UNITS OF MEASUREMENT

Metric Unit	Symbol	U.S. Unit	U.S. Equivalent
centimeter	cm	in	0.394 in
meter	m	foot	3.28 ft
kilometer	km	mile	0.6214 mi
square kilometer	km^2	square mile	0.386 sq mi
hectare	ha	acre	2.471 ac
cubic meter	m^3	acre-foot*	0.00081 ac-ft
gram	g	ounce	0.035 oz
kilogram	kg	pound	2.205 lb
metric ton (1,000 kg)	mt	pound	2,205 lb
milliliter	ml	fluid ounce	0.0338 oz
liter	L	quart	1.057 qt

CONCENTRATION UNITS†

Metric Unit	Symbol	Ratio Equivalent‡	
milligram/liter	mg/L	parts per million	1 ppm = 1 mg/L
microgram/liter	µg/L	parts per billion	1 ppb = 1 µg/L
nanogram/liter	ng/L	parts per trillon	1 ppt = 1 ng/L

Other common units:

cfs	cubic feet per second
bgd	billion gallons per day
mgd	million gallons per day
NTU	nephelometric turbidity units
psu	practical salinity units
µmhos/cm	micromhos per centimeter
µS/cm	microsiemens per centimeter

* An acre-foot (ac-ft) is the volume of liquid required to cover 1 acre to a depth of 1 foot (1 acre-foot = 43,560 cubic feet). This U.S. unit of measure is commonly used to express large volumes of water throughout the *South Florida Environmental Report*, while related data may be stated in metric units.

† Water quality data are typically reported in metric units, such as µg/L. However, public policy documents often express water quality information in U.S. units, such as ppb. Soil/sediment data are typically reported in mg/kg, or ppm. These units are used in the *South Florida Environmental Report*, depending on the appropriate context.

‡ Assumes subject water has a density of 1 g/ml.

ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

A – D

ac-ft acre-feet
AO Administrative Order
ANOVA analysis of variance
ASR Aquifer Storage and Recovery
AWS Alternative Water Supply
BAF bioaccumulation factor
BBCW Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands
BCF bioconcentration factor
BD bulk density
bgd billion gallons per day
BMP Best Management Practice
C&SF Project Central and Southern Florida Flood Control Project
CEM conceptual ecosystem model
CERP Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan
CERPRA Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan Regulation Act
cfs cubic feet per second
CHIP Cattail Habitat Improvement Project
Chl-*a* chlorophyll *a*
CISMA Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area
COP Certificate of Participation
CPUE catch per unit effort
CRE Caloosahatchee River and Estuary
CREW Corkscrew Regional Ecosystem Watershed
CRWPP Caloosahatchee River Watershed Protection Plan
CSOP Combined Structural and Operational Plan
CUP Consumptive Use Permitting
CWA Clean Water Act
CY Calendar Year
DBHYDRO District's hydrometerological database
DERM Department of Environmental Resource Management
DIN dissolved inorganic nitrogen
District South Florida Water Management District
DMSTA Dynamic Model for Stormwater Treatment Areas
DO dissolved oxygen
DOC dissolved organic carbon
DOM dissolved organic matter
DWM dispersed water management

E – F

EAA Everglades Agricultural Area
EAV emergent aquatic vegetation
ECP Everglades Construction Project
ECR Everglades Consolidated Report
EFA Everglades Forever Act
EIS Environmental Impact Statement
ELM Everglades Landscape Model
EMAP Environmental Monitoring and Assessment Program
ENP Everglades National Park
ENR Everglades Nutrient Removal
ENSO El Niño-Southern Oscillation
EPA Everglades Protection Area (Water Conservation Areas 1, 2A, 2B, 3A, and 3B, the Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge, and Everglades National Park)
EPD Everglades Protection District
ERC Environmental Regulation Commission
ERP Environmental Resource Permitting
ET evapotranspiration
ETp potential evapotranspiration
EWOD Everglades Works of the District
F.A.C. Florida Administrative Code
FAS Floridan aquifer system
FAV floating aquatic vegetation

