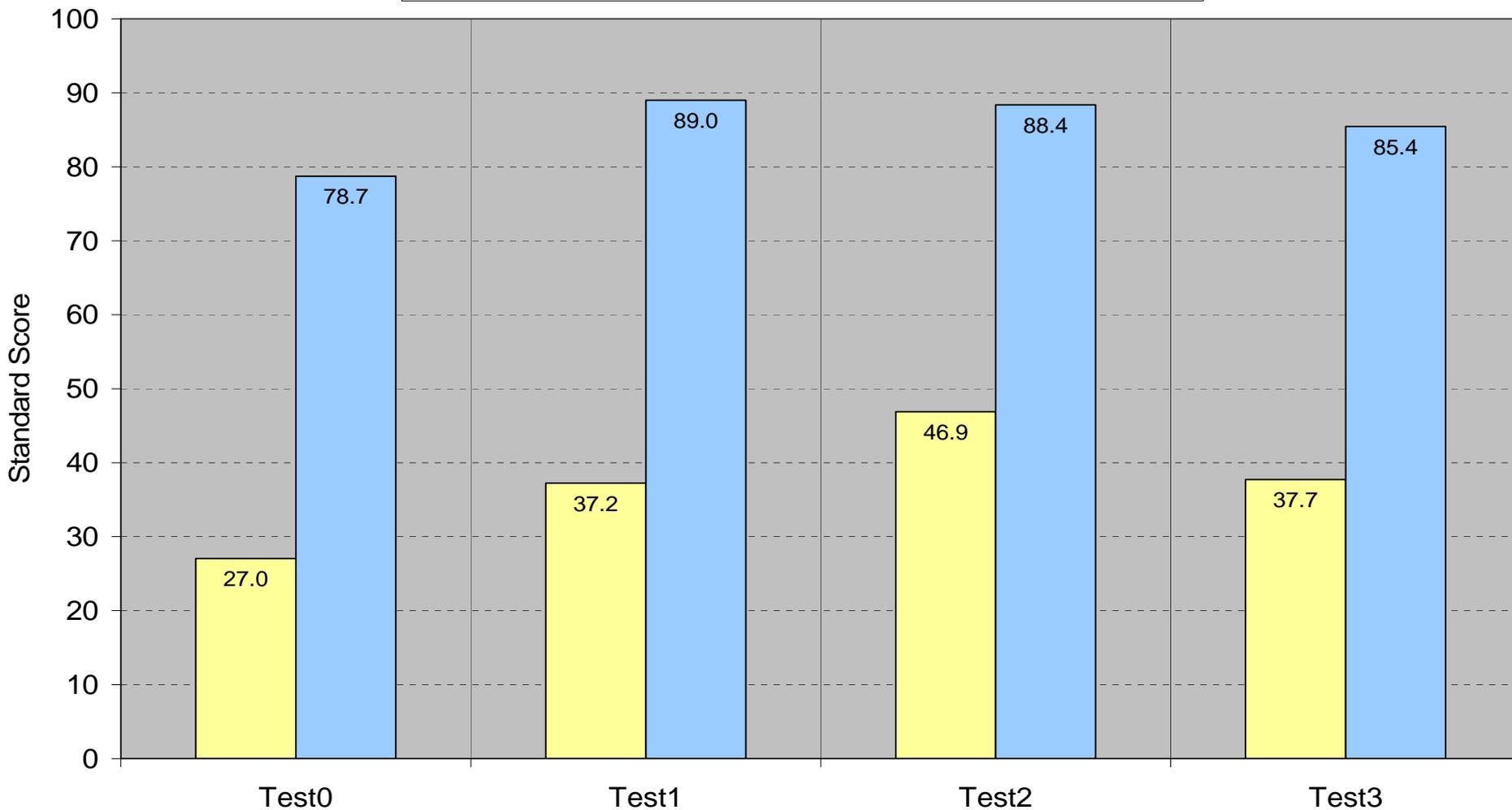


# RESOPS sample outputs - Lake stage envelope

Higher score is better

Lake Okeechobee Stage Envelope

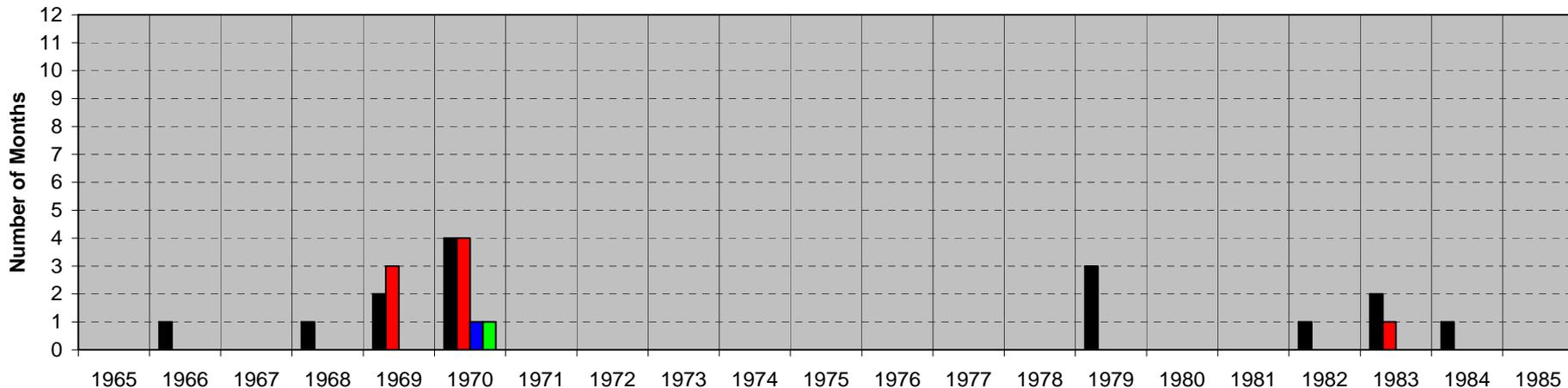
Lower Stage Envelope Std Score    Upper Stage Envelope Std Score



# RESOPS sample outputs – Caloos. Estuary

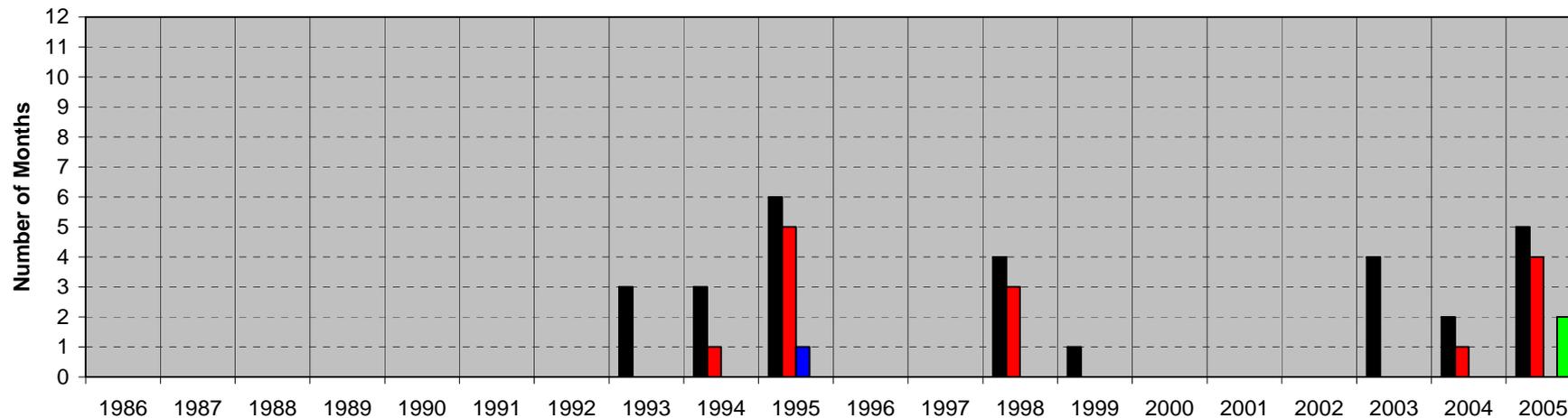
Annual Frequency of Caloosahatchee Estuary High Discharge Events

# of Months S77reg contributed to S79 > 2800cfs



■ Test0 ■ Test1 ■ Test2 ■ Test3

# of months in 41yrs (492 months)	43	22	2	3
# of years with at least 1 month)	16	8	2	2
% of years with at least 1 month)	39%	20%	5%	5%
Return Period (years)	2.6	5.1	20.5	20.5



