



Terminated and Reduced Water in the Lake Okeechobee Service Area (LOSA)

March 15, 2012 Governing Board Meeting
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Presentation Overview

- **Purpose:**
 - **History of the Lake Okeechobee Service Area (LOSA) Rule**
 - **Status of LOSA Permit Applications**
 - **Future Implementation through Consumptive Use Permitting**

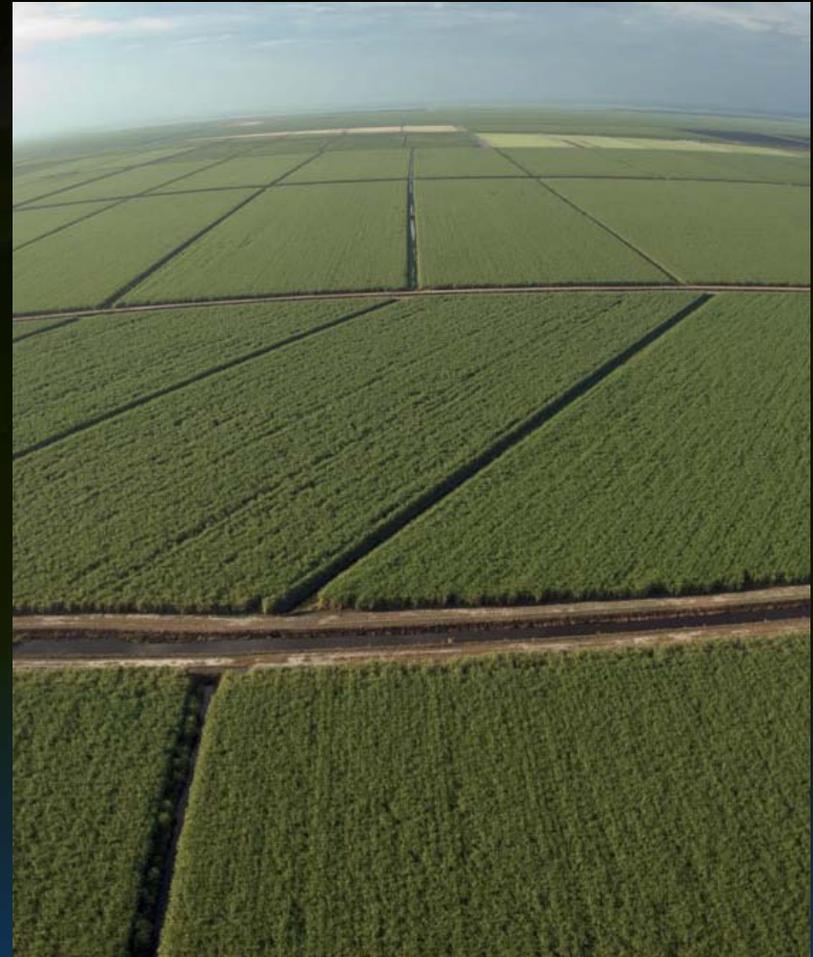


Lake Okeechobee Service Area



History of the LOSA Rule

- **Driving Events of 2008:**
 - **New Lake Okeechobee Regulation Schedule (LORS)**
 - Lake MFL from “prevention” to “recovery” status
 - Existing legal user certainty reduced from 1 in 10 to 1 in 6
 - Kept same water shortage trigger line
 - All irrigation permits in LOSA Basin set to expire in February 2009



History of the LOSA Rule

- **District's Actions in August 2008:**
 - **Amended Lower East Coast Regional Water Supply Plan Recovery Strategy:**
 - **Lake MFL Recovery Strategy:**
 - **Dike repair and capital projects**
 - **Low Lake level activities**
 - **Regulatory constraints on consumptive use**



History of the LOSA Rule

- **“LOSA Rule” approved by Governing Board and became effective October 14, 2008**
 - **Restricted Allocation Area**
 - **“Capped” surface water allocations from Lake at historic, base condition water use**
 - **Consistent with Lake Okeechobee, Caloosahatchee, and Everglades MFL recovery strategies**
 - **Recognized how water is used in the LOSA Basin, the limited alternatives for water use, and prevented interference with legal users of Lake water**