FBFKFS	Florida Bay and Florida Keys Feasibility Study
FDACS	Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
FDEP	Florida Department of Environmental Protection
FDOH	Florida Department of Health
FDOT	Florida Department of Transportation
FFAC	Florida Forever Advisory Council
FFWP	Florida Forever Work Plan
FIATT	Florida Invasive Animal Task Team
FLEPPC	Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council
F.S.	Florida Statutes
FWC	Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
FWM	flow-weighted mean
FY	Fiscal Year (for the District, October 1 through September 30)

G – K

GIS	Geographic Information Systems
gpd	gallons per day
GPS	Global Positioning System
gpy	gallons per year
Hg	mercury
HLR	hydraulic loading rate
HRP	Headwaters Revitalization Project
HRT	hydraulic residence (or retention) time
HSI	Habitat Suitability Index
HWTT	Hybrid Wetland Treatment Technologies
IFAS	Institute of Food and Agricultural Services
IOP	Interim Operational Plan
IRL	Indian River Lagoon
ISWG	Invasive Species Working Group
KBMOS	Kissimmee Basin Modeling and Operations Study
KCOL	Kissimmee Chain of Lakes
KOE	Kissimmee-Okeechobee-Everglades
KRHRP	Kissimmee River Headwaters Revitalization Project
KRREP	Kissimmee River Restoration Evaluation Program
KRRP	Kissimmee River Restoration Project

L – M

LEC	Lower East Coast
LILA	Loxahatchee Impoundment Landscape Assessment
LMA	Lake Management Area
LOEM	Lake Okeechobee Environment Model
LOPA	Lake Okeechobee Protection Act
LORS	Lake Okeechobee Regulation Schedule
LOSA	Lake Okeechobee Service Area
LOWA	Lake Okeechobee Watershed Assessment
LOWCP	Lake Okeechobee Watershed Construction Project
LOWOD	Lake Okeechobee Works of the District
LOWPP	Lake Okeechobee Watershed Protection Program
LOWQM	Lake Okeechobee Water Quality Model
LWC	Lower West Coast
LWL	Lake Worth Lagoon
MAP	Monitoring and Assessment Plan
MDL	method detection limit
MeHg	methylmercury
MFL	Minimum Flow and Level
MDN	Mercury Deposition Network
mgd	million gallons per day
mgy	million gallons per year
MOA	Memorandum of Agreement
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
msl	mean sea level

N – P

N	nitrogen
NADP	National Atmospheric Deposition Program
NAVD	North American Vertical Datum

NCDC National Climatic Data Center
NEEPP Northern Everglades and Estuaries Protection Program
NEPA National Environmental Policy Act
NEWTT Noxious Exotic Weed Task Team
NGVD National Geodetic Vertical Datum
NOAA National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
non-ECP non-Everglades Construction Project
NPDES National Pollution Discharge Elimination System
NPS National Park Service
NRC National Research Council
NRCS Natural Resources Conservation Service
NSID North Springs Improvement District
NSM Natural System Model
NWQMC National Water Quality Monitoring Council
OFW Outstanding Florida Water
P phosphorus
P2TP Phase II Technical Plan
Park Everglades National Park
PCA Project Cooperative Agreement
PDE Process Development and Engineering
PDT Project Delivery Team
PIR Project Implementation Report
PLR phosphorus loading rate
PMP Project Management Plan
POR period of record
ppb parts per billion
PQL practical quantitation limit
PSTA Periphyton-Based Stormwater Treatment Area