# RESOPS sample outputs – Everglades Flows

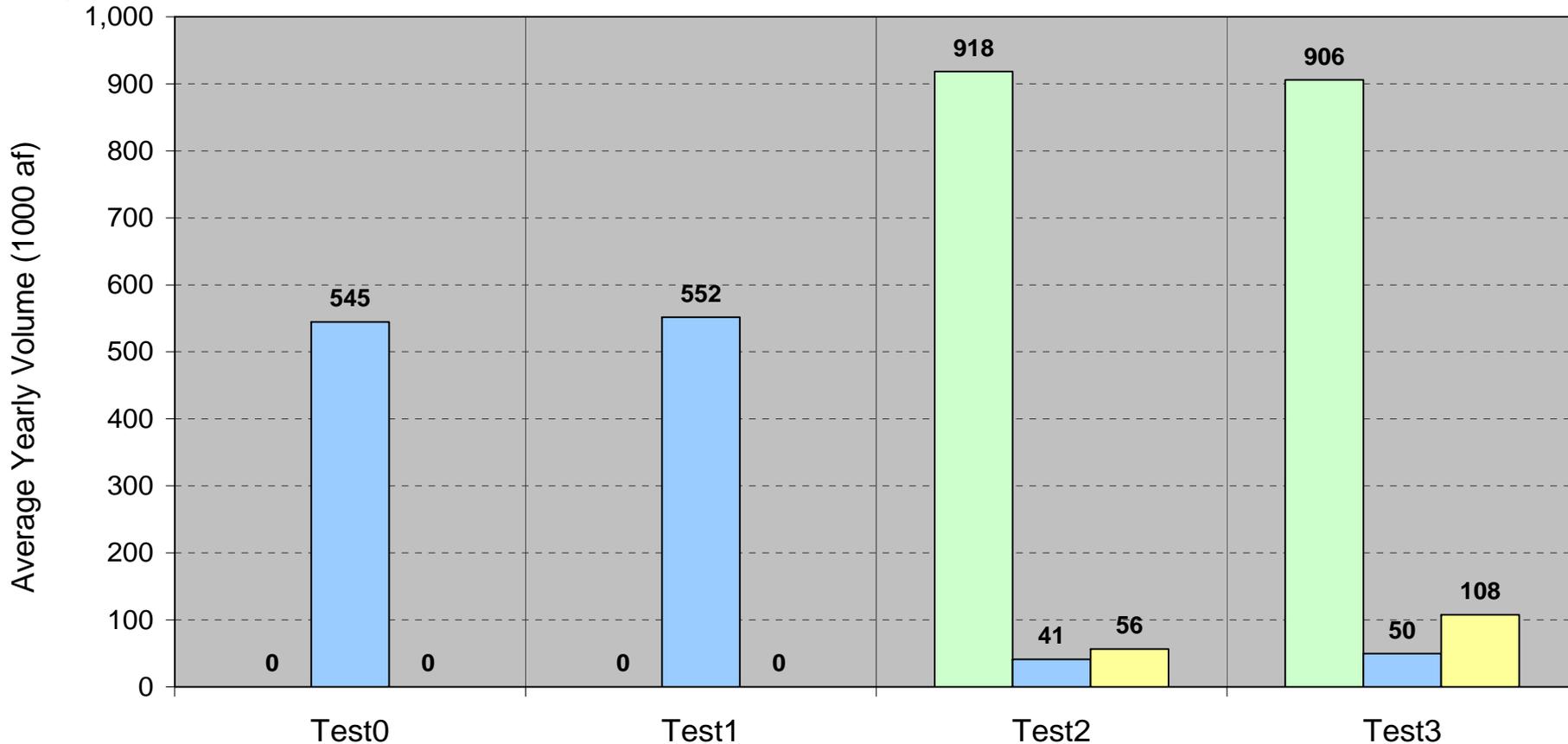
## Average Annual Flows to Glades

ENV Target Used --> No Glades Demand Specified

No Glades Demand Specified

Modified EAA-PIR +1 ft Scenario

Synthetic High Carryover Demand



Note: The sum of the green and blue bars represents the total Glades delivery. ENV Target is specified per scenario.

Note: There is a timing element associated with desirable deliveries to the Glades, flows in excess of target do not imply that target ENV flows are always met.

- Glades Delivery Toward ENV target
- Glades Delivery in Excess of ENV target
- ENV target not met by Glades Delivery

# Preliminary Findings



- Increasing the storage size in the EAA generally improves system performance for most of the key performance measures
- There is generally a range of diminishing returns where additional increases in EAA storage capacity does not result in large performance improvements
  - Exceptions include low Lake stages and dry year flows to the Everglades

# Preliminary Findings – Water Quality

- Additional treatment area beyond currently planned STA capacities is required when providing increased flows to the Everglades
  - Based on a range of 100 to 200 ppb inflow concentrations and assuming a flow volume of approximately 1 million acre-feet per year, additional treatment area between 12,000 and 45,000 acres may be required.
- Evapotranspiration losses in a wetted treatment area can significantly impact the ability to achieve system objectives
  - New treatment area design and operational concepts may be needed to optimize water usage for facilities at this scale.

# Preliminary Findings – Lake Okeechobee

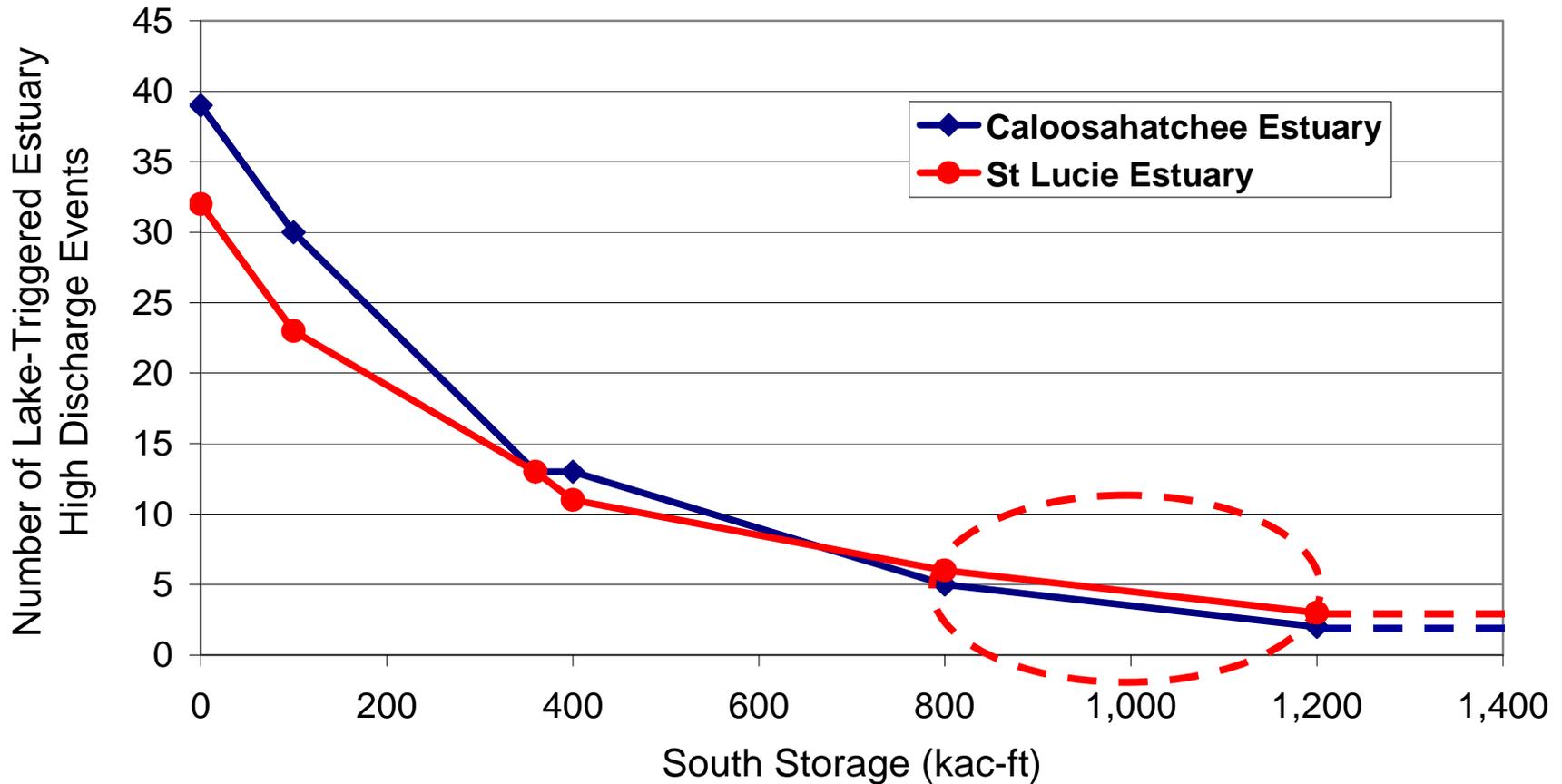
- Increasing regional water flow to the south from Lake Okeechobee tends to increase the frequency and duration of low Lake stages
- Northern Everglades storage is effective in improving Lake Okeechobee lower stage envelope performance
  - Allows water to be released to Lake Okeechobee to offset low stages in dry periods
- Lake Okeechobee Regulation Schedule modifications need to take into consideration storage added to the system

