

Chapter 1: Introduction to Volume III

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INTRODUCTION

The *2014 South Florida Environmental Report (SFER) – Volume I* provides an annual update on various environmental restoration projects and initiatives associated with the Everglades, Lake Okeechobee, Kissimmee Basin, and coastal systems. Expanding on this information, detailed permit-related annual reports, and information pertaining to these regional restoration projects, are presented in *Volume III, Annual Permit Reports*. These reports are prepared annually to comply with various reporting conditions required by permits issued by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) under the federal Clean Water Act (Section 404), or by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) under the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan Regulation Act (CERPRA), Everglades Forever Act (EFA), Northern Everglades and Estuaries Protection Program (NEEPP), and Environmental Resource Permitting (ERP) state statutes, as well as by FDEP Emergency Orders in place during the reporting year.

Volume III consists of five chapters, along with supporting appendices. In this volume, Chapter 1 provides an introduction to federal and state statutes that govern the permits issued to the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD or District) by the USACE and the FDEP, respectively, to construct and operate the regional restoration projects. This chapter also presents an overview of the annual permit reports included in this year's volume. Chapters 2 through 5 of this volume provide specific permit details, and are organized according to governing state statutes, as follows:

- Chapter 2: Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan Regulation Act Projects
- Chapter 3: Everglades Forever Act Projects
- Chapter 4: Northern Everglades and Estuaries Protection Program Projects
- Chapter 5: Environmental Resource Permitting Projects and Emergency Orders

If a specific project is operational, a detailed annual report with monitoring information is provided as a separate appendix. Otherwise, a project status update is presented in the associated chapter. The reporting periods covered by the annual permit reports and status updates are consistent with permit requirements, and include Water Year 2013 (WY2013) (May 1, 2012–April 30, 2013), Calendar Year 2012 (CY2012) (January 1, 2012–December 31, 2012), or Fiscal Year 2013 (FY2013) (October 1, 2012–September 30, 2013).

The projects and programs described are designed to work together to benefit the ecosystem restoration projects, striving toward increased spatial extent of natural areas, enhanced habitat and functional quality, and improved native plant and animal species abundance and diversity. Most of the projects are multipurpose, with objectives such as increased water storage, reduced seepage from natural areas, and improved water quality. While no single project will significantly improve a regional ecosystem by itself, as projects are implemented, the cumulative regional environmental benefits will improve the quantity, quality, timing, and distribution of water.

BACKGROUND – PERMITS

SECTION 404, CLEAN WATER ACT PERMITS

The Federal Water Pollution Control Act Amendments of 1972 established the Section 404 Regulatory Program. Under this Act it is unlawful to discharge dredged or fill material into waters of the United States without first receiving authorization, usually a permit, from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, unless the discharge is covered under an exemption. The term “waters of the United States” defines the extent of geographic jurisdiction of the Section 404 program. The term includes such waters as rivers, lakes, streams, tidal waters, and most wetlands. A discharge of dredged or fill material involves the physical placement of soil, sand, gravel, dredged material, or other such materials into the waters of the United States.

CHAPTER 373.1502, FLORIDA STATUTES, PERMITS

The Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan Regulation Act was enacted by the Florida legislature [Chapter 373.1502, Florida Statutes (F.S.)] to provide efficient and effective permitting of Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP) project components. CERPRA permits are in lieu of all other permits required in Chapters 373 and 403, F.S., except for permits that are under any delegated authority.

CHAPTER 373.4595, FLORIDA STATUTES, PERMITS

The Northern Everglades and Estuaries Protection Program was enacted by the Florida legislature (Chapter 373.4595, F.S.) to protect and restore surface water resources and achieve and maintain compliance with water quality standards in the Lake Okeechobee, St. Lucie River, and Caloosahatchee River watersheds. Permits obtained pursuant to this section are in lieu of all other permits under this chapter or Chapter 403, except those issued under Section 403.0885, F.S.