Q – S

QAPP Quality Assurance Project Plan
QA/QC quality assurance/quality control
RECOVER Restoration Coordination and Verification
Refuge Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge
Restudy Central and Southern Florida Comprehensive Review Study (now the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan, or CERP)
RGM reactive gaseous mercury
ROD Record of Decision
RS Restoration Strategies
RSM Regional Simulation Model
RWMA Rotenberger Wildlife Management Area
S elemental sulfur
SAS surficial aquifer system
SAV submerged aquatic vegetation
SB Senate Bill
SCADA Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition
SCG Science Coordination Group
SFER South Florida Environmental Report
SFERWG South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Working Group
SFRPC South Florida Regional Planning Council
SFWMD South Florida Water Management District
SFWMM South Florida Water Management Model
SIRL Southern Indian River Lagoon
SLE St. Lucie Estuary
SLRWPP St. Lucie River Watershed Protection Plan
SOETF Save Our Everglades Trust Fund
SOP Standard Operating Procedure
SOR Save Our Rivers
SRB sulfate-reducing bacteria
SRF Systematic Reconnaissance Flight
SRP soluble reactive phosphorus
SSAC site-specific alternative criterion
STA Stormwater Treatment Area
SWFFS Southwest Florida Feasibility Study
SWIM Surface Water Improvement and Management

T – W

TDP total dissolved phosphorous
THg total mercury
TKN total Kjeldahl nitrogen
TMDL Total Maximum Daily Load
TOC Technical Oversight Committee
TC total carbon
TN total nitrogen
TP total phosphorus
TS total sulfur
TSS total suspended solids
UAL unit area load
UEC Upper East Coast
UF/IFAS University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Services
USACE United States Army Corps of Engineers
USDA United States Department of Agriculture
USDS-ARS United States Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Research Service
USDOI United States Department of the Interior
USEPA United States Environmental Protection Agency
USFS United States Forest Service
USFWS United States Fish and Wildlife Service
USGS United States Geological Survey
VEC Valued Ecosystem Component
WAM watershed assessment model
WaterSIP Water Savings Incentive Program
WBID water body identification area
WCA Water Conservation Area
WMA Wildlife Management Area
WOD Works of the District
WPA Water Preserve Area
WQ water quality
WQIP Water Quality Improvement Plan
WQS water quality standard
WRAC Water Resources Advisory Commission
WRDA Water Resources Development Act
WY Water Year (for the District, May 1 through April 30)

GLOSSARY

A – D

Accuracy: Closeness of a measured value to the true value.

Acre-foot (ac-ft): Volume of liquid required to cover 1 acre to a depth of 1 foot, commonly used to express large amounts of water (1 acre-foot = 43,560 cubic feet).

***Ad valorem* tax:** Tax imposed on the value of real and personal property, as certified by the property appraiser in each county.

Adaptive management: Application of scientific information and explicit feedback mechanisms to refine and improve future management decisions.

Agricultural privilege tax: Annual tax levied on farming activities in the Everglades Agricultural Area and C-139 basins to support Everglades restoration.

Alkalinity: Alkaline nature of a substance (water) derived by measuring its ability to accept hydrogen ions.

Alternative Water Supply (AWS): Supply of water that has been reclaimed after municipal, commercial, or agricultural uses; or a supply of storm water, or brackish or salt water, that has been treated in accordance with applicable rules and standards sufficient to supply an intended use.

Analyte: Substance measured in an analytical procedure.

Aquifer: Underground, water-bearing layer of porous rock, sand, or gravel.

Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR): Injection of fresh water into a confined saline aquifer during times when supply exceeds demand (wet season), and recovering the water during times when there is a supply deficit (dry season).

Baseline period: Specified period of time during which collected data are used for comparisons with subsequent data.

Benthic: Pertaining to the bottom or sediment habitats of a body of water.

Best Management Practices (BMPs): Land, agricultural, industrial, and waste management techniques that reduce pollutant export from a specified area.

Bioaccumulation: Increase in concentration of a contaminant in an organism, relative to its concentration in the environment over time. A bioaccumulation factor (BAF) is the ratio of a contaminant concentration in living tissue to its concentration in the organism's diet.

Biogeochemistry: Study of the chemical, physical, geological, and biological processes and reactions that govern the composition of the natural environment (including the biosphere, the hydrosphere, the pedosphere, the atmosphere, and the lithosphere), and the cycles of matter and energy that transport the Earth's chemical components in time and space.