# Preliminary Findings - Estuaries



- Significant reduction in Lake-triggered high discharge events are observed with additional storage/treatment
- Estuary performance is highly sensitive to Everglades needs
  - Larger Everglades needs = better estuary performance
  - Larger Everglades needs lead to more storage facility releases from the EAA to the Everglades
  - Storage in the EAA has larger available capacity to receive Lake releases
  - Fewer Lake Okeechobee regulatory releases to estuaries are needed
- Both North and South storage can be used to effectively meet estuary objectives

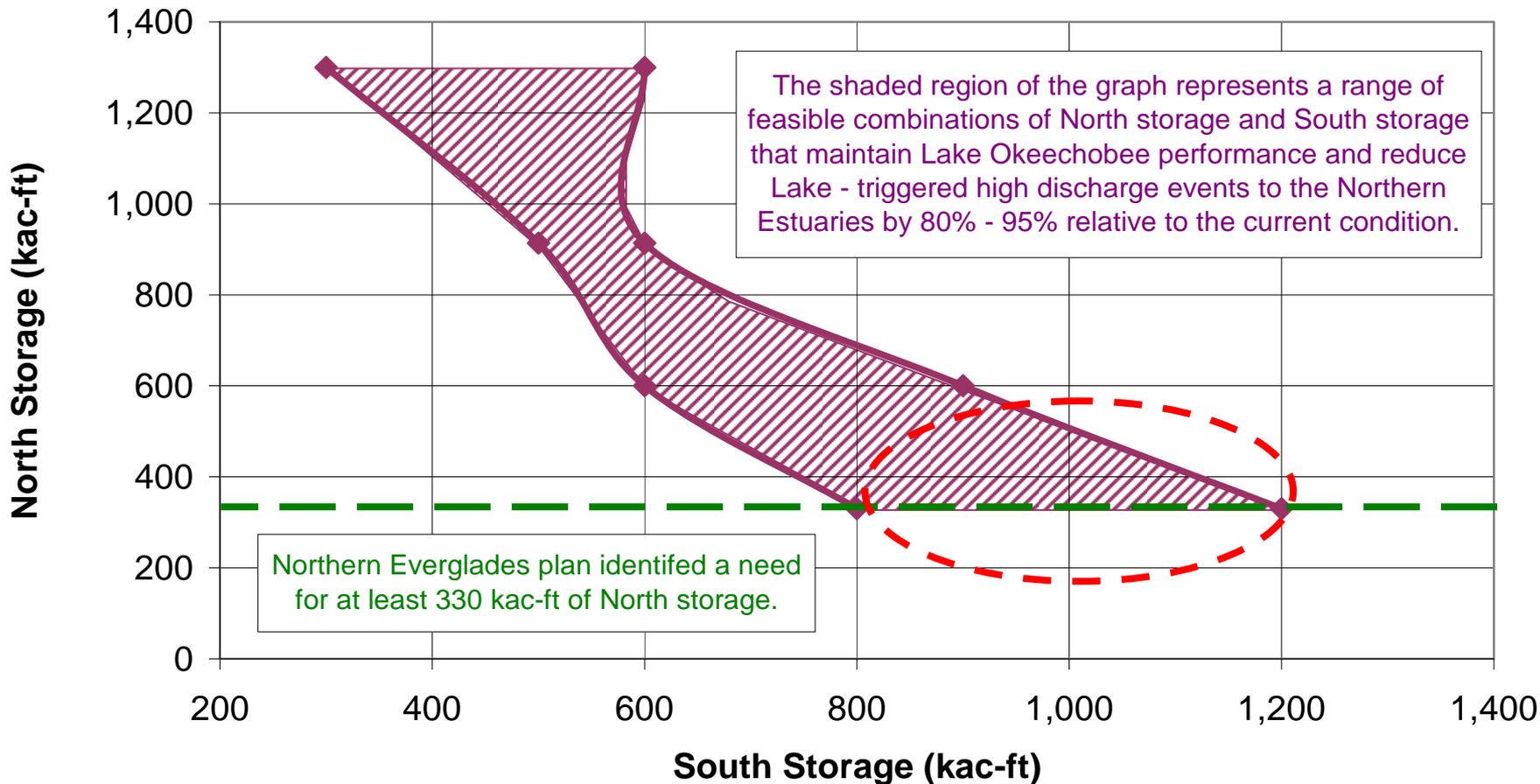
## Ability of South Storage to Reduce Impacts to Northern Estuaries



Analysis assumes 600 kac-ft of North storage and maintains minimum Lake Okeechobee performance equivalent to Northern Everglades Baseline of SSB = 37 and SSA = 85.

Based on RESOPS Screening Analysis of 1965 to 2005 Period.

## Comparison of North Storage and South Storage Needed to Reduce Impacts to Northern Estuaries



Analysis maintains minimum Lake Okeechobee performance equivalent to Northern Everglades Baseline of SSB = 37 and SSA = 85.

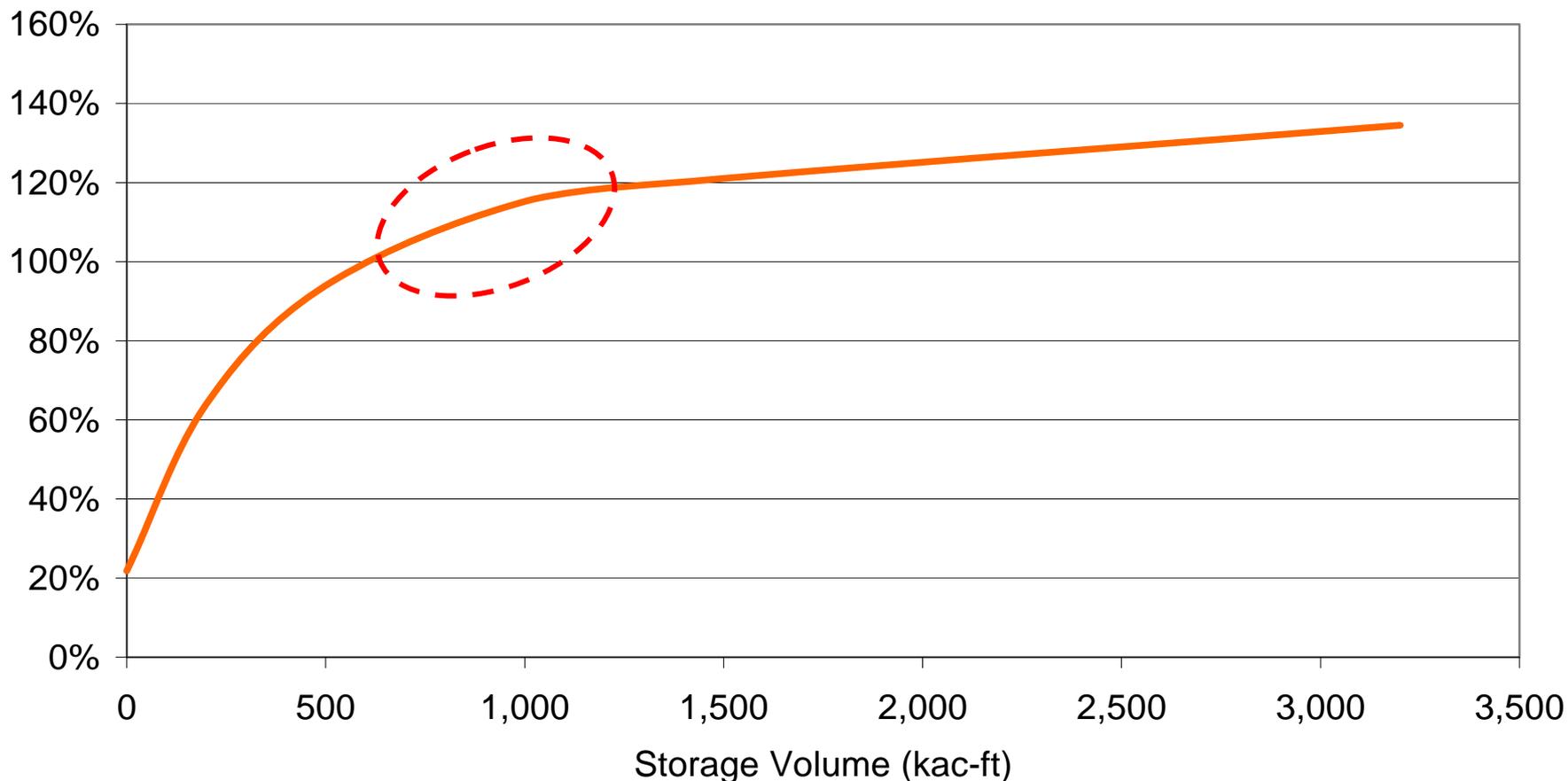
Based on RESOPS Screening Analysis of 1965 to 2005 Period.

