

Chapter 1: Introduction to Volume I

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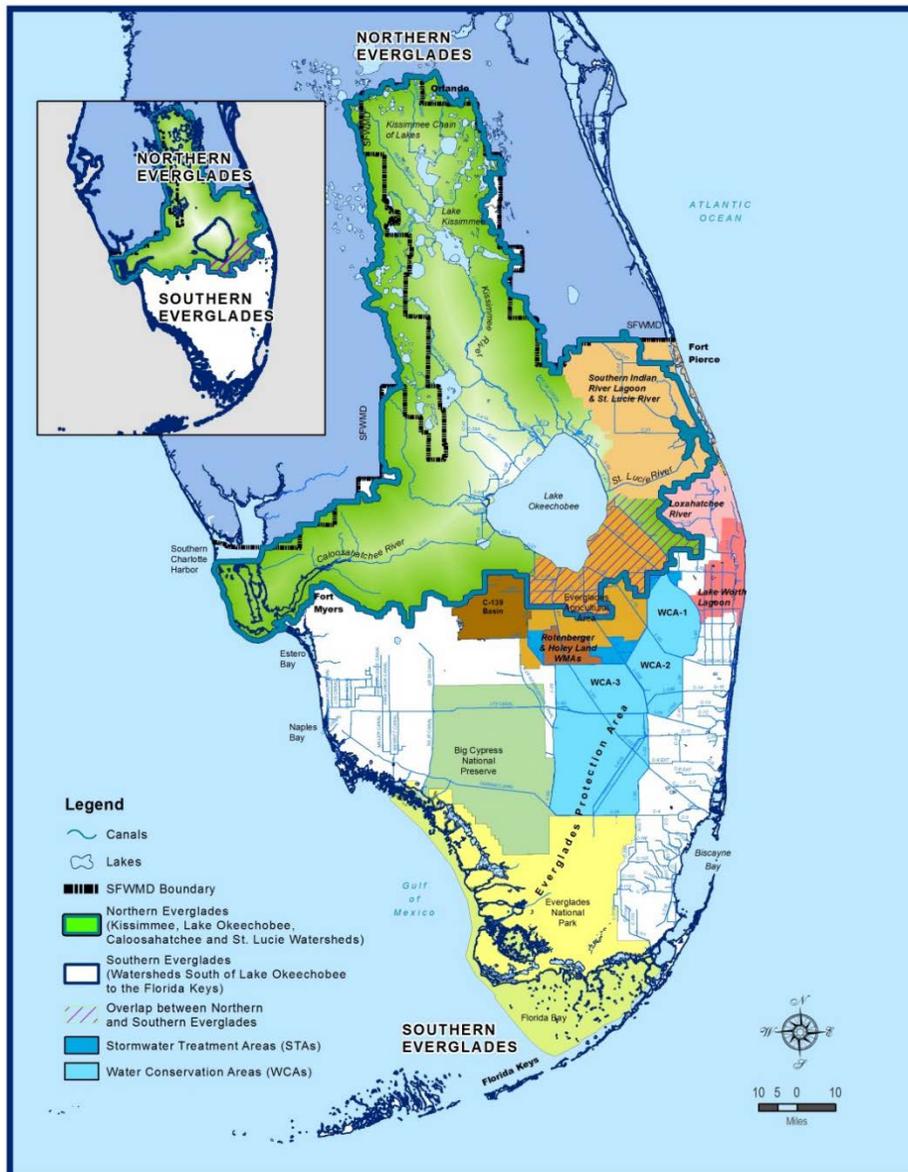
Prepared by the South Florida Water Management District in cooperation with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, the *2017 South Florida Environmental Report* (SFER) unifies dozens of individual mandated reports and plans into a single document, pursuant to Chapter 2005-36, Laws of Florida, and Section 373.036(7), Florida Statutes (F.S.). Other agency reporting requirements, including those mandated in federal- and state-issued permits, are also incorporated. While providing effective communication, the annual SFER updates key results and findings as well as fiscal information for the reporting period. Overall, this information supports restoration, management, and protection activities associated with the Kissimmee Basin, Lake Okeechobee, the Everglades, and South Florida’s coastal ecosystems. The 2017 SFER comprises three volumes:

- *Volume I, The South Florida Environment*, provides status updates and data summaries for various research and monitoring efforts in the South Florida region during Water Year 2016 (May 1, 2015–April 30, 2016). This volume also includes required financial reporting on Fiscal Year 2015-2016 (October 1, 2015–September 30, 2016) for the Everglades Forever Act (EFA), Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP), and Northern Everglades and Estuaries Protection Plan (NEEPP).
- *Volume II, District Annual Plans and Reports*, covers the Fiscal Year 2015-2016 update for seven annual plans and reports required under various mandates for Florida’s water management districts. These include the Fiscal and Performance Accountability Report, Priority Water Bodies List and Schedule, Five-Year Capital Improvements Plan, Five-Year Water Resource Development Work Program, Alternative Water Supply Annual Report, Florida Forever Work Plan Annual Update, and Mitigation Donation Annual Report.
- *Volume III, Annual Permit Reports*, maximizes the process for submitting annual permit reports to state and federal agencies. This volume fulfills 2016 permit-related reporting associated with the Clean Water Act, Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan Regulation Act, EFA, NEEPP, and Environmental Resource Permitting projects.