Biomagnification: In a food chain, the process by which contaminants increases progressively in organisms at higher trophic levels.

Biomass: Amount of living material in a sample, population, or area, usually measured as dry mass.

Brackish: Containing a mixture of salt water and fresh water.

Bulk density: Mass of soil in a given volume.

Central and Southern Florida Flood Control Project (C&SF Project): Complete system of canals, storage areas, and water control structures spanning the area from Lake Okeechobee to the east and west coasts and from Orlando south to the Everglades. This was designed and constructed in the 1950s by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to provide flood control and improve navigation and recreation.

Certificate of Participation (COP): As defined by Florida law (Section 373.584, Florida Statutes), a type of revenue bond that water management districts may issue to finance the undertaking of any capital or other project for purposes permitted by the state's constitution.

Compliance monitoring: In a water quality management program, compliance is associated with meeting permit conditions based on ambient standards. Ongoing monitoring provides periodic water quality data, which are used to assess compliance.

Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP): Framework and guide for the restoration, protection, and preservation of the South Florida ecosystem. CERP also provides for water-related needs of the region, such as water supply and flood protection.

Consumptive Use Permit (CUP): Permit issued by the South Florida Water Management District under Chapter 40E-2, Florida Administrative Code, allowing withdrawal of water for consumptive use.

Diel: Variation that occurs regularly every day.

Discharge (or flow): Rate of water movement past a reference point, measured as volume per unit time (usually expressed as cubic feet, or cubic meters per second).

Dissolved oxygen (DO): Concentration of oxygen dissolved in water, often expressed as percent saturation, where saturation is the maximum amount of oxygen that can be dissolved in water at a given altitude and temperature.

Drawdown: Lowering of the water level in a reservoir or other body of water.

Drought: Extended period of low rainfall, below-normal streamflow, and depleted surface and subsurface storage.

E – G

Ecology: Study of the relationship of plants and animals to their physical and biological environment.

Ecosystem: Biological communities together with their environment, functioning as a unit.

Ecotoxicology: Scientific discipline combining the methods of ecology and toxicology in studying the effects of toxic substances, particularly pollutants, on the environment.

Emergent aquatic vegetation (EAV): Wetland plants that extend above the water surface.

Environmental Resource Permit (ERP): Permit issued by the South Florida Water Management District under Chapter 40E-4, Florida Administrative Code, to ensure that land development projects do not cause adverse environmental, water quality, or water quantity impacts.

Estuary: Part of the wide lower course of a river where its current is met by ocean tides or an arm of the sea at the lower end of a river where fresh and salt water meet.

Eutrophication: Enrichment of aquatic environments with nutrients like phosphorus and nitrogen, typically from mineral and organic runoff originating in the surrounding watershed. This enrichment results in increased growth of plants and algae that may reduce dissolved oxygen content in the water

and can result in die-off of other organisms. This process occurs naturally, but can be accelerated by human activity (known as cultural eutrophication).

Everglades Agricultural Area (EAA): Area extending south from Lake Okeechobee to the northern levee of WCA-3A, from its eastern boundary at the L-8 canal to the western boundary along the L-1, L-2, and L-3 levees. The EAA incorporates almost 3,000 square kilometers (1,158 square miles) of highly productive agricultural land.

Everglades Construction Project (ECP): The ECP is a requirement of the 1994 Everglades Forever Act and is the foundation of a large ecosystem restoration program, composed of various interrelated construction projects between Lake Okeechobee and the Everglades. This includes the Everglades Stormwater Treatment Areas, which have a total area with infrastructure components of approximately 68,000 acres, with roughly 57,000 acres of effective treatment area currently operational.

Everglades Forever Act (EFA): A 1994 Florida law (Section 373.4592, Florida Statutes), amended in 2003, to promote Everglades restoration and protection. This will be achieved through comprehensive and innovative solutions to issues of water quality, water quantity, hydroperiod, and invasion of nonindigenous species to the Everglades ecosystem. The EFA establishes the plan, the enforceable schedule, and the funding for the various components of the Everglades Program.