# Preliminary Findings - Everglades



- Specific environmental water needs are generally uncertain and can heavily influence storage capacity
- Flows to the Everglades can be substantially increased with the addition of EAA storage and treatment.
- Timing of flows to the Everglades improves with additional storage
- Year-to-Year (Inter-annual) variability of flows to the Everglades is likely to increase with additional storage
- Meeting dry period needs of the Everglades increases the need for storage

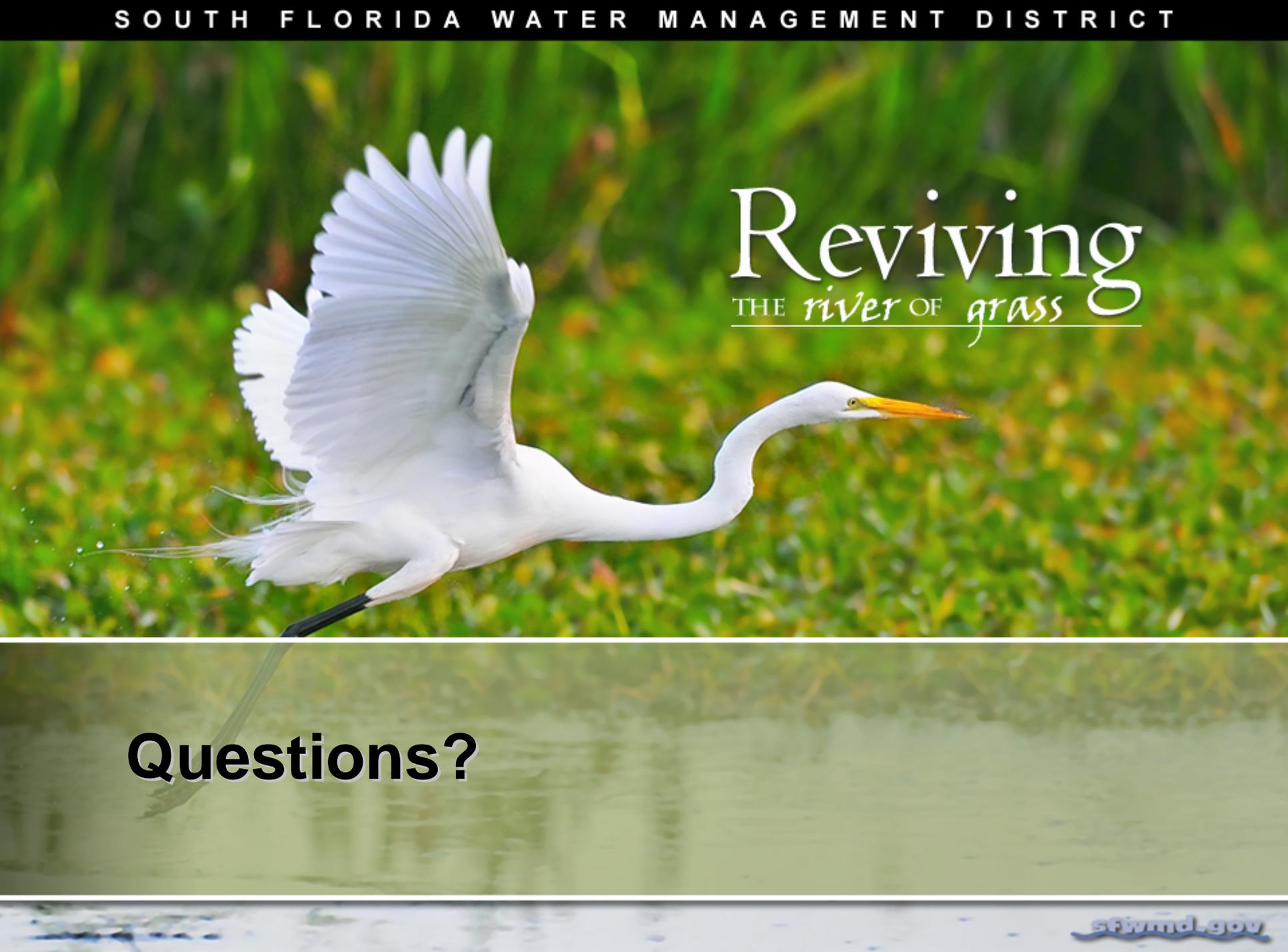
## Percentage Increase in Dry Season Flows to the Everglades with the Addition of Storage South of Lake Okeechobee



Based on RESOPS Screening Analysis of November to May Deliveries During the 1965 to 2005 Period.

# Summary

- Based on the analysis to-date, the proposed acquisition can facilitate additional storage and treatment capacities to provide significant benefits to Lake Okeechobee, the Caloosahatchee and St. Lucie estuaries and the Everglades
- Careful future consideration must be given to potential issues of treatment area management and water depths in the Water Conservation Areas
- The optimal size, capacity, configuration and costs of facilities and the associated operations will be developed through a subsequent open, public planning process



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**Questions?**

A white egret is captured in mid-flight, its wings fully extended, against a background of lush green grass. The bird is positioned on the left side of the frame, facing right. The text 'Reviving THE river OF grass' is overlaid on the right side of the image.

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**Due Diligence – Capital Asset Reporting  
and Control Update**

Aaron Basinger

Director, Finance & Administration Department

# Why Inventory Assets Now?

- Proposed asset purchase agreement
- Need to understand and validate what assets are being acquired
- Both parties need to agree and reconcile acquired assets
- Condition and number of assets affect final purchase price
- Detailed lists useful if spin-off assets

# Accountability, Control & Verification Strategy

- Tangible Personal Property Strategy
  - Establish Internal Property Control Team
  - Initiate inventory of all tangible, movable property
  - Use outside contractor to conduct inventory activities under District supervision
  - Install new bar code tags and use District asset scanner technology

# Accountability, Control & Verification Strategy (Continued)

- Tangible Personal Property Strategy
  - Coordinate onsite activities with US Sugar
  - Coordinate effort with Inspector General
  - Excellent cooperation and support from US Sugar
  - Knowledgeable, experienced, and professional staff

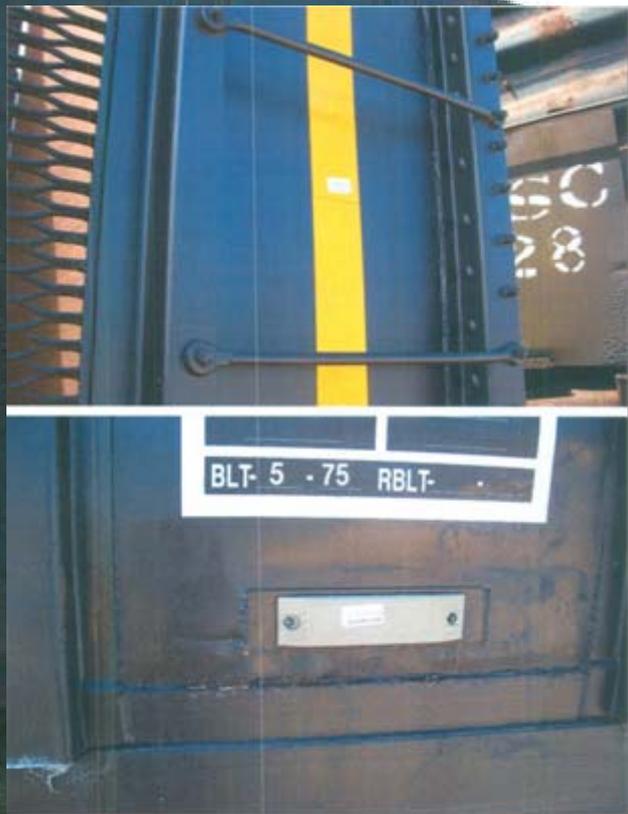
# Progress to Date (Inventory and Asset Tagging)

- Inventory and Asset Tagging Began Sept 23<sup>rd</sup>
- Sugar Ops Inventory Completed Before Harvest Start

## Progress to Date:

- |                                 |                  |                                     |
|---------------------------------|------------------|-------------------------------------|
| ■ Sugar Ops Vehicles/Implements | Inventory/Tagged | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| ■ Rail Road Cars/Locomotives    | Inventory/Tagged | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| ■ Conveyance Elevators          | Inventory/Tagged | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| ■ Information Technology Assets | Inventory/Tagged | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| ■ Machinery & Equipment         | Inventory/Tagged | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| ■ Pumps/Motors                  | In Progress      |                                     |
| ■ Citrus Mfg/Groves/Nursery     | In Progress      |                                     |