LOSA Application Review

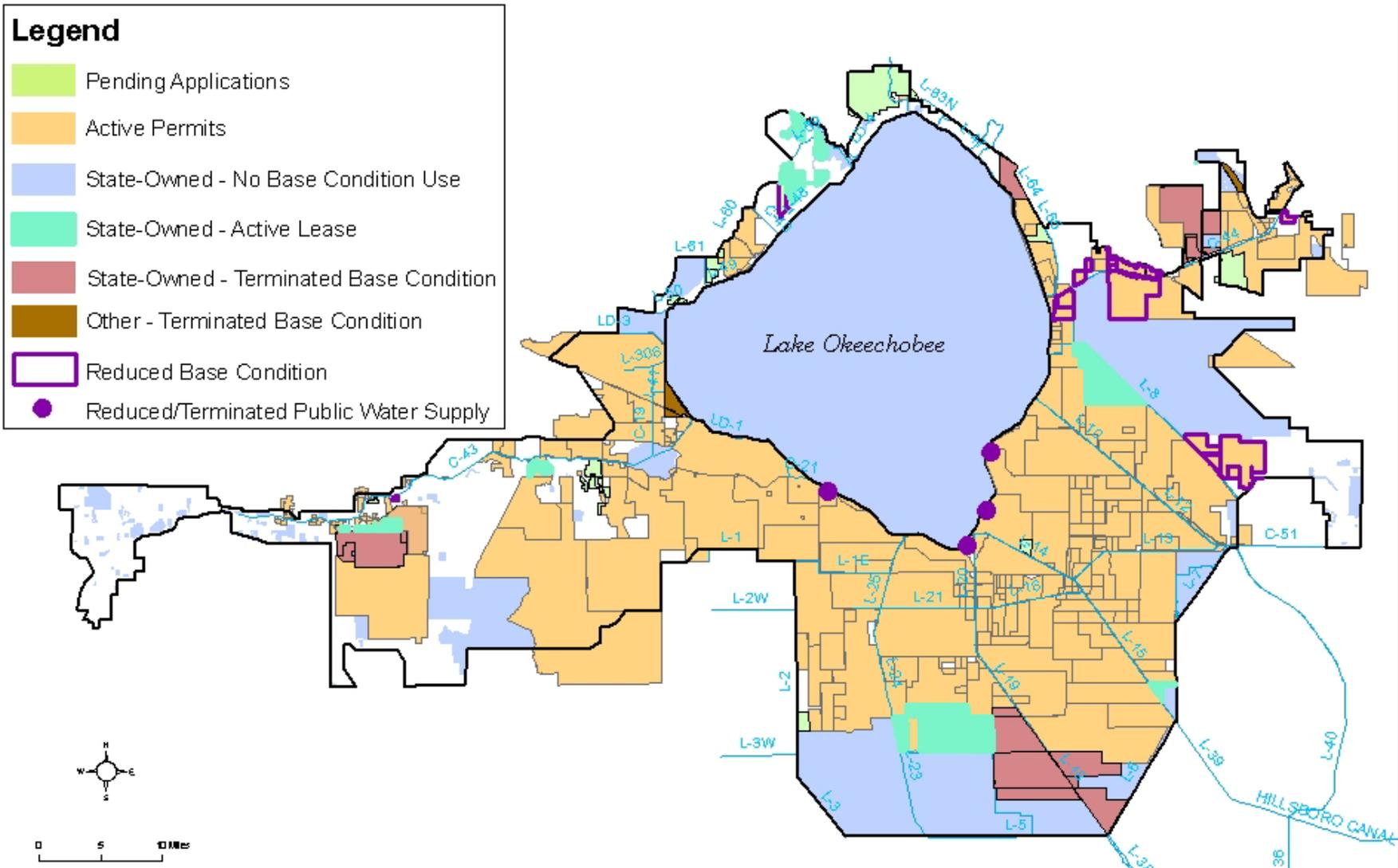
- Calculate “base condition water use”
 - Existing, historical use of water between April 1, 2001 and January 1, 2008 based on use class
 - Previous permits
 - Aerial photography
 - Staff site visits



LOSA Application Review

- **Approximately 200 permits have been issued**
- **Permits issued for base condition water use**
- **Few applications pending (approximately 14)**
 - **Incomplete applications for various reasons:**
 - **Determining base condition water use**
 - **Calibration of withdrawal facilities**
- **No increases above base condition water use approved to date**
 - **One pending request – Okeechobee Utility Authority**