Everglades Program: Projects, regulations, monitoring efforts, and research associated with restoring and protecting the Everglades. This program was established by the 1994 Everglades Forever Act.

Everglades Protection Area (EPA): As defined in the Everglades Forever Act, the EPA comprises Water Conservation Areas 1, 2A, 2B, 3A, and 3B, the Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge, and Everglades National Park.

Everglades Stormwater Treatment Areas (STAs): Large, constructed freshwater treatment wetlands mandated by the Everglades Forever Act (EFA) (Chapter 373.4592, Florida Statutes) south of Lake Okeechobee to remove excess total phosphorus from surface waters prior to entering the Everglades Protection Area. Currently, the Everglades STAs have a total area with infrastructure components of approximately 68,000 acres, with roughly 57,000 acres of effective treatment area operational.

Everglades Trust Fund: Fund created by Florida law (Chapter 97-258, Florida Statutes) to support ecosystem restoration of the Everglades.

Excursion (in water quality): Constituent concentration that is of potential concern as an exceedance and possible violation of a water quality criterion. “Excursion” indicates some uncertainty in the interpretation of the reported constituent concentration, requiring further evaluation of background conditions, ancillary data, quality assurance, and historical data. These factors must be assessed by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection before considered an exceedance or violation.

Expenditure: Disbursement of appropriated funds to purchase goods or services.

Fauna: All animal life associated with a given habitat.

Fiscal Year (FY): Period from October 1 through September 30, during which the agency’s annual budget is developed and implemented.

Floating aquatic vegetation (FAV): Wetland plants that have portions floating at or near the water surface but are rooted in substrate (for example, water lily).

Flora: All plant life associated with a given habitat.

Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.): Official compilation of the rules and regulations of Florida’s regulatory agencies. The code is organized by titles with each title number representing a department, commission, board, or other agency.

Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP): The South Florida Water Management District operates under the general supervisory authority of the FDEP, which includes various permit and budgetary oversight.

Florida Forever Act: A 1999 Florida law (Section 259.105, Florida Statutes) authorizing issued bonds to fund land acquisition, water resource development, stormwater management projects, waterbody restoration activities, recreational facilities, public access improvements, and invasive plant removal.

Florida Statutes (F.S.): Florida Statutes are a permanent collection of state laws organized by subject area into a code made up of titles, chapters, parts, and sections. These statutes are updated annually by laws that create, amend, or repeal statutory material.

Flow-weighted mean (FWM) concentration: Average concentration of a substance in water, corrected for volume of water flow at the time of sampling. Samples taken when flow is high are given greater weight in the average. FWM concentrations are used to calculate mass loading at a particular location.

Geometric mean: Statistical average of a set of transformed numbers, often used to represent a central tendency in highly variable data, such as water quality. This is calculated from data transformed using powers or logarithms and then transformed back to original scale after averaging.

H – L

Hydraulic residence (or retention) time (HRT): Length of time that water resides in a specified area.

Hydrogeomorphology: Scientific study of the physical appearance and operational character of a water body as it adjusts its boundaries to the magnitude of flow and erosional debris within the watershed.

Hydrology: Scientific study of the properties, distribution, and effects of water on the Earth's surface, in the soil and underlying rocks, and in the atmosphere. In South Florida, the dry season is typically from November through May and wet season extends from June through October.

Hydropattern: Water depth, duration, timing, and distribution of fresh water in a specified area. A consistent hydropattern is critical for maintaining various ecological communities in wetlands.

Hydroperiod: Duration and frequency of inundation in a wetland area.

Impoundment: Reservoir used for retaining water.

Inflow: Act or process of flowing in or into an area.

Intrusion: Invasion of a body of fresh water by a body of salt water, due to its greater density. It can occur either in surface water or groundwater bodies. The term is applied to the flooding of freshwater marshes by sea water, the upward migration of sea water into rivers and navigation channels, and the movement of sea water into freshwater aquifers along coastal regions.

