

**CHAPTER 40E-8  
MINIMUM FLOWS AND LEVELS**

**40E-8.011 Purpose and General Provisions.**

(1) through (3) No Change.

(4) The recovery and prevention strategies set forth in Rule 40E-8.421, F.A.C., the consumptive use permitting procedures described in paragraph 40E-2.301(1)(i), Rule 40E-8.431, F.A.C., Section 3.9 of the “Applicant’s Handbook Basis of Review for Water Use Permit Applications within the South Florida Water Management District,”; incorporated by reference in Rules 40E-2.091 and ~~40E-20.091~~, F.A.C., the water shortage plan implementation provisions specified in Rules 40E-8.441, 40E-21.531, and 40E-21.541, F.A.C., and Part III of Chapter 40E-22, F.A.C., are inseparable components of the MFLs established in Rules 40E-8.321 and 40E-8.331, F.A.C. The District would not have adopted the MFLs set forth in Rules 40E-8.321 and 40E-8.331, F.A.C., for Lake Okeechobee, the Everglades, the Biscayne Aquifer, the Lower West Coast Aquifers, and the Caloosahatchee River without simultaneously adopting their related implementation rules. If the rules cited above, as they pertain to a specified MFL water body, are found to be invalid, in whole or in part, such specified minimum flow(s) or level(s) in Rule 40E-8.321 or 40E-8.331, F.A.C., (including Lake Okeechobee, Everglades, Biscayne Aquifer, Lower West Coast Aquifers, Caloosahatchee River) (month, year) shall not be adopted, or if already in effect, shall not continue to be applied, until the District amends the applicable regional water supply plan(s), as necessary, and amends the subject rules, as necessary to address the reason for invalidity consistent with the requirements of Section 373.0421, F.S. This section shall be triggered after a rule is found to be invalid pursuant to a final order issued under Section 120.56, F.S., and after appellate review remedies have been exhausted.

(5) No Change.

*Rulemaking Authority §§ 9, 10 P.L. 83-358, 373.044, 373.113, 373.171 FS. Law Implemented 373.016, 373.036, 373.0361, 373.042, 373.0421 FS. History—New 9-10-01, Amended 4-1-03, 1-19-06, 10-23-12, \_\_\_\_\_.*

**40E-8.421 Prevention and Recovery Strategies.**

(1) At the time of adoption of this rule, the existing flow or level for certain specified water bodies is below, or within 20 years is projected to fall below, the applicable MFL. For this reason, Section ~~373.709~~ ~~373.0364~~, F.S., requires regional water supply plans to contain recovery and prevention strategies, including water resource development and water supply development projects that are needed to achieve compliance with MFLs during the planning period. The implementation of such projects will allow for the orderly replacement or enhancement of existing water sources with alternative supplies in order to provide sufficient water for all existing and projected reasonable-beneficial uses, consistent with Section 373.0421, F.S.

(a) through (b) No Change.

(c) The rules implementing water resource protection tools, including Chapters 40E-2, 40E-8, ~~40E-20~~, 40E-21, 40E-22, F.A.C., and the “Applicant’s Handbook Basis of Review for Water Consumptive Use Permits Applications wWithin the South Florida Water Management District,”; incorporated by reference in Rules 40E-2.091 and ~~40E-20.091~~, F.A.C., identify the specific factors and conditions that will be applied and considered in implementing the conceptual model. Due to the extreme variations in water resource conditions, climatic conditions, hydrologic conditions, and economic considerations that will be faced when implementing these rules, it is critical to apply such criteria flexibly and to reserve for the governing board the ability to implement water resource protection and allocation programs considering all of the District’s missions under Chapter 373, F.S., and to balance water supply, flood protection, resource protection and water quality protection needs. Implementation of the recovery and prevention strategies will be achieved in compliance with the assurances to consumptive users and to natural systems contained in the LEC Plan and the LWC Plan.

(d) through (f) No Change.

(2) No Change.

(3) Biscayne Aquifer. The LEC Plan contains an approved prevention strategy for the Biscayne Aquifer pursuant to Section 373.0421, F.S., which consists of the following:

(a) No Change.

(b) Apply conditions for permit issuance in Chapter 40E-2 or ~~40E-20~~, F.A.C., to prevent the harmful movement of saltwater intrusion up to a 1-in-10 year level of certainty;

(c) through (e) No Change.

(4) through (5) No Change.

(6) Northwest Fork of the Loxahatchee River Recovery Strategy: Purpose and Intent.

(a) The Northwest Fork of the Loxahatchee River is currently not meeting the MFL and requires implementation of a recovery strategy to achieve the MFL as soon as practicable, consistent with Section 373.0421, F.S. The recovery strategy consists of projects contained within the following approved plans: the Lower East Coast Regional Water Supply Plan (LEC Plan), the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP), and the Northern Palm Beach County Comprehensive Water Management Plan (NPBCCWMP). Four phases of recovery are identified in the Technical Documentation to Support Development of Minimum Flows and Levels for the Northwest Fork of the Loxahatchee River, November 2002, which are projected to increase flows to meet the MFL for the Northwest Fork of the Loxahatchee River. As part of the recovery strategy, as provided in this rule, the consumptive use permitting and water shortage requirements in this Chapter and Chapters 40E-2, ~~40E-20~~, and 40E-21, F.A.C., and the “Applicant’s Handbook Basis of Review for Water Use Permit Applications within the South Florida Water Management District,” incorporated by reference in Rules 40E-2.091 and ~~40E-20.091~~, F.A.C., including Subsection Section 3.2.1.E. regarding Restricted Allocation Areas for Lower East Coast Everglades Waterbodies and North Palm Beach County/Loxahatchee River Watershed Waterbodies, shall apply to consumptive use direct and indirect withdrawals from surface and groundwater sources from the Northwest Fork of the Loxahatchee River and those areas directly tributary to the Northwest Fork.

(b) through (g) No Change.

(7) through (8) No Change.

*Rulemaking Authority §§ 9, 10 P.L. 83-358, 373.044, 373.113, 373.171 FS. Law Implemented 373.016, 373.036, 373.0361, 373.042, 373.0421, 373.175, 373.216, 373.219, 373.223, 373.246 FS. History—New 9-10-01, Amended 11-11-02, 4-1-03, 1-19-06, 12-12-06, 4-23-07, 10-14-08, 10-23-12, \_\_\_\_\_.*

#### **40E-8.431 Consumptive Use Permits.**

(1) Consumptive use permit applications that propose to withdraw water directly or indirectly from a MFL water body, that meet the conditions for permit issuance in Part II of Chapter 373, F.S., (including implementing rules in this chapter, Chapter 40E-2, F.A.C., and the “Applicant’s Handbook for Water Use Permit Applications within the South Florida Water Management District,” ~~Basis of Review, and Chapter 40E-20, F.A.C.~~, as applicable), and are consistent with the approved recovery and prevention strategies under Section 373.0421, F.S., will be permitted. Consumptive use permit applications will be reviewed based on the recovery and prevention strategy approved at the time of permit application review.

(2) through (3) No Change.

*Rulemaking Authority 373.044, 373.113, 373.171 FS. Law Implemented 373.016, 373.036, 373.0361, 373.042, 373.0421 FS. History—New 9-10-01, \_\_\_\_\_.*