# Asset Example: Railcars



# Asset Example: Cane Wagons



# Asset Example: Field Trucks



# Asset Example: Bulldozers / Excavators



# Asset Example: Water/Fuel Tankers



# Asset Example: Pumps



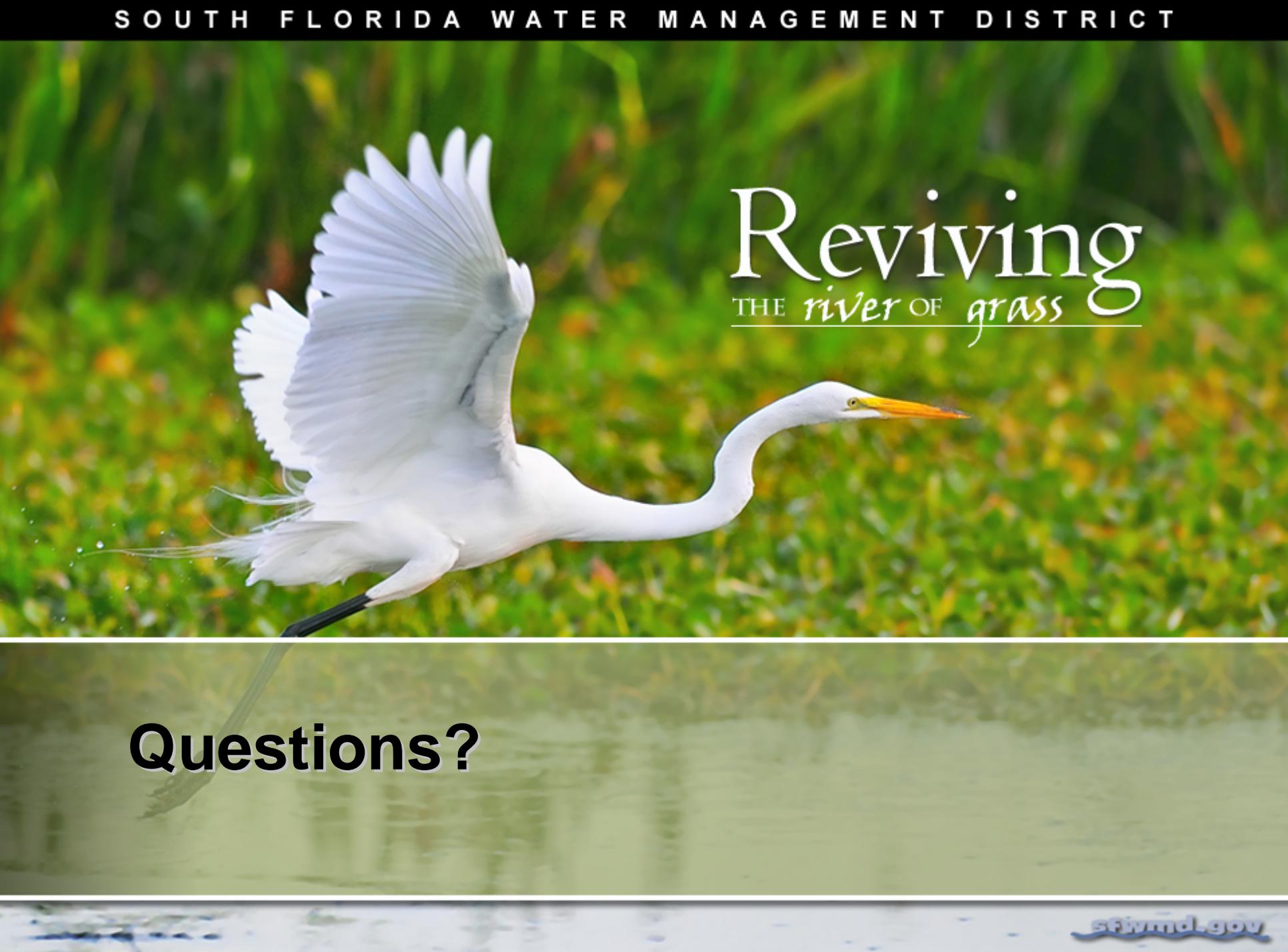
# Asset Example: Half-eaten Pastrami Sandwich in the Fridge



# U.S. Sugar Tangible Asset Challenges



- Reconcile various US Sugar asset lists from actual baseline physical inventory
- Research found and missing assets during reconciliation
- Establish a mutually agreed upon asset list by entity
- Initiate spare parts inventory after completion of tangible personal property



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**Questions?**



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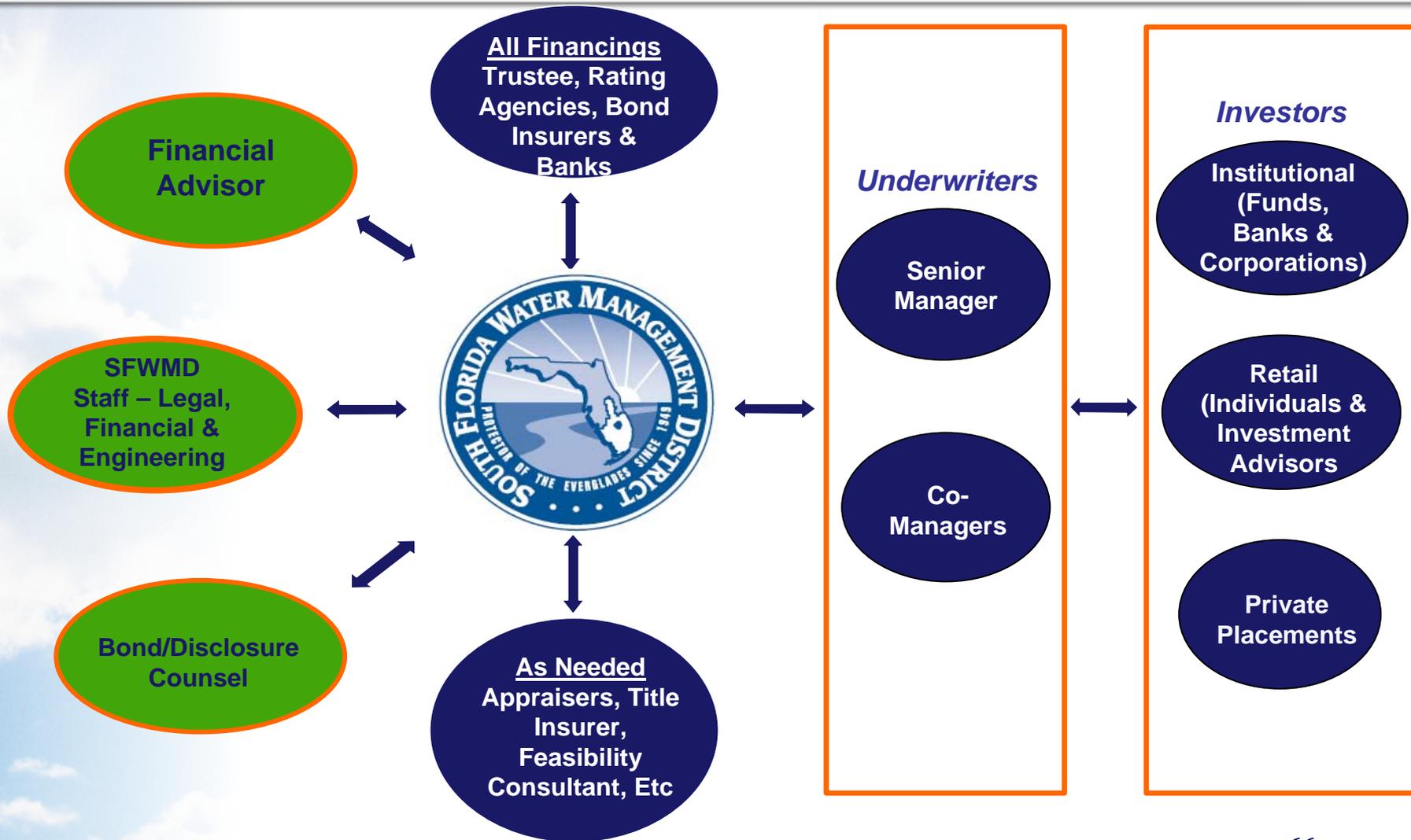
## Financing

Paul E. Dumars, Sr.  
Chief Financial Officer

# Financing Timetable

- **September**
  - Distribute COPs Legal documents and Resolutions
  - Working Group calls and meetings to review COP Legal documents and Resolutions
  
- **October**
  - Distribute all COPs documents for Board agenda
  - Present Debt Policy Amendment to Audit and Finance Committee
  - Approve COPs Legal documents and Resolutions (Governing Board and Not for Profit Leasing Corporation)
  - Approve Debt Policy Amendment (Governing Board)
  - File for Validation
  
- **November/December**
  - Validation hearing pending assigned court date

# Financing Team





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**Financing – Bond Resolution/COP  
Documents**

Randy Hanna

Bond Counsel, Bryant Miller Olive

# Resolution authorizing Lease Purchase Program

- Establishes a lease purchase financing program to finance and refinance District capital projects, programs and works of the District.
- Authorizes the District to enter into a Master Lease Purchase Agreement with the South Florida Water Management District Leasing Corp. which was established in 2006 for the original lease purchase program.
- Lease purchase program not limited geographically or to just one program or project.
- Initial project to be financed will be the River of Grass Acquisition Project.