Invasive nonindigenous species: Species of plants or animals that are not naturally found in a region. These species can sometimes aggressively invade habitats and cause multiple ecological changes, including the displacement of native species.

Ion: Atom that has acquired a net electric charge by gaining or losing one or more electrons.

Landscape pattern: In the Everglades, the large-scale organization of features such as tree islands, ridges, and sloughs (including vegetation).

Limnology: Scientific study of bodies of fresh water for their biological, physical, geological, and hydrological properties.

Littoral: Region of well-lit water close to shore; home to most aquatic plant life (both rooted and floating) in a pond or lake, as the high amount of sunlight allows for significant photosynthetic activity.

Loading (or mass loading): Amount of material carried by water into a specified area, expressed as mass per unit of time. One example is total phosphorus loading into Water Conservation Area 2A, measured in metric tons per year.

Long-Term Plan: Plan for achieving and maintaining water quality goals for all discharges to the Everglades Protection Area. The 2003 Long-Term Plan for Achieving Water Quality Goals in the Everglades Protection Area (Long-Term Plan) contains activities to achieve these goals, and to permit the State of Florida and the South Florida Water Management District to fulfill their obligations under the Everglades Forever Act.

Loxahatchee Impoundment Landscape Assessment (LILA): Large-scale physical reproduction of the Everglades, located at the Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge, used to conduct eco-hydrology experiments. LILA consists of four 17-acre macrocosms and a recirculating water system that prevents nutrient pollution and provides control over flow rates and water levels. Each macrocosm mimics the Everglades landscape pattern of tree islands, ridges, and sloughs.

M – O

Macrophytes: Visible (non-microscopic) plants found in aquatic environments.

Marsh: Area of soft, wet, low-lying land, characterized by grassy vegetation and often forming a transition zone between water and land.

Median: Middle value in a set of ordered data. The median is often used to express the typical (central tendency) value of a group of water quality data, because the median is less influenced than the arithmetic average by outlying values routinely seen in such data.

Methylmercury (MeHg): Highly toxic form of the heavy metal mercury that is readily accumulated by living organisms. Inorganic mercury is converted to methylmercury by sulfate-reducing bacteria in aquatic sediments, such as those present in Everglades marshes.

Minimum Flows and Levels (MFLs): Florida law (Chapter 373, Florida Statutes) requires the state's water management districts to set water levels for each major body of water "…at which further withdrawals would be significantly harmful to the water resources or ecology of the area."

Mitigation: Acquisition, creation, restoration, or enhancement of wetlands to compensate for permitted wetland impacts.

Mitigation banking: Process providing a unit of currency (or credit) that represents an increase in ecological benefit or value resulting from restoration, enhancement, preservation, or creation.

Moving average: Arithmetic average of a sequence of data in a dataset, moved and calculated sequentially to smooth the data and reveal trends (e.g., 12-month moving average total phosphorus concentration).

Muck: Dark, organic soil derived from well-decomposed plant biomass.

National Geodetic Vertical Datum (NGVD): Nationally established reference for elevation data.

Non-Everglades Construction Project (Non-ECP): All water control structures associated with the Everglades Protection Area outside the Everglades Construction Project (ECP).

North American Vertical Datum (NAVD): NAVD 88 is the vertical datum for CERP projects. Migration of the District's vertical data from other datum to the NAVD 88 establishes a common spatial data framework compatible with federal, state, and local governmental agencies.

Northern Everglades: Northern extent of the South Florida Water Management District covering the Kissimmee, Lake Okeechobee, Caloosahatchee, and St. Lucie watersheds. Main features are Kissimmee lakes and rivers, Lake Okeechobee, and Caloosahatchee and St. Lucie rivers and estuaries.

Northern Everglades and Estuaries Protection Program (NEEPP): As defined by Florida law (Section 373.4595, Florida Statutes), an initiative to holistically restore the Everglades through increased focus and integration of regional projects in the Northern Everglades, including the Lake Okeechobee Watershed, and the Caloosahatchee and St. Lucie river watersheds and estuaries.