CHAPTER 373.4592, FLORIDA STATUTES, PERMITS

The Everglades Forever Act was enacted by the Florida legislature (Chapter 373.4592, F.S.) to promote Everglades restoration and protection and to provide guidance for comprehensive and innovative solutions to issues facing the Everglades ecosystem, including water quality, water quantity, hydroperiod, and invasion of exotic species.

CHAPTER 373, PART IV, FLORIDA STATUTES, AND TITLE 62, FLORIDA ADMINISTRATIVE CODE, PERMITS

The Environmental Resource Permit Program [Chapter 62-330, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.)] regulates activities involving the alteration of surface water flows. This includes new activities in uplands that generate stormwater runoff from upland construction, as well as dredging and filling in wetlands and other surface waters. ERP applications, and emergency orders, are processed by either the FDEP or one of the state's water management districts, in accordance with the division of responsibilities specified in operating agreements between the FDEP and the water management districts. The ERP Program is in effect throughout the state.

ANNUAL REPORTS OVERVIEW

REPORTING

Annually, the District is required to submit reports to the FDEP regarding:

- Discussion of project status
- Conclusions regarding project success
- Problems encountered during the reporting period
- Actions taken to address the problems encountered

Chapters 2 through 5 of this volume present the annual permit reports and status updates required by the USACE permits (Section 404) and the FDEP permits (CERPRA, NEEPP, EFA, and ERP). **Table 1-1** provides an overview of permit information for projects covered during this reporting period, and cross-references listing where related information is reported in the 2014 SFER.

Table 1-1. Summary of permit information and annual reporting status for projects included in the *2014 South Florida Environmental Report*.

Region, Project and Phase	Issuing Agency	Permit Type	Permit Number	Permit Status	Project Status / Phase	Annual Reporting Requirement	Reporting Period	Location In 2014 SFER
Chapter 2: Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan Regulation Act Projects								
Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands – L-31 East Culverts and Deering Estate Flow-way	FDEP	CERPRA	0271729-006	Active	Operational	Yes	5/1/2012-4/30/2013	Vol. III, App. 2-3
	USACE	Sec 404 CWA	SAJ-2007-39 (IP-AAZ)					
	USACE	Sec 404 CWA	SAJ-1994-1327 (IP-TRW)					
C-111 Spreader Canal, Phase I (Western Features) Project	FDEP	CERPRA	0293559-001	Active	Operational	Yes	5/1/2012-4/30/2013	Vol. III, App. 2-4
	USACE	Sec 404 CWA	SAJ-2005-9856 (IP-AAZ)					
C-44 Reservoir and Stormwater Treatment Area	FDEP	CERPRA	0254895-006	Active	Construction	Construction Update	5/1/2012-4/30/2013	Vol. III, Ch. 2
	USACE	Sec 404 CWA	SAJ-2005-6166 (IP-TKW)					
Caloosahatchee River (C-43) West Basin Storage Reservoir Project	FDEP	CERPRA	0255243-004-GL	Inactive	Construction: On Hold	Yes	5/1/2012-4/30/2013	Vol. III, Ch. 2
	USACE	Sec 404 CWA	SAJ-2005-5958 (IP-TKW)	Active	Construction: On Hold	Yes (caracara monitoring only)		
Everglades Agricultural Area A-1 Reservoir	FDEP	CERPRA	0242172-003-EM	Inactive	Construction: On Hold	Construction Update	5/1/2012-4/30/2013	Vol. III, Ch. 2
Loxahatchee River Watershed Restoration Project, L-8 Reservoir	FDEP	CERPRA	0188365-012-EM	Active	Operational	Yes	5/1/2012-4/30/2013	Vol. III, App. 2-2
Picayune Strand Restoration Project, Phase I - Prairie Canal Backfill and Road Removal Component	FDEP	CERPRA	0221670-008-EM	Active	Post Construction	Yes	5/1/2012-4/30/2013	Vol. III, App. 2-1
	USACE	Sec 404 CWA	SAJ-2003-08480 (IP HWB)					
	USACE	Sec 404 CWA	SAJ-2005-6598 (IP TKW)					
Southern Crew, Phase 1 Project - Billy Don Grant Parcel	FDEP	CERPRA	0279719-003	Active	Post Construction	Yes	5/1/2012-4/30/2013	Vol. III, Ch. 2
	USACE	Sec 404 CWA	SAJ-2007-4361 (NW-AAZ)					
Ten Mile Creek Water Preserve Area	FDEP	CERPRA	0192879-012	Inactive	Post construction, not yet operational	Yes	5/1/2012-4/30/2013	Vol. III, Ch. 2