# Resolution authorizing Lease Purchase Program

- Approves the form of a Master Trust Agreement by and between Leasing Corp. and a corporate trustee pursuant to which Certificates of Participation are to be issued to finance lease purchased projects.
- Authorizes entering into Ground Lease Agreements between the District and Leasing Corp.
- Approves the form of Assignment Agreement that Leasing Corp will enter into with the corporate trustee pursuant to which Leasing Corp assigns certain interests under lease purchase agreements to the corporate trustee allowing corporate trustee to step into the shoes of Leasing Corp.
- Authorizes General Counsel and Bond Counsel to file for validation in Circuit Court in Palm Beach County to validate the Lease Purchase Program.

# Leasing Corp. Resolution Authorizing Lease Purchase Program

- Establishes Leasing Corp. as the Lessor in the lease purchase program with the District.
- Authorizes Leasing Corp. to enter into Master Lease Purchase Agreement, as the Lessor, with the District, acting as the lessee.
- Authorizes Leasing Corp. to enter into the Master Trust Agreement pursuant to which Certificates of Participation are to be issued to finance lease purchased projects.

# Leasing Corp. Resolution Authorizing Lease Purchase Program

- Authorizes Leasing Corp. to enter into Ground Lease Agreements with the District.
- Authorizes Leasing Corp. to enter into Assignment Agreement with corporate trustee pursuant to which Leasing Corp assigns certain interests under lease purchase agreements to the corporate trustee allowing corporate trustee to step into the shoes of Leasing Corp.



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## Financing – Market Conditions

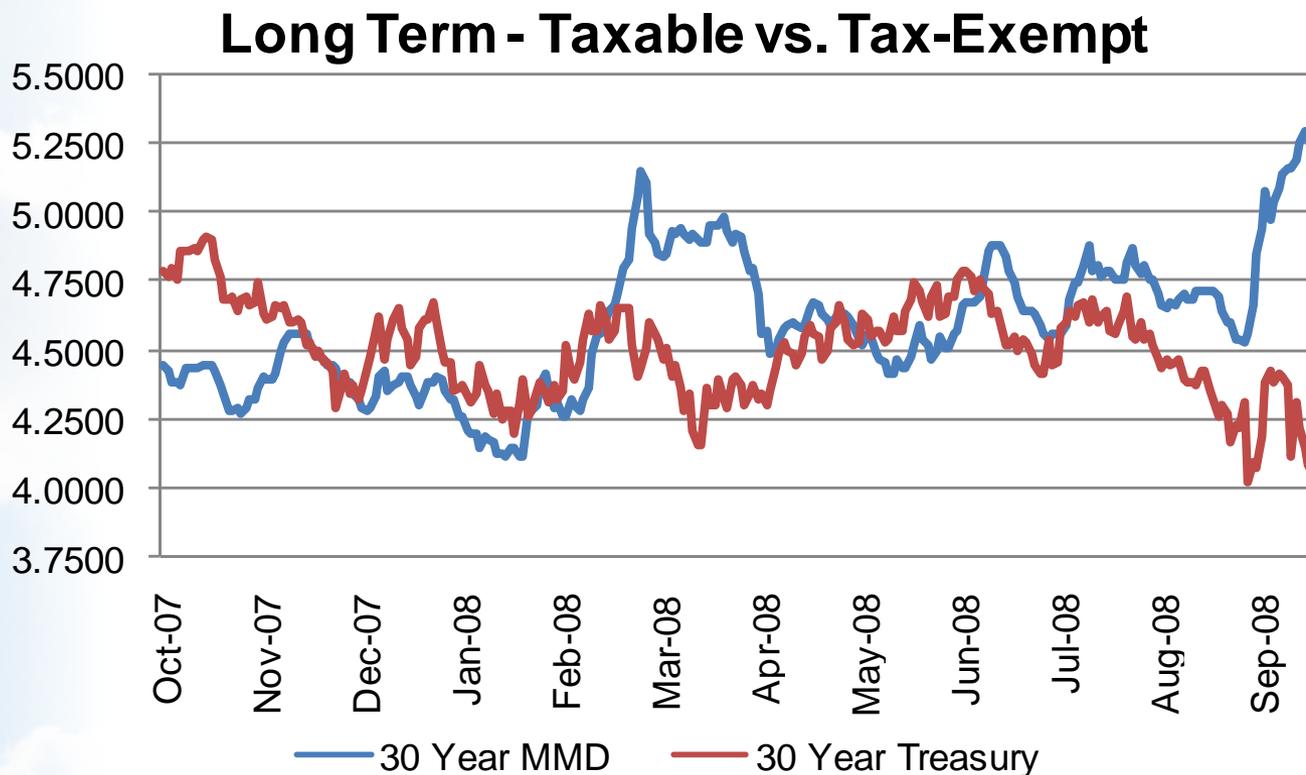
David Moore  
PFM Group

# Market Unrest

- Subprime market related problems continue to challenge the global financial markets.
  - **March** - *JP Morgan acquires Bear Stearns*
  - **September** - *Fed takes Freddie and Fannie Mae into conservatorship; Bank of America announces bid to acquire Merrill Lynch; Lehman Brothers fails; U.S. Government takes over American International Group (AIG); and Reserve Primary (money market) “broke the buck”*
  - **October** - *President Bush signs the financial support plan into law*

# Market Unrest

- Market status – Municipal market credits remain strong, but dislocation “froze” the market during the last two weeks.