Nutrients: Organic or inorganic compounds essential for survival of an organism. In aquatic environments, nitrogen and phosphorus are key nutrients that affect the growth rate of plants.

Oligotrophic: Aquatic environment depleted of nutrients, resulting in low plant productivity.

Outflow: Act or process of flowing out of an area.

P – S

Parameter: Variable or constant representing a characteristic of interest. For example, conductance is a water quality parameter. Use of this term is highly subjective and varies greatly across disciplines.

Parts per billion (ppb): Unit of measure, equivalent to micrograms per liter (1 ppb = 1 μg/L).

Performance Measure: Quantifies how well an alternative meets a specific objective. Good performance measures are quantifiable, have a specific target, indicate when a target has been reached, and measure the degree to which the goal has been met.

Periphyton: Biological community of microscopic plants and animals attached to surfaces in aquatic environments. Algae are the primary component in these assemblages, which naturally reduce phosphorus levels in water and serve a key function in Everglades Stormwater Treatment Areas.

pH: Dimensionless quantity measured on a scale that is a reverse logarithmic representation of the activity of hydrogen ions in the solution.

Phosphorus (P): Element that is essential for life. In freshwater aquatic environments, phosphorus is often in short supply; increased levels can promote the growth of algae and other plants.

Pollutant loading: Influx of a chemical or nutrient mass that can contaminate air, soil, or water.

Porewater: Water contained within the spaces between particles within sediments.

Precision: Degree of reproducibility of a measurement. Low precision yields high scatter in data.

Quality assurance (QA): Steps taken to provide a means for a product to meet a defined set of quality standards at a specific level of confidence.

Quality control (QC): Steps taken to ensure that quality standards are met.

RECOVER (Restoration Coordination and Verification): Interagency, interdisciplinary team sponsored by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and South Florida Water Management District. The role of RECOVER is to organize and apply scientific and technical information in ways that are most effective in supporting objectives of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan, and to ensure that the plan's systemwide goals and purposes are achieved.

Regional Water Supply Plan: Detailed water supply plan developed by the South Florida Water Management District under Section 373.0361, Florida Statutes, providing an evaluation of available water supply and projected demands at the regional scale. The planning process projects future demand for 20 years and develops strategies to meet identified needs.

Reservoir: Man-made or natural water body used for water storage.

Revenue: Monies received from all sources (with the exception of fund balances) that are used to fund expenditures in a fiscal year.

Ridge: Raised area, typically elongated and vegetated with sawgrass, which forms an alternating pattern with sloughs within the Everglades.

Salinity: Total amount of dissolved material in grams in one kilogram of sea water. Salinity is typically defined as the conductivity ratio of a seawater sample to a standard potassium chloride solution. A seawater sample with a conductivity ratio of 1.0 at 15°C with a KCl solution containing a mass of 32.4356 g of KCl in 1 kg of solution has a practical salinity of 35 (unitless).

Save Our Rivers (SOR): In 1981, the Florida legislature created the Save Our Rivers Program for the water management districts to acquire environmentally sensitive land. The legislation produced Section 373.59, Florida Statutes, known as the Water Management Lands Trust Fund.

Scientifically defensible: Information that is supportable using accepted scientific methods of data collection, analysis, and reporting.

Slough: Depression associated with swamps and marshlands as part of a bayou, inlet, or backwater; it contains areas of slightly deeper water and a slow current, and can be thought of as the broad, shallow rivers of the Everglades.

Species richness: Number of species occurring in a particular area for a specified sampling period.

Specific conductance (or conductivity): Ability of an aqueous solution to carry an electric current; the higher the concentration of ionic (dissolved) constituents, the higher the conductivity.

