

# Governing Board Meeting – January 12, 2012



## 2012 Caloosahatchee and St. Lucie River Watershed Protection Plan Updates- Public Comments and Final Plans



***Temperince Morgan, State Policy Chief  
Office of Everglades Policy and Coordination***



## Legislative Requirements

- In 2007, the legislature expanded Lake Okeechobee Protection Act to also include protection of the Caloosahatchee and St. Lucie watersheds and estuaries (Northern Everglades and Estuaries Protection Program)
- The coordinating agencies submitted the initial Caloosahatchee and St. Lucie River Watershed Protection Plans (RWPPs) in 2008
- NEEPP requires the Plans to be updated every 3 years
- This update covers the three-year period since submission of the RWPPs to the Legislature in 2008. The RWPP updates will be submitted to the legislature in mid January 2012



# Protection Plan Update Activities



- May-Dec 2011: Held numerous meetings with stakeholders (NE Interagency, WRAC, Individual Stakeholder meetings)
- October 21, 2011: Released draft 2012 River Watershed Protection Plan (RWPP) updates for public comment
  - *Included as Appendix 10-1 (St. Lucie) and 10-2 (Caloosahatchee) of the 2012 consolidated South Florida Environmental Report*
- Nov-Dec 2011: Incorporated public comments into the Final RWPP updates



# Protection Plan Updates - Highlights

- FDEP's adoption of estuary TMDLs & development of Basin Management Action Plans
- Local water quality, storage, and habitat restoration projects: Caloosahatchee (36) & St. Lucie (25)
- Regulatory nutrient source control program development
- Dispersed Water Management Program expansion (water farming pilot projects; interim lands projects, PES, etc.)
- Regional Projects
  - Caloosahatchee (Storage and Treatment Initiative; Four Corners/Spanish Creek; C-43 WQ Treatment and Testing)
  - St. Lucie (C-44 Reservoir and STA)



# Summary of Water Quality and Storage- Caloosahatchee

- Water Quality
  - TMDL requires a 23% TN load reduction
  - Full plan implementation estimated to achieve 33% TN load reduction
  - Uncertainties exist with treatment of DON
- Water Storage
  - Storage Target = 400,000 acre-feet



# Caloosahatchee Near-term (2012-2015) Projects and Cost

		Initiated	Completed	Cost
<b>Source Control and Other Regulatory Activities</b>	Agricultural BMPs	✓	✓	
	SFWMD's Regulatory Source Control Program (Chapter 40E-61, F.A.C)	✓		\$3.4 M
	Caloosahatchee Estuary Water Reservation		✓	TBD
	FDEP Caloosahatchee BMAP	✓	✓	
<b>Construction Project and Other Related Efforts</b>	Dispersed Water Management Projects	✓	✓	
	Near-term Construction Projects (Spanish Creek/Four Corners, Caloosahatchee Basin Storage/Treatment, Local WQ projects, C43 water quality treatment and demonstration)	✓		\$44.3 M
<b>Research and Water Quality Monitoring</b>	Watershed and Estuarine Nutrient Budget Refinements	✓		\$1.9 M
	Continue Tidal and Estuary Monitoring and Tape Grass Plantings	✓	✓	
			<b>Total</b>	<b>\$49.6 M</b>



# Summary of Water Quality and Storage - St. Lucie

## ■ Water Quality

- TMDL expressed as concentration: 81 ppb TP and 0.72 ppm TN
- Full plan implementation estimated to achieve:
  - TP TMDL in C-44 sub-watershed
  - TN TMDL in C44, C23/24 and North Fork sub-watersheds
- BMAP process will identify additional water quality projects necessary to meet both TMDLs at discharge point of each sub-watershed

## ■ Water Storage

- Storage Target = 200,000 acre-feet



# St. Lucie Near-term (2012-2015) Projects and Cost

		Initiated	Completed	Cost
<b>Source Control and Other Regulatory Activities</b>	Agricultural BMPs	✓	✓	
	SFWMD's Regulatory Source Control Program (Chapter 40E-61, F.A.C)	✓		\$3.0 M
	FDEP St. Lucie BMAP		✓	TBD
<b>Construction Project and Other Related Efforts</b>	Dispersed Water Management Projects	✓	✓	
	Near-term Construction Projects (C44 Project and Local Water Quality Projects)	✓		\$192.5 M
<b>Research and Water Quality Monitoring</b>	Watershed and Estuarine Nutrient Budget Refinements	✓		
	Continue Water Quality and Ecological Monitoring	✓	✓	\$0.8 M
	Model Refinements and Calibration	✓		
			<b>Total</b>	<b>\$196.3 M</b>



# Comments Received on Draft River Watershed Protection Plan Updates



- Caloosahatchee RWPP Update
  - Lee County
  - US Fish and Wildlife Service
  - Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program
- St. Lucie RWPP Update - no public comments received



# Public Comments

- **Source Control**
  - BMP implementation assumptions
  - Delay in proposed revisions to the regulatory programs
  - Comprehensive Planning and Growth Management
- **Research and Water Quality Monitoring**
  - Need for more robust sampling upstream of S-79
  - SFWMD's non-participation in the CHNEP's monitoring network/Bias in the fixed station sampling
  - Representation of Minimum Flows and Levels (MFL) compliance and water reservation
- **Others**
  - TMDL/BMAP coordination and other issues (flows/allocations)
  - Identification of plan implementation priorities



## Proposed Next Steps



- Submit the Final 2012 River Watershed Protection Plan Updates to the legislature
  - Mid-January 2012
- Continue plan implementation



## Caloosahatchee and St. Lucie River Watershed Protection Plans Update Resolution



- **A Resolution of the Governing Board of the South Florida Water Management District accepting the 2012 Caloosahatchee and St. Lucie River Watershed Protection Plan Updates and directing staff to submit them to the Florida Legislature**



Questions?



<https://my.sfwmd.gov/northerneverglades>