Table 1-1. Continued.

Region, Project and Phase	Issuing Agency	Permit Type	Permit Number	Permit Status	Project Status / Phase	Annual Reporting Requirement	Reporting Period	Location In 2014 SFER
Chapter 3: Everglades Forever Act Projects								
Everglades Construction Project Stormwater Treatment Area 1E & 1W								
STA-1E	FDEP	AO	AO-009-EV	Active until Sep. 9, 2012	Operational	N/A	5/1/2012 - 4/30/2013	Vol. I, Ch. 5; Vol. III, App. 3-1
		EFA	0279499-001-EM			Yes		
		NPDES	FL0304549					
	FDEP	EFA	0311207-002	Active from Sep. 10, 2012	Operational	Yes		
		EFA CO	OGC #12-1149					
		NPDES	FL0778451					
		NPDES CO	OCG #12-1148					
USACE	Sec 404 CWA	SAJ-1994-4532 (IP TKW)	Active	Operational	No			
STA-1W	FDEP	AO	AO-001-EV	Active until Sep. 9, 2012	Operational	N/A	5/1/2012 - 4/30/2013	Vol. I, Ch. 5; Vol. III, App. 3-1
		EFA	0279499-001-EM			Yes		
		NPDES	FL0177962-001					
	FDEP	EFA	0311207-002	Active from Sep. 10, 2012	Operational	Yes		
		EFA CO	OGC #12-1149					
		NPDES	FL0778451					
		NPDES CO	OCG #12-1148					
USACE	Sec 404 CWA	SAJ-1994-4532 (IP TKW)	Active	Operational	No			
Everglades Construction Project Stormwater Treatment Area 2								
STA-2	FDEP	AO	AO-010-EV	Active until Sep. 9, 2012	Operational	N/A	5/1/2012 - 4/30/2013	Vol. I, Ch. 5; Vol. III, App. 3-1
		EFA	0126704-013-EM			Yes		
		NPDES	FL0177946					
	FDEP	EFA	0311207-002	Active from Sep. 10, 2012	Operational	Yes		
		EFA CO	OGC #12-1149					
		NPDES	FL0778451					
		NPDES CO	OCG #12-1148					
USACE	Sec 404 CWA	SAJ-1994-4532 (IP TKW)	Active	Operational	No			
STA-2 Compartment B Build-Out	FDEP	EFA	0126704-013-EM	Active until Sep. 9, 2012	Flow-Through Capable	Yes	5/1/2012 - 4/30/2013	Vol. I, Ch. 5; Vol. III, Ch. 3; Vol. III, App. 3-1
	FDEP	EFA	0311207-002	Active from Sep. 10, 2012	Operational			
		EFA CO	OGC #12-1149					
		NPDES	FL0778451					
		NPDES CO	OCG #12-1148					
USACE	Sec 404 CWA	SAJ-2008-3462 (IP AAZ)	Active	Construction				

Table 1-1. Continued.