***South Florida Environmental Report* (SFER):** Comprehensive report prepared by the South Florida Water Management District, along with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and other collaborating agencies and organizations, and submitted annually by March 1, in accordance with Chapter 2005-36, Laws of Florida, and Subsection 373.036(7), Florida Statutes. In three volumes, the SFER consolidates over 75 individual reports to efficiently satisfy many statutorily mandated reporting and permit requirements and supporting technical and financial information for the reporting period.

Southern Everglades: Southern extent of the South Florida Water Management District encompassing the watersheds south of Lake Okeechobee to the Florida Keys. Key features include the Water Conservation Areas, Big Cypress National Preserve, Everglades National Park/Florida Bay, and coastal bays and estuaries south of Lake Okeechobee.

Stage: Height of a water surface above an established reference point (datum or elevation). This vertical control measurement is usually expressed as feet National Geodetic Vertical Datum of 1929 or feet North American Vertical Datum of 1988.

Stormwater Treatment Areas (STAs): Large, constructed wetlands designed to remove pollutants, particularly nutrients, from stormwater runoff using natural processes.

Structure: Man-made pump stations, reservoirs, channel improvements, canals, levees, and diversion channels. Region-wide water management is accomplished by the agency's operation and maintenance of over 2,800 miles of canals and levees, over 1,300 water control structures, and 69 pump stations.

Submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV): Wetland plants that exist completely below the water surface.

Surface Water Improvement and Management (SWIM) Plan: Established under Chapter 373.451–373.4595, Florida Statutes, a comprehensive state-wide program for restoring and protecting priority surface waters of state or regional significance.

T – Z

Total carbon (TC): Estimated carbon concentration in both inorganic and organic forms in a soil sample.

Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL): Maximum allowed level of pollutant loading for a water body, while still protecting its uses and complying with water quality standards of the Clean Water Act.

Total nitrogen (TN): Estimated nitrogen concentration in both inorganic and organic forms in a water sample.

Total phosphorus (TP): Estimated phosphorus concentration in both organic and inorganic forms in a water sample.

Tree island: Raised area, typically surrounded by water that supports a woody vegetation community and is a site of high biodiversity. Two types of tree islands are typical of the Everglades: strand islands, which are usually tear-drop shaped, and pop-up islands, which are typically round.

Tributary: Stream that flows into a larger stream or other body of water.

Trophic levels: Distinct levels at which groups of organisms are using or producing energy. Plants, the primary producers of energy, are in the lowest trophic level. Predators, such as bass and wading birds, are in the highest trophic level. Some metals, such as mercury, accumulate at higher trophic levels.

Turbidity: Measure of suspended material in a liquid (typically in nephelometric turbidity units, or NTUs).

Water Conservation Areas (WCAs): Diked areas of the remnant Everglades that are hydrologically controlled for flood control and water supply purposes. These are one of the primary targets of Everglades restoration and major components of the Everglades Protection Area.

Water Preserve Areas (WPA): Multipurpose water-holding areas located along the western border of Southeast Florida's urbanized corridor.

Water quality: Physical, chemical, and biological condition of water as applied to a specific use, typically propagation of fish and wildlife, public water supply, industry, or recreation.

Water quality criteria: Constituent concentrations based on scientific data and judgments on the relationship between pollutant concentrations and environmental and human health effects.

Water quality standards: State-mandated water quality levels composed of a beneficial use classification, water quality criteria applicable to that classification, Florida antidegradation policy, and several provisions in other rules.

Water Reservation: As defined by Florida law [Subsection 373.223(4), Florida Statutes], water set aside or designated from use by the District's Governing Board or the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, in such locations and quantities and for such seasons of the year, as may be required for the protection of fish and wildlife, or public health and safety.

Water Year (WY): Period from May 1 through April 30, during which water quality and other data are collected and reported in the *South Florida Environmental Report*.

Watershed: A region or area bounded peripherally by a water parting and draining ultimately to a particular watercourse or body of water.

Wetland: Area that is inundated or saturated by surface water or groundwater with vegetation adapted for life under those soil conditions (for example, swamps, bogs, and marshes).