



## SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

October 17, 2012

Secretary Herschel Vinyard  
Florida Department of Environmental Protection  
3900 Commonwealth Blvd, MS 49  
Marjory Stoneman Douglas Building  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-3000

Dear Secretary Vinyard:

**Subject: 2013 Priority Water Body List and Schedule**

The South Florida Water Management District (District) is pleased to submit for your consideration the 2013 Priority Water Body List and Schedule for the establishment of Minimum Flows and Levels (MFLs) as required by Section 373.042(2), Florida Statutes (F.S.). The District Governing Board approved the 2013 Priority Water Body List and Schedule for Minimum Flows and Levels (MFL) on October 11, 2012 (see attached resolution and Attachment A).

The list and schedule included in Attachment A demonstrates our continuing commitment to evaluate new information for the Caloosahatchee River and Estuary and Florida Bay to determine if any revisions of the MFL criteria are warranted.

Separate from the Priority Water Body List and with a part of its commitment to the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan, the District continues to move forward with water reservation rulemaking for the Caloosahatchee River (C-43) West Basin Storage Reservoir Project and the Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands Project (Phase 1). Rule adoption is anticipated in 2013.

We look forward to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's review and approval of this year's Priority Water Body List. If you have any questions, please contact Terrie Bates, Water Resources Division Director at (561) 682-6952 or [tbates@sfwmd.gov](mailto:tbates@sfwmd.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Melissa L. Meeker".

Melissa L. Meeker  
Executive Director

MLM/dm  
Enclosures

c: Terrie Bates, SFWMD  
Kathleen Greenwood, DEP  
Greg Munson, DEP

Secretary Herschel Vinyard  
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Page 2

bc: Scott Burns  
Maria Clemente  
Peter Doering  
Jason Godin  
Beth Lewis  
Linda Lindstrom  
Don Medellin  
Steven Memberg  
Beth Ross  
Sharon Trost

1 SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

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3 RESOLUTION NO. 2012 - 1010

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5  
6 A RESOLUTION OF THE GOVERNING BOARD OF THE SOUTH FLORIDA WATER  
7 MANAGEMENT DISTRICT TO AUTHORIZE SUBMITTAL OF THE PROPOSED 2013  
8 PRIORITY WATER BODY LIST AND SCHEDULE FOR MINIMUM FLOWS AND  
9 LEVELS TO THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION  
10 FOR REVIEW AND APPROVAL PURSUANT TO SECTION 373.042(2), FLORIDA  
11 STATUTES; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

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14 **WHEREAS**, the South Florida Water Management District is required by Section  
15 373.042(2), Florida Statutes, to conduct an annual update of the Priority Water Body List  
16 for Minimum Flows and Levels to reflect changing water resource management priorities,  
17 such as the importance of the waters to the region and existence of or potential for  
18 significant harm to the water resources; and

19  
20 **WHEREAS**, prior to finalizing their updated Minimum Flows and Levels Priority  
21 Water Body List and Schedule annually, the water management districts are required to  
22 forward it to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection for its review and  
23 approval; and

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25 **WHEREAS**, the proposed 2013 Priority Water Body List and Schedule for  
26 Minimum Flows and Levels considers the differing resource issues addressed by  
27 minimum flows and levels based on staffing and technical resources to ensure successful  
28 completion of rulemaking; and

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32 **NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Governing Board of the South  
33 Florida Water Management District:

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35 **Section 1.** The Governing Board of the South Florida Water Management District  
36 hereby approves submission of the proposed 2012 Priority Water Body List and Schedule  
37 for Minimum Flows and Levels to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection for  
38 review and approval pursuant to Section 373.042(2), Florida Statutes.

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40 **Section 2.** A copy of the proposed 2013 Priority Water Body List and Schedule for  
41 Minimum Flows and Levels is attached hereto and made a part hereof.  
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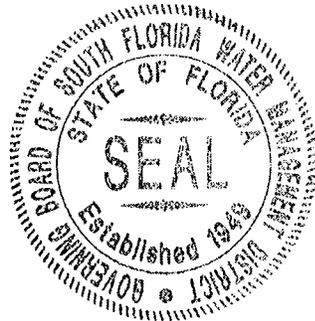
Resolution No. 2012-1010

1 Section 3. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption.  
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3 PASSED and ADOPTED this 11th day of October 2012.  
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SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT  
DISTRICT, BY ITS GOVERNING BOARD

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10 BY: Joe Calhoun  
11 Chair



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14  
15  
16  
17 ATTEST:

18  
19 Jackie McGorty  
20 District Clerk/Secretary  
21

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

BY: Beth C. Lewis  
Office of Counsel  
Beth C. Lewis

Attachment A

South Florida Water Management District

2013 Priority Water Body List and Schedule

Minimum Flows and Levels

**Caloosahatchee River and Estuary – MFL Evaluation**

- Quantify the habitat value of *Vallisneria* in 2014-15.
- Continue data collection and its analysis for the Tidal Basin including its tributaries, develop a model and apply it to understand the sources and their contribution to the Caloosahatchee Estuary through 2014.
- Investigate effects of MFL flows on oysters, benthic macrofauna zooplankton, ichthyoplankton and phytoplankton through 2015.
- Apply hydrodynamic/salinity/*Vallisneria* models and develop a return frequency to improve the existing MFL criteria for the Caloosahatchee River and Estuary through 2015.
- Complete technical analysis and its documentation in 2016
- Complete peer review in 2017.
- Submit rule to Office of Fiscal Accountability and Regulatory Reform for review per the Executive Order Number 11-72 in 2017.
- Present draft rule to Governing Board to consider for adoption in 2017.

**Florida Bay - MFL Evaluation**

For Florida Bay, Part 1 of the technical document which incorporates the ecological changes since adoption of the Florida Bay MFL rule will be submitted to FDEP before the end of 2012. Part 2 of this document will include the integration of both the ecological and hydrological components. Part 2 of this technical document will be completed and submitted to FDEP in 2013. Based on the completed technical analysis, a determination will be made in 2014 on the need for any revisions to the existing MFL criteria.