

# Chapter 1: Introduction to Volume III

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## INTRODUCTION

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The *2015 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 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 state statutes that govern the permits issued to the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD or District) by the FDEP, 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 2014 (WY2014) (May 1, 2013–April 30, 2014), Calendar Year 2013 (CY2013) (January 1, 2013–December 31, 2013), or Fiscal Year 2014 (FY2014) (October 1, 2013–September 30, 2014).

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.

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## **BACKGROUND – PERMITS**

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### **CHAPTER 373.1502, FLORIDA STATUTES, PERMITS**

The Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan Regulation Act (CERPRA) 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 (NEEPP) 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 (EFA) 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 (ERP) 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.

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## **ANNUAL REPORTS OVERVIEW**

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

- 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 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 2015 SFER.

**Table 1-1.** Summary of permit information and annual reporting status for projects included in the *2015 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
<b>Chapter 2: Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan Regulation Act Projects</b>								
8.5 SMA S-357 Pump Station Operation Project	FDEP	CERPRA	0317442-001	Active	Operational	Yes	5/1/13 – 4/30/14	Vol. III, Ch. 2
Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands – L-31 East Culverts and Deering Estate Flow-way	FDEP	CERPRA	0271729-006	Active	Operational	Yes	5/1/13 – 4/30/14	Vol. III, App. 2-3
C-111 Spreader Canal Phase I (Western) Project	FDEP	CERPRA	0293559-007	Active	Operational	Yes	5/1/13 – 4/30/14	Vol. III, App. 2-4
C-44 Reservoir and Stormwater Treatment Area	FDEP	CERPRA	0254895-006	Active	Construction	Construction Update	5/1/13 – 4/30/14	Vol. III, Ch. 2
Caloosahatchee River (C-43) West Basin Storage Reservoir Project	FDEP	CERPRA	0255243-006-GL	Inactive	Construction: On Hold	Yes	5/1/13 – 4/30/14	Vol. III, Ch. 2
L-8 Reservoir Project	FDEP	CERPRA	0188365-019	Active	Operational	Yes	5/1/13 – 4/30/14	Vol. III, App. 2-2
Picayune Strand Restoration Project, Phase I - Prairie Canal Backfill and Road Removal Project	FDEP	CERPRA	0221670-008-EM	Active	Post Construction	Yes	5/1/13 – 4/30/14	Vol. III, App. 2-1
Southern Crew, Phase 1 Project - Billy Don Grant Parcel	FDEP	CERPRA	0279719-003	Active	Post Construction	Yes	5/1/13 – 4/30/14	Vol. III, Ch. 2
Ten Mile Creek Water Preserve Area	FDEP	CERPRA	0192879-012	Inactive	Post construction, Not yet operational	Yes	5/1/13 – 4/30/14	Vol. III, Ch. 2
<b>Chapter 3: Everglades Forever Act Projects</b>								
Everglades Construction Project Stormwater Treatment Areas (STA-1E, STA-1W, STA-2, STA-3/4, STA-5, and STA-6)	FDEP	EFA EFA CO NPDES NPDES CO	311207 OGC #12-1149 FL0778451 OCG #12-1148	Active	Operational	Yes	5/1/13 – 4/30/14	Vol. I, Ch. 5B; Vol. III, App. 3-1
A-1 Flow Equalization Basin	FDEP	EFA	0313994-001	Active	Construction	Yes	5/1/13 – 4/30/14	Vol. III, Ch. 3
Non-Everglades Construction Project	FDEP	EFA	06, 502590709 (Mod: 0237803-011)	Active	Operational	Yes	5/1/13 – 4/30/14	Vol. III, App. 3-2

**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
<b>Chapter 4: Northern Everglades and Estuaries Protection Program Projects</b>								
Grassy Island Hybrid Wetland Treatment Technology Project	FDEP	NEEPP	0259591-006	Active	Operational	Yes	7/1/13 - 6/30/14	Vol. III, Ch. 4
Lake Okeechobee Water Control Structures Operation	FDEP	NEEPP	0174552-010	Active	Operational	Yes	5/1/13 – 4/30/14	Vol. III, App. 4-1
Lakeside Ranch Stormwater Treatment Area – Phase 1	FDEP	NEEPP	0287326-003	Active	Construction / Post-Construction	Yes	5/1/13 – 4/30/14	Vol. III, App. 4-3
Lemkin Creek Hybrid Wetland Treatment Technology Project	FDEP	NEEPP	47-0254574-003-GL	Active	Operational	Yes	7/1/13 - 6/30/14	Vol. III, Ch. 4
Nubbin Slough Stormwater Treatment Area	FDEP	NEEPP	0194483-012-GL	Operations Not Started	Construction: Refinements Underway	Yes	5/1/13 – 4/30/14	Vol. III, Ch. 4
Taylor Creek Stormwater Treatment Area	FDEP	NEEPP	0194485-002-GL	Active	Operational	Yes	5/1/13 – 4/30/14	Vol. III, App. 4-2
<b>Chapter 5: Environmental Resource Permitting Projects and Emergency Orders</b>								
8.5 Square Mile Mitigation	FDEP	ERP	EI 0297691-001	Active	On Hold	Yes	5/1/13 – 4/30/14	Vol. III, Ch. 5
Buttermilk/Packingham Slough Restoration and Flood Protection	FDEP	ERP	0267164-005	Active	Operational	Yes	5/1/13 – 4/30/14	Vol. III, App. 5-4
C-4 Emergency Detention Basin	FDEP	ERP	EI 13-0192729-013	Active	Operational	Yes	5/1/13 – 4/30/14	Vol. III, App. 5-2
Cypress Creek Restoration	FDEP	ERP	0300341-003-EI	Active	Construction	Yes	5/1/13 – 4/30/14	Vol. III, Ch. 5
East Coast Protection Levee Rehabilitation Project	FDEP	ERP	0305403-001	Active	Post-Construction	Yes	5/1/13 – 4/30/14	Vol. III, Ch. 5
Holey Land Wildlife Management Area	FDEP	ERP	06-500809209, 06-501191549	Expired	Operational	Yes	10/1/12 - 9/30/13	Vol. III, App. 5-3
Loxahatchee River Watershed Restoration Project, G-160 Component	FDEP	ERP	EI 50-0128848-004	Active	Operational	Yes	1/1/13 - 12/31/13	Vol. III, App. 5-1
Loxahatchee River Watershed Restoration Project, G-161 Component	FDEP	ERP	0244327-002	Active	Operational	Yes	1/1/13 - 12/31/13	Vol. III, App. 5-1
S-197 Structure Replacement Project	FDEP	ERP	0306639-001	Active	Construction / Post-Construction	Yes	5/1/13 – 4/30/14	Vol. III, App. 3-2

Key to Acronyms: CERPRA – Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan Regulation Act; EFA – Everglades Forever Act; ERP – Environmental Resource Permitting; FDEP – Florida Department of Environmental Protection; N/A – Not Applicable; NEEPP – Northern Everglades and Estuaries Protection Program; NPDES – National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System; USACE – U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.