Region, Project and Phase	Issuing Agency	Permit Type	Permit Number	Permit Status	Project Status / Phase	Annual Reporting Requirement	Reporting Period	Location In 2014 SFER
Chapter 3: Everglades Forever Act Projects (continued)								
Everglades Construction Project Stormwater Treatment Area 3/4								
STA-3/4	FDEP	AO	AO-008-EV	Active until Sep. 9, 2012	Operational	N/A	5/1/2012 - 4/30/2013	Vol. I, Ch. 5; Vol. III, App. 3-1
		EFA	192895			Yes		
		NPDES	FL0300195					
	FDEP	EFA	0311207-002	Active from Sep. 10, 2012	Operational	Yes		
		EFA CO	OGC #12-1149					
		NPDES	FL0778451					
		NPDES CO	OCG #12-1148					
USACE	Sec 404 CWA	SAJ-1994-4532 (IP TKW)	Active	Operational	No			
Everglades Construction Project Stormwater Treatment Area 5 & 6								
STA-5	FDEP	AO	AO-0112-EV	Active until Sep. 9, 2012	Operational	N/A	5/1/2012 - 4/30/2013	Vol. I, Ch. 5; Vol. III, App. 3-1
		EFA	0131842-009-EM			Yes		
		NPDES	FL0177954					
	FDEP	EFA	0311207-002	Active from Sep. 10, 2012	Operational	Yes		
		EFA CO	OGC #12-1149					
		NPDES	FL0177954					
		NPDES	FL0778451					
USACE	Sec 404 CWA	SAJ-1994-4532 (IP TKW)	Active	Operational	No			
STA-6	FDEP	AO	AO-0112-EV	Active until Sep. 9, 2012	Operational	N/A	5/1/2012 - 4/30/2013	Vol. I, Ch. 5; Vol. III, App. 3-1
		EFA	0131842-009-EM			Yes		
		NPDES	FL0473804					
	FDEP	EFA	0311207-002	Active from Sep. 10, 2012	Operational	Yes		
		EFA CO	OGC #12-1149					
		NPDES	FL0778451					
		NPDES CO	OCG #12-1148					
USACE	Sec 404 CWA	SAJ-1994-4532 (IP TKW)	Active	Operational	No			
STA-5/6 Compartment C Build-Out	FDEP	EFA	0131842-009-EM	Active until Sep. 9, 2012	Construction	Yes	5/1/2012 - 4/30/2013	Vol. I, Ch. 5; Vol. III, App. 3-1; Vol. III, Ch. 3
	FDEP	EFA	0311207-002	Active from Sep. 10, 2012	Operational			
		EFA CO	OGC #12-1149					
		NPDES	FL0778451					
		NPDES CO	OCG #12-1148					
USACE	Sec 404 CWA	SAJ-2008-3461 (IP AAZ)	Active	Construction and Ops				

Table 1-1. Continued.