Permit Status – December 2011



Available Base Condition Water

- Identified “Available Base Condition Water Use” through the renewal process
- What is it?
 - Unassigned uses
 - Base condition not previously authorized by permit
 - Reduced use
 - Results in a decrease of base condition use such as crop conversion, irrigation systems, or acreage changes
 - Terminated use
 - Parcel with base condition water use whose permit has expired with no subsequent application filed

Available Base Condition Water

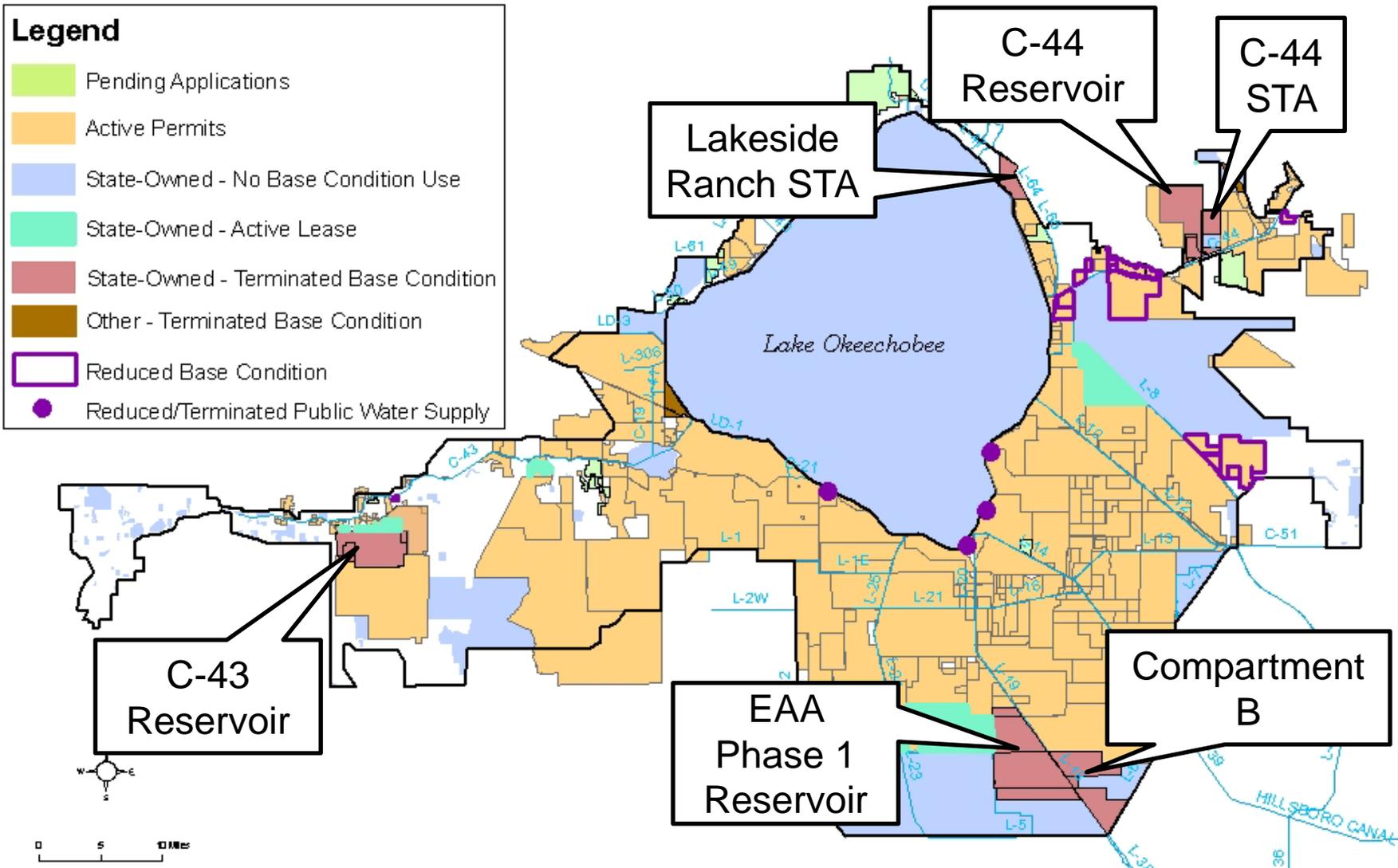
- **State / District land purchases without leases**
- **Public Water Supply**
 - **Glades Utility Authority**
 - Belle Glade
 - South Bay
 - Pahokee
 - **Clewiston**
- **Other reductions**
 - **Reduction in acreage**
 - **Changes in crop type**

Where is the water?