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THE SOUTH FLORIDA ENVIRONMENT

31 South Florida is characterized by its unique, diverse ecosystems from the Kissimmee Region in the
 32 north through the Florida Keys in the south (**Figure 1-1**). To enhance agency reporting on the many
 33 programs and projects throughout South Florida, the area is categorized into two primary subregions—the
 34 Northern and Southern Everglades. These subregions are delineated across regional watershed boundaries,
 35 with the Northern Everglades covering the Kissimmee, Lake Okeechobee, Caloosahatchee River, and
 36 St. Lucie River watersheds, and the Southern Everglades encompassing the watersheds south of Lake
 37 Okeechobee through the Florida Keys. The main features in the Northern Everglades include Kissimmee
 38 area lakes and rivers, Lake Okeechobee, and the Caloosahatchee and St. Lucie rivers and estuaries. Key
 39 features in the Southern Everglades include the water conservation areas, Big Cypress National Preserve,
 40 Everglades National Park, Florida Bay, and other coastal bays and estuaries south of Lake Okeechobee.



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Figure 1-1. Major geographic features of the South Florida environment within the South Florida Water Management District’s boundaries.

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VOLUME I CONTENT AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

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In Volume I, there is a strong focus on presenting annual data and status updates relating to required reporting requirements that are aligned with agency programs, projects, and strategic initiatives in the South Florida region. The volume highlights major results and findings for the Water Year 2016 and Fiscal Year 2015-2016 reporting periods, while more routine and background information covered in earlier consolidated reports is cross-referenced, as appropriate. This year's Volume I contains 14 chapters along with 33 appendices of supporting data and more detailed information that comply with specific mandates. An overview of the Volume I key content and associated statutory reporting requirements is presented in **Table 1-1**.

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Table 1-1. Cross-reference for Volume I content and reporting requirements in the 2017 SFER.

Chapters and Appendices	Key Report Elements	Reporting Requirements
Chapter 1	Overall Volume I Reporting	Consolidated Annual Report – §373.036(7)(a), F.S. Everglades Forever Act – §373.4592(13), F.S.
Appendices 1-1, 1-2, and 1-3	SFER Peer Review Reporting	Everglades Forever Act – §373.4592(4)(d)5, F.S.
Appendix 1-4	CERP Annual Report – 470 Report	Consolidated Annual Report – §373.036(7)(e)2, F.S. Everglades Restoration Investment Act – §373.470(7), F.S.
Appendix 1-5	EFA Annual Financial Report	Consolidated Annual Report – §373.036(7)(b), F.S. Everglades Forever Act – §373.4592(14), F.S. Everglades Trust Fund – §373.45926(3), F.S.
Chapter 2 & Appendices	South Florida Hydrology and Water Management	Consolidated Annual Report – §373.036(7)(e)2, F.S. Everglades Forever Act – §373.4592(13), F.S. Northern Everglades and Estuaries Protection Program – §373.4595(6), F.S.
Chapter 3A & Appendices	Water Quality in the Everglades Protection Area	Consolidated Annual Report – §373.036(7)(e)2, F.S.) Everglades Forever Act – §373.4592(4)(d)5 and §373.4592(13), F.S. Northern Everglades and Estuaries Protection Program – §373.4595(6), F.S.
Chapter 3B	Mercury and Sulfur Environmental Assessment for the Everglades	Consolidated Annual Report – §373.036(7)(e)2, F.S.) Everglades Forever Act – §373.4592(4)(d)5 and §373.4592(13), F.S. Northern Everglades and Estuaries Protection Program – §373.4595(6), F.S.
Chapter 4 & Appendices	Nutrient Source Control Programs	Consolidated Annual Report – §373.036(7)(e)2, F.S. Everglades Forever Act – §373.4592(13), F.S.
Chapter 5A	Restoration Strategies – Design and Construction Status of Water Quality Improvement Projects	Consolidated Annual Report – §373.036(7)(e)2, F.S. Everglades Forever Act – §373.4592(4)(d)5 and §373.4592(13), F.S.
Chapter 5B & Appendices	Performance and Operation of the Everglades Stormwater Treatment Areas	Consolidated Annual Report – §373.036(7)(e)2, F.S. Everglades Forever Act – §373.4592(4)(d)5 and §373.4592(13), F.S.
Chapter 5C & Appendices	Update for the Restoration Strategies Science Plan	Consolidated Annual Report – §373.036(7)(e)2, F.S. Everglades Forever Act – §373.4592(4)(d)5 and §373.4592(13), F.S.
Chapter 6	Everglades Research and Evaluation	Consolidated Annual Report – §373.036(7)(e)2, F.S. Everglades Forever Act – §373.4592(