Region, Project and Phase	Issuing Agency	Permit Type	Permit Number	Permit Status	Project Status / Phase	Annual Reporting Requirement	Reporting Period	Location In 2014 SFER
Chapter 3: Everglades Forever Act Projects (continued)								
Non-Everglades Construction Project	FDEP	EFA	06, 502590709 (Mod: 0237803-011)	Active	Operational	Yes	5/1/2012 - 4/30/2013	Vol. III, App. 3-2
Chapter 4: Northern Everglades and Estuaries Protection Program Projects								
Grassy Island Hybrid Wetland Treatment Technology Project	FDEP	NEEPP	0259591-005	Active	Operational	Yes	7/1/2012 - 6/30/2013	Vol. III, Ch. 4
Lake Okeechobee Water Control Structures Operation	FDEP	NEEPP	0174552-007-EM	Active	Operational	Yes	5/1/2012 - 4/30/2013	Vol. III, App. 4-1
Lakeside Ranch Stormwater Treatment Area – Phase 1 (STA North)	FDEP	NEEPP	0287326-003	Active	Construction / Post-Construction	Construction Update	5/1/2012 - 4/30/2013	Vol. III, Ch. 4
	USACE	Sec 404 CWA	SAJ-2008-2003 (IP-AAZ)					
Lemkin Creek Hybrid Wetland Treatment Technology Project	FDEP	NEEPP	47-0254574-003 GL	Active	Operational	Yes	7/1/2012 - 6/30/2013	Vol. III, Ch. 4
Nubbin Slough Stormwater Treatment Area	FDEP	NEEPP	0194483-012-GL	Operations not started	Construction: Refinements Underway	Yes	5/1/2012 - 4/30/2013	Vol. III, Ch. 4
Taylor Creek Stormwater Treatment Area	FDEP	NEEPP	0194485-002-GL	Active	Operational	Yes	5/1/2012 - 4/30/2013	Vol. III, App. 4-2
Chapter 5: Environmental Resource Permitting Projects and Emergency Orders								
8.5 Square Mile Area Mitigation Project Revised Phase I	FDEP	ERP	EI 0297691-001	Active	On Hold	Yes	5/1/2012 - 4/30/2013	Vol. III, Ch. 5
	USACE	Sec 404 CWA	SAJ-2010-01184 (NW-LAO)					
Buttermilk/Packingham Slough Restoration and Flood Protection	FDEP	ERP	0267164-004	Active	Under Construction	Yes	5/1/2012 - 4/30/2013	Vol. III, Ch. 5
	USACE	Sec 404 CWA	SAJ-2006-04466 (NW-AAZ)					
C-4 Emergency Detention Basin	FDEP	ERP	EI-13-0192729-011	Active	Operational	Yes	5/1/2012 - 4/30/2013	Vol. III, App. 5-2
	USACE	Sec 404 CWA	2001-07154 (IP RK)					
C-44 Reservoir - C-132/C-133 Canal Maintenance	FDEP	ERP	EI-43-0276735-001	Active	Construction	Yes	5/1/2012 - 4/30/2013	Vol. III, Ch. 5
Cypress Creek Restoration	FDEP	ERP	0300341-001-EI	Active	Construction	Yes	5/1/2012 - 4/30/2013	Vol. III, Ch. 5
	USACE	Sec 404 CWA	SAJ-2010-00914 (NW-CF)					
East Coast Protection Levee Rehabilitation Project	FDEP	ERP	0305403-001	Active	Construction	Yes	5/1/2012 - 4/30/2013	Vol. III, Ch. 5
	USACE	Sec 404 CWA	SAJ-2009-00971 (NW-AAZ)					
Holey Land Wildlife Management Area	FDEP	ERP	06-500809209, 06-501191549	Expired	Operational	Yes	10/1/2011 - 9/30/2012	Vol. III, App. 5-3

Table 1-1. Continued.

Region, Project and Phase	Issuing Agency	Permit Type	Permit Number	Permit Status	Project Status / Phase	Annual Reporting Requirement	Reporting Period	Location In 2014 SFER
Chapter 5: Environmental Resource Permitting Projects and Emergency Orders (continued)								
Loxahatchee River Watershed Restoration Project, G-160 Component	FDEP	ERP	EI 50-0128848-004	Active	Operational	Yes	1/1/2012 - 12/31/2012	Vol. III, App. 5-1
	USACE	Sec 404 CWA	SAJ- 2001-00551 (IP TKW)					
Loxahatchee River Watershed Restoration Project, G-161 Component	FDEP	ERP	EI-0244347-002	Active	Operational	Yes	1/1/2012 - 12/31/2012	Vol. III, App. 5-1
	USACE	Sec 404 CWA	SAJ-2205-4004 (IP TKW)					
S-197 Structure Replacement Project	FDEP	ERP	0306639-001	Active	Construction / Post-Construction	Yes	5/1/2012 - 4/30/2013	Vol. III, Ch. 3-2
	USACE	Sec 404 CWA	SAJ-2011-00614 (IP-AAZ)					

CERPRA – Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan Regulation Act

CWA – Clean Water Act

ERP – Environmental Resource Permitting

FDEP – Florida Department of Environmental Protection

LOPA – Lake Okeechobee Protection Act

NEEPP – Northern Everglades and Estuaries Protection Program

NPDES – National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System

USACE – U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

N/A – Not Applicable