- **Water is in the Lake**
- **Water benefits all interests with operational flexibility**
- **Future District needs**



Future of State Lands



Requests for New or Increased Allocations

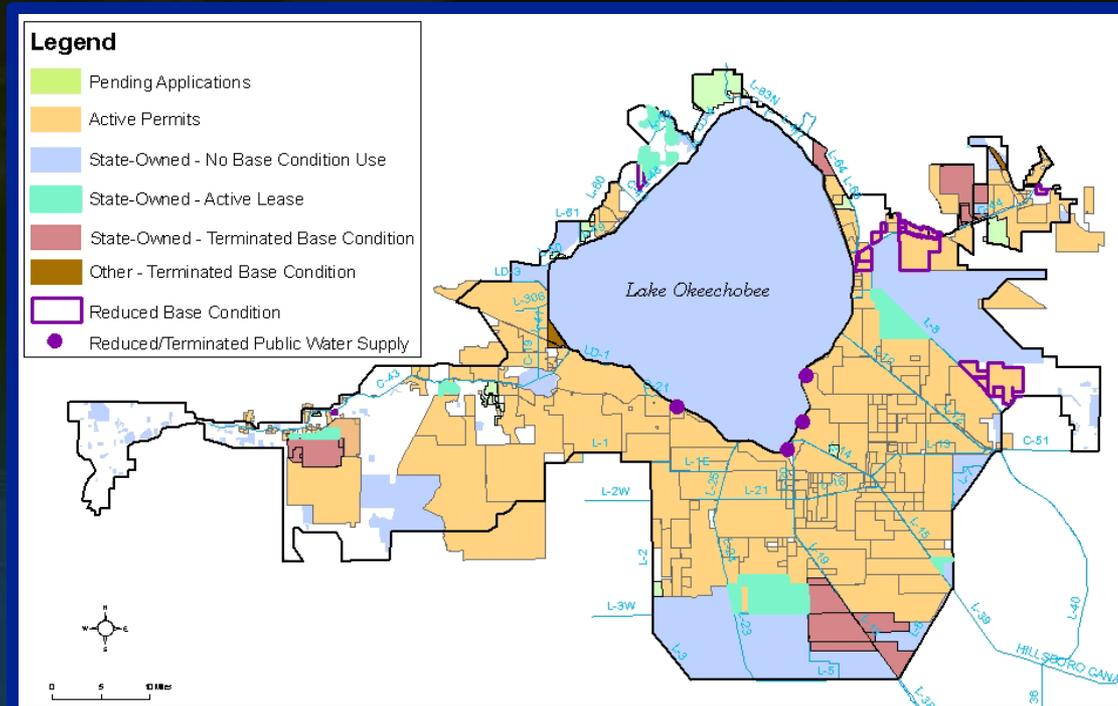
- **“Allocations will be provided from the following sources:”**
 - **Certified Project Water (None to date)**
 - **Offsets by Alternative Sources (Generally not available in LOSA)**
 - **Alternative Water Supply**
 - **Groundwater, reclaimed water, stormwater (limited availability)**
 - **Unassigned, Terminated, or Reduced Base Condition Water Use - “Available Base Condition Water Use”**

Requests for New or Increased Allocations

- **Governing Board reserves the right to restrict the re-allocation of Available Base Condition Water Use if it determines that such water:**
 - **Meets a specific test:**
 - Improves the performance of an MFL (shorten the frequency or duration of projected MFL violations) or improves the performance of a restoration target
 - **While also considering, on a case by case basis:**
 - Are alternative sources available?
 - Is the use ancillary to an agricultural use?
 - Other relevant public interest considerations