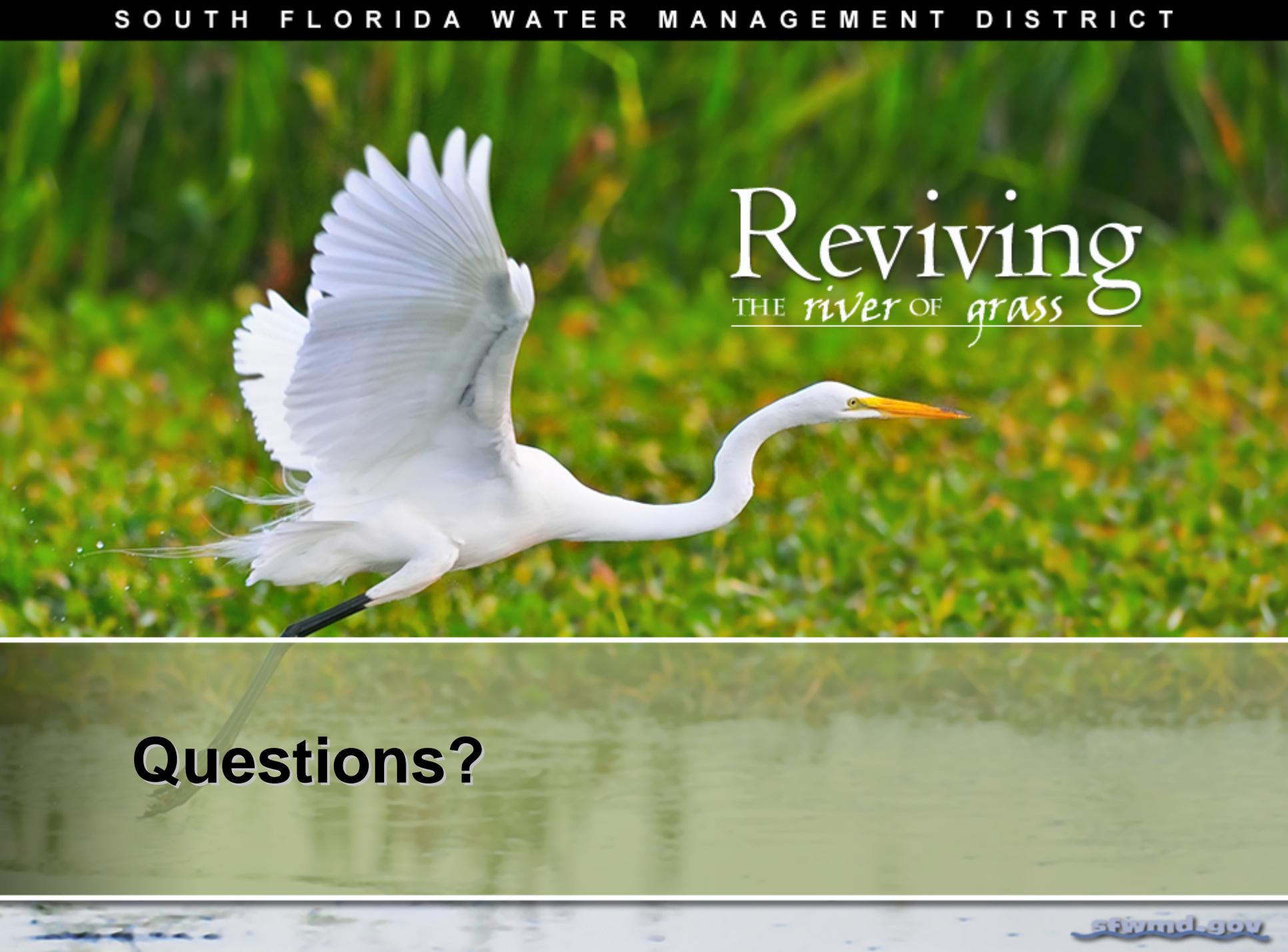


# Moving Forward

- While few financings are moving forward at this time, the municipal market began to “thaw out” late last week
- What is required in order for the municipal market to move forward?
  - Technical corrections – No liquidity, forced sales and other factors outside the municipal market are driving the market.
  - Logic to return to investing – There is a disconnect between markets. Taxable yields are materially LOWER than Tax-exempt yields.
  - LIQUIDITY – “Cash is king”

# Moving Forward

- The District's Plan of Finance
  - The Plan of Finance will be refined to meet the final transaction structure (leases, sale of assets, etc)
  - Strong AA and AAA credit ratings will be the most desired credits
    - District is currently AA rated
  - Market conditions will shape the structure (private placements versus traditional debt, etc)



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**Questions?**



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## Outreach Activities

Deena Reppen

Deputy Executive Director, Government & Public Affairs

# Outreach Activities



Since June 24, 2008

## Media Hits

850 state  
560 national  
74 international

## Community/Government Meetings

184

## Local Government Resolutions

41 (31 in support; 10 economic concerns)

# Outreach Activities

## www.sfwmd.gov/riverofgrass

SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT



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Managing & Protecting  
Our Region's Water Resources



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	<div style="background-color: #0056b3; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center; font-weight: bold; font-size: small;">Water Shortage</div> <p><b>Effective September 19, 2008</b></p> <p>In response to improved regional water resource conditions, the Governing Board of the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) today modified emergency water restrictions to provide agricultural, commercial and recreational facilities more flexibility for water use. Two-day-a-week residential landscape restrictions remain in place. <a href="#">More on water shortage and water restrictions &gt;</a></p> <p><a href="#">More on water conservation &gt;</a></p>	<div style="background-color: #0056b3; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center; font-weight: bold; font-size: small;">Reviving the River of Grass</div>  <p>On June 24, 2008, Governor Charlie Crist announced that the South Florida Water Management District will begin negotiating an agreement to acquire as much as 187,000 acres of agricultural land in the Everglades Agricultural Area. The vast tracts would be used to reestablish a part of the historic connection between Lake Okeechobee and the Everglades to protect Florida's coastal estuaries and revive, restore and preserve the fabled <i>River of Grass</i>... <a href="#">More information &gt;</a></p>



# Outreach Activities

## www.sfwmd.gov/riverofgrass

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### GOVERNOR CRIST UNVEILS HISTORIC PLAN TO REVIVE THE RIVER OF GRASS

**South Florida Water Management District to negotiate acquisition of agricultural land to reestablish an historic connection between Lake Okeechobee and the Everglades**

On June 24, 2008, Governor Charlie Crist announced that the South Florida Water Management District will begin negotiating an agreement to acquire as much as 187,000 acres of agricultural land owned by the United States Sugar Corporation. The vast tracts of land in the Everglades Agricultural Area would then be used to reestablish a part of the historic connection between Lake Okeechobee and America's Everglades through a managed system of storage and treatment and, at the same time, safeguard the St. Lucie and Caloosahatchee rivers and estuaries.

Acquiring the enormous expanse of real estate offers water managers the opportunity and flexibility to store and clean water on a scale never before contemplated to protect Florida's coastal estuaries and to better revive, restore and preserve the fabled *River of Grass*. Subject to independent appraisals and approval by the District's Governing Board, water managers will invest \$1.75 billion

#### RELATED MATERIALS

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# www.sfwmd.gov/riverofgrass News Releases, Fact Sheets, Newsletters

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## News Releases, Fact Sheets, eNewsletters

**DISTRICT NEWS RELEASES**

- SFWMD Strengthens Public Assurances and Financial Safeguards for Land Acquisition, August 11, 2008 [PDF]
- Water Managers Outline Overarching Restoration Goals for Land Acquisition, August 14, 2008 [PDF]
- Negotiations for Historic Everglades Land Acquisition Move Forward, August 14, 2008 [PDF]
- Statement by SFWMD Governing Board Chair, June 24, 2008 [PDF]
- Questions and Answers About the Announcement, June 24, 2008 [PDF]
- Governor Crist Unveils Momentous Strategy to Save America's Everglades, June 24, 2008 [PDF]

**FACT SHEETS – Just the Facts**

- Financing the Acquisition: About Certificates of Participation, August 11, 2008 [PDF]
- Open Government and Public Involvement, August 2008 [PDF]
- Adquisición de Tierra de los Everglades Gobierno Abierto a la Opinión Pública, August 14, 2008 [PDF]
- About the Acquisition, June 24, 2008 [PDF]
- Everglades Restoration Progress, June 2008 [PDF]

**E-NEWSLETTERS**

- July 2008, Ripple Effect, Special Edition [PDF]
- August 2008 Ripple Effect [PDF]
- September 2008 Ripple Effect [PDF]

SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

the RIPPLE effect



September 2008

### CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE



**Eric Buermann**  
Governing Board Chair

Welcome to *The Ripple Effect*, the South Florida Water Management District's monthly electronic newsletter that covers the latest water news — straight from the source.

September's District Governing Board...

September's Governing Board meeting brought us another step closer to the historic opportunity to acquire the land and assets of United States Sugar Corporation for the purpose of Everglades restoration...[more](#)

### Extensive Due Diligence Continues for Everglades Land Acquisition

At its September 10 and 11, 2008, workshop and meeting, the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) Governing Board received a comprehensive update detailing the progress associated with the proposed acquisition of the land and assets of the United States Sugar Corporation for the purpose of Everglades restoration...[more](#)

### SFWMD Strengthens Public Assurances and Financial Safeguards for Land Purchases

The South Florida Water Management District is implementing initiatives to strengthen the public process and safeguard public investments while negotiating the potential acquisition of the land and assets of the United States Sugar Corporation in an historic effort to revive and restore America's Everglades...[more](#)

### Public to Play Key Role in Everglades Restoration Project Planning

As negotiations continue to acquire land and assets of the United States Sugar Corporation for Everglades restoration, the South Florida Water Management District is taking extra steps to keep the public informed and involved in this monumental opportunity...[more](#)

### August Rainfall Above Average; Agricultural and Commercial Water Restrictions Modified

A wet August punctuated by Tropical Storm Fay helped the South Florida Water Management District shift out of water shortage conditions that have affected the 16-county region for more than two years...[more](#)

### In the News

- Water Conservation Program to Build Conservation Culture
- Alternative Water Projects Receive '09 Funding
- Water Managers, St. Cloud, Orange County Resolve Legal Challenge
- Endangered Bat Species Discovered on District Land
- SFWMD Honored with National Budget Award

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## Presentations

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### Presentations

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- ▶ [Community Briefing, September 2008 \[PDF\]](#)
- ▶ [Water Resources Advisory Commission \(WRAC\), September 16, 2008 \[PDF\]](#)

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**September 10 & 11, 2008**

- ▶ [Governing Board Briefing, September 10 & 11, 2008 \[PDF\]](#)
- ▶ [Governing Board Briefing Notebook, September 10 & 11, 2008 \[PDF, 25MB \]](#)
- ▶ [View Google Earth flyover of U.S. Sugar lands and assets – 7 minutes 42 seconds \[WMV, 114MB\]](#)  
NOTE: Slower internet connections may prefer downloading the ZIP format to their hard drive. Once downloaded, play from your desktop. [\[ZIP, 104MB\]](#)
- ▶ [Videos of Meeting presentations, September 11, 2008](#)  
Morning session – view [\[RM\]](#) or download [\[ZIP, 405MB\]](#)  
Afternoon session – view [\[RM\]](#) or download [\[ZIP, 391MB\]](#)
- ▶ [Videos of Workshop presentations, September 10, 2008](#)  
Morning session – PART 1, view [\[RM\]](#) or download [\[ZIP, 76MB\]](#); PART 2, view [\[RM\]](#) or download [\[ZIP, 369MB\]](#)  
Afternoon session – view [\[RM\]](#) or download [\[ZIP, 635MB\]](#)

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- ▶ [Community Briefing, August 2008 \[PDF\]](#)

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**August 13, 2008**

- ▶ [Governing Board Briefing, August 13, 2008 \[PDF\]](#)
- ▶ [Governing Board Briefing Notebook, August 13 & 14, 2008 \[PDF, 12MB\]](#)
- ▶ [Video of Workshop presentations, August 13, 2008](#)  
Download [\[ZIP, 273MB\]](#)

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- ▶ [Intermodal Logistics Center, August 2008 \[PDF\]](#)
- ▶ [Florida Congressional Delegation Briefing, July 30, 2008 \[PDF\]](#)

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**June 30, 2008**

- ▶ [Governing Board Briefing, June 30, 2008 \[PDF\]](#)
- ▶ [Video of presentations, June 30, 2008](#)  
Download [\[ZIP, 223MB\]](#)

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- ▶ [Announcement to District Employees, June 24, 2008 \[PDF\]](#)

# www.sfwmd.gov/riverofgrass Public Records Requests



Public Records - Microsoft Internet Explorer provided by SFWMD

File Edit View Favorites Tools Help

Address: https://my.sfwmd.gov/portal/page?\_pageid=2814,220960978,\_dad=portal&\_schema=PORTAL

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### Public Records Request Form

You may submit your public records request to the District

- In person
- In writing (mail or fax) , or
- Online

**District Contact Information:**

**For requests in person, or by mail:** Public Records Officer  
 South Florida Water Management District  
 3301 Gun Club Road  
 West Palm Beach, FL 33406

**Facsimile:** Fax: 561-682-5215  
 (District Headquarters is located approximately 1/2 mile west of Congress Avenue on the north side of Gun Club Road.)

**Online:** Fill-in the appropriate sections of the Public Records Form below and submit.

Should the District deny your public records request, or any part of the request, the District will state in writing the basis for the denial, including the exact statutory citation authorizing denial, as required by Chapter 119, Florida Statutes.

Please include your contact information in the Public Records Request Form so that we may contact you with any questions and/or notify you when your records are ready.

**First Name: \***

**Last Name: \***

**Address:**

**Address:**

**City:**

**State:**

**Zip:**

**Telephone:**  ex: 555-555-5555

**E-mail Address: \***

**Please Select: \***  I would like to view/inspect the records  
 I would like to receive copies of the records

**What records are you looking for (describe the records you are requesting): \***

I acknowledge that there may be fees associated with this request in accordance with Chapter 119, Florida Statutes.



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## Acquisition Documents

### STATEMENTS, CONTRACTS

- » Statement of Principles, June 24, 2008 [PDF]
- » Contract, [Entities/Date] [PDF]

### APPRAISALS

### ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENTS

### ENGINEERING EVALUATIONS

### PUBLIC ASSURANCES

- » Independent Fairness Opinion [PDF]
- » Independent Due Diligence Audit [PDF]
- » Beneficial Interest Affidavits [PDF]

A white egret is captured in mid-flight, its wings fully extended, against a background of lush green grass. The bird is positioned on the left side of the frame, facing right. The text 'Reviving THE river OF grass' is overlaid on the right side of the image.

Reviving  
*THE river OF grass*

## Community Project Funding

Deena Reppen

Deputy Executive Director, Government & Public Affairs

# Community Project Funding Overview



- With approval of FY09 budget, Governor Crist directed the water management districts to invest in capital projects; engender economic stimulus
- \$2 million set aside in FY09 budget
  - Hendry
  - Glades
  - Tri-Cities
- Fund capital projects benefiting the water resources of the Glades communities

# Community Project Funding

## Eligible Projects



- Water quality improvement
- Stormwater management
- Wastewater management
- Water restoration projects
- Local projects identified in community resolutions

# Community Project Funding Proposed Criteria



## Eligible Projects:

- Protect public health or the environment
- Implement Surface Water Improvement Management Plans (SWIM), Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs), or other plans adopted by local government for water quality improvement and water restoration
- Benefit a District priority waterbody
  - Lake Okeechobee
  - Everglades
  - Caloosahatchee River
  - St. Lucie River

# Community Project Funding Proposed Criteria, cont.



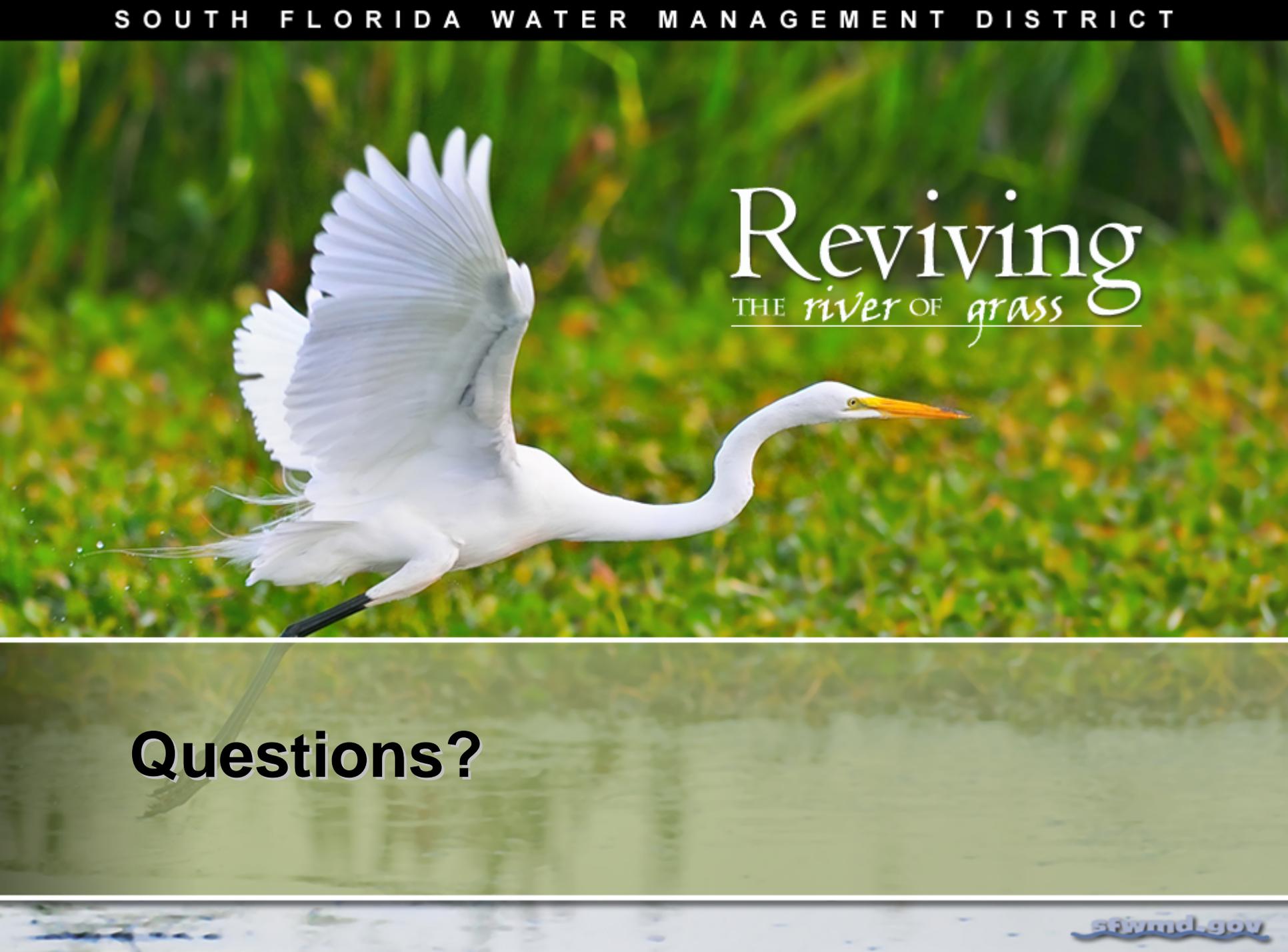
## Eligible Projects:

- Infrastructure improvement
- One-time non-recurring project costs (i.e. no operating costs)
- Currently permitted or ready for construction

# Community Project Funding Next Steps



- Coordinate with local communities to identify potential projects
- Develop scope
- Submit for Governing Board approval in November

A white egret is captured in mid-flight, its wings fully extended, flying over a body of water. The background is a lush, green, grassy area. The text 'Reviving THE river OF grass' is overlaid on the right side of the image.

# Reviving

THE *river* OF *grass*

**Questions?**