

Chapter 1: Introduction to Volume III

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INTRODUCTION

The *2016 South Florida Environmental Report (SFER) – Volume I: The South Florida Environment* 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 Permit (ERP) state statutes.

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 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 – CERPRA projects
- Chapter 3 – EFA projects
- Chapter 4 – NEEPP projects
- Chapter 5 – ERP projects

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 2015 (May 1, 2014–April 30, 2015), Calendar Year 2014 (January 1, 2014–December 31, 2014), or Federal Water Year 2015 (October 1, 2014–September 30, 2015).

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

CHAPTER 373.1502, FLORIDA STATUTES PERMITS

The 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 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, F.S., except those issued under Section 403.0885, F.S.

CHAPTER 373.4592, FLORIDA STATUTES PERMITS

The 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 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 are processed by either FDEP or one of the state's water management districts, in accordance with the division of responsibilities specified in operating agreements between FDEP and the water management districts. The ERP Program is in effect throughout the state.

ANNUAL REPORTS OVERVIEW

Annually, the District is required to submit reports to 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. **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 2016 SFER.

Table 1-1. Summary of permit information and annual reporting status for projects included in the *2016 South Florida Environmental Report*.

Project	Permit Type	Permit Number	Permit Status	Project Status / Phase	Annual Reporting Requirement	Reporting Period	Location In 2016 SFER
Chapter 2: Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan Regulation Act Projects							
8.5 Square Mile Area, S-357 Pump Station	CERPRA	0317442-002	Active	Initial Operations and Maintenance	Yes	5/1/14 – 4/30/15	Vol. III, App. 2-5
Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands – L-31 East Culverts and Deering Estate Flow-way	CERPRA	0271729-007	Active	Operational	Yes	5/1/14 – 4/30/15	Vol. III, App. 2-3
C-111 Spreader Canal Phase I (Western) Project	CERPRA	0293559-009	Active	Operational	Yes	5/1/14 – 4/30/15	Vol. III, App. 2-4
C-44 Reservoir and Stormwater Treatment Area	CERPRA	0254895-010	Active	Construction	Yes	5/1/14 – 4/30/15	Vol. III, Ch. 2
C-43 West Basin Storage Reservoir Project	CERPRA	0255243-009	Active	Construction	Yes	5/1/14 – 4/30/15	Vol. III, Ch. 2
L-8 Reservoir Project	CERPRA	0188365-021	Active	Construction / Operational	Yes	5/1/14 – 4/30/15	Vol. III, App. 2-2
Picayune Strand Restoration Project	CERPRA	0221670-010	Active	Post Construction	Yes	5/1/14 – 4/30/15	Vol. III, App. 2-1
Southern CREW, Phase 1 Project - Billy Don Grant Parcel	CERPRA	0279719-003	Active	Post Construction	Yes	5/1/14 – 4/30/15	Vol. III, Ch. 2
Ten Mile Creek Water Preserve Area	CERPRA	0192879-012	Inactive	Post construction, Not yet operational	Yes	5/1/14 – 4/30/15	Vol. III, Ch. 2
Chapter 3: Everglades Forever Act Projects							
Everglades Construction Project Stormwater Treatment Areas (STA-1 East, STA-1 West, STA-2, STA-3/4, STA-5, and STA-6)	EFA	311207	Active	Operational	Yes	5/1/14 – 4/30/15	Vol. I, Ch. 5B; Vol. III, App. 3-1
	EFA CO	OGC #12-1149					
	NPDES	FL0778451					
	NPDES CO	OCG #12-1148					
A-1 Flow Equalization Basin	EFA	0313994-002	Active	Construction	Yes	5/1/14 – 4/30/15	Vol. III, Ch. 3
Non-Everglades Construction Project	EFA	06, 502590709 (Mod: 0237803-010)	Active	Operational	Yes	5/1/14 – 4/30/15	Vol. III, App. 3-2

Table 1-1. Continued.

Project	Permit Type	Permit Number	Permit Status	Project Status / Phase	Annual Reporting Requirement	Reporting Period	Location In 2016 SFER
Chapter 4: Northern Everglades and Estuaries Protection Program Projects							
Grassy Island Hybrid Wetland Treatment Technology Project	NEEPP	0259591-007	Active	Operational	Yes	7/1/14 - 6/30/15	Vol. III, Ch. 4
Lake Okeechobee Water Control Structures Operation	NEEPP	0174552-010	Active	Operational	Yes	5/1/14 – 4/30/15	Vol. III, App. 4-1
Lakeside Ranch Stormwater Treatment Area – Phase 1	NEEPP	0287326-007	Active	Post-Construction	Yes	5/1/14 – 4/30/15	Vol. III, App. 4-3
Lemkin Creek Hybrid Wetland Treatment Technology Project	NEEPP	0254574-004	Active	Operational	Yes	7/1/14 - 6/30/15	Vol. III, Ch. 4
Nubbin Slough Stormwater Treatment Area	NEEPP	0194483-012-GL	Operations Not Started	Construction: Refinements Underway	Yes	5/1/14 – 4/30/15	Vol. III, Ch. 4
Taylor Creek Stormwater Treatment Area	NEEPP	0194485-011	Active	Operational	Yes	5/1/14 – 4/30/15	Vol. III, App. 4-2
Chapter 5: Environmental Resource Permitting Projects							
Buttermilk/Packingham Slough Restoration and Flood Protection	ERP	0267164-005	Active	Operational	Yes	5/1/14 – 4/30/15	Vol. III, App. 5-4
C-4 Emergency Detention Basin	ERP	0192729-014	Active	Operational	Yes	5/1/14 – 4/30/15	Vol. III, App. 5-2
Cypress Creek Restoration	ERP	0300341-003	Active	Construction	Yes	5/1/14 – 4/30/15	Vol. III, Ch. 5
East Coast Protection Levee Rehabilitation Project	ERP	0305403-001	Active	Post-Construction	Yes	5/1/14 – 4/30/15	Vol. III, Ch. 5
Holey Land Wildlife Management Area	ERP	06,500809209, 06,501191549	Expired	Operational	Yes	10/1/13 - 9/30/14	Vol. III, App. 5-3
Loxahatchee River Watershed Restoration Project, G-160 Component	ERP	EI 50-0128848-006	Active	Operational	Yes	1/1/14 - 12/31/14	Vol. III, App. 5-1
Loxahatchee River Watershed Restoration Project, G-161 Component	ERP	EI 50-0244327-005	Active	Operational	Yes	1/1/14 - 12/31/14	Vol. III, App. 5-1
S-197 Structure Replacement Project	ERP	0306639-001	Active	Operational	Yes	5/1/14 – 4/30/15	Vol. III, App. 3-2

Key to Acronyms and Abbreviations: CERPRA – Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan Regulation Act; CO – Consent Order; CREW – Corkscrew Regional Ecosystem Watershed; EFA – Everglades Forever Act; ERP – Environmental Resource Permit; Mod. – Modification; NEEPP – Northern Everglades and Estuaries Protection Program; NPDES – National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System; OGC – Office of General Counsel; STA – Stormwater Treatment Area; and Vol. – Volume.