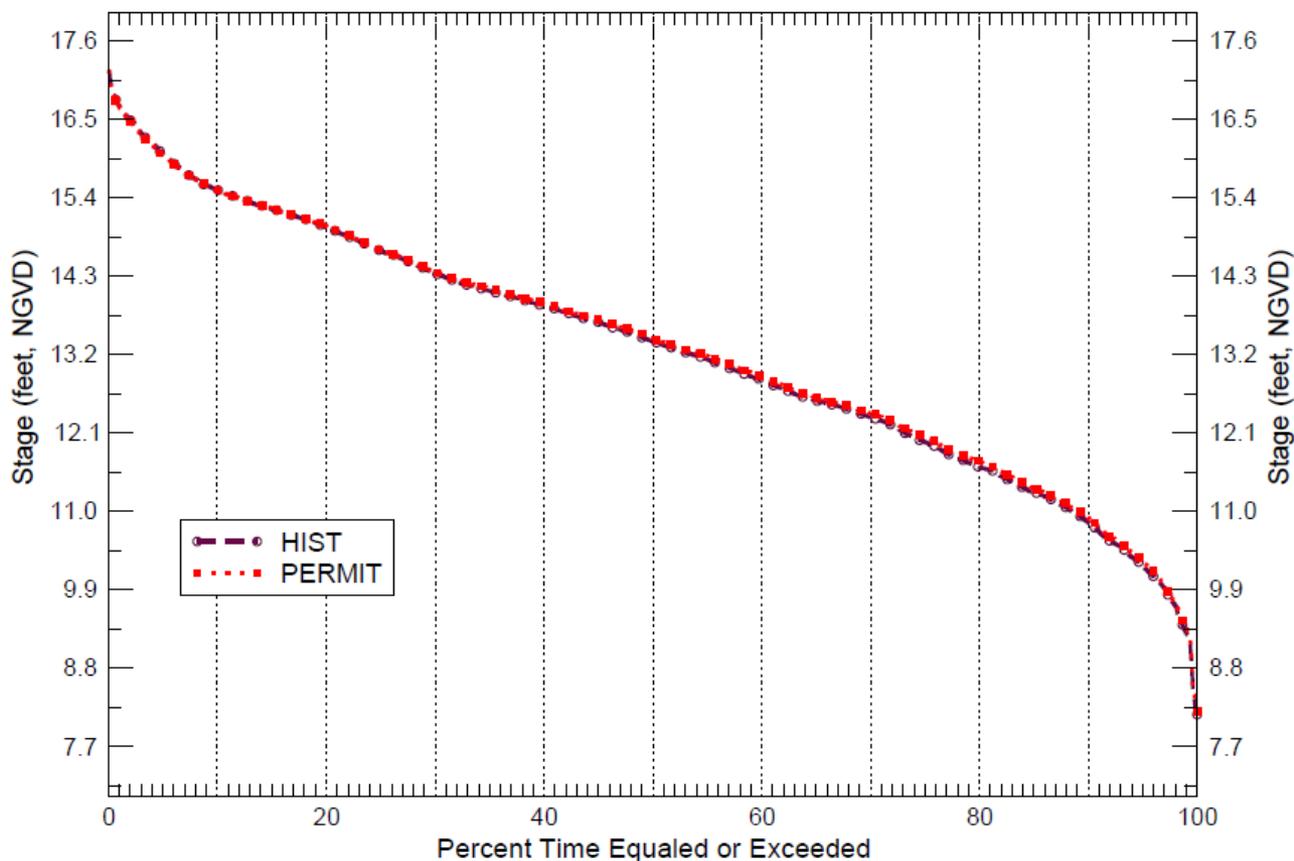
Assessing MFL Performance

- Model runs to determine performance
- Two cases modeled:
 - Available base condition water use active
 - Available base condition water use inactive



Assessing MFL Performance

Stage Duration Curves for Lake Okeechobee



Run date: 03/13/12 12:33:25
SFWMM V6.5.1
Script used: hyd_dur.scr, ID456
Filename: lok_dai_stgdur.agr

Assessing MFL Performance

- **With available base condition water use inactive, the demand for Lake supply is reduced**
- **Reduced demand results in slight differences in Lake stages**
- **Since the difference in Lake stage is slight, cannot expect releases to be triggered that would change other performance measures:**
 - MFL Waterbodies
 - Water Shortage
 - STAs
 - WCAs

Future Implementation through Consumptive Use Permitting

- **Staff recommends, based on the existing information, the Governing Board not exercise its right to restrict the available base condition water**
- **Permitting authority continues to remain delegated to the Executive Director**
- **When a permit application requests available base condition water, staff will advise the Governing Board**
 - Specifics of the application
 - Updates, if any, on performance measures
 - Provide for public discussion

Pending Application: Okeechobee Utility Authority

- **Application filed before rule adopted**
 - Small, rural utility requesting 1.08 MGD to meet public water supply demands for next 20 years
 - Economically challenged REDI community
 - Unproductive aquifer, limited alternative sources available
- **Lake Okeechobee 'incompatible' use**
 - Variance requested
- **WRAC Meeting Input**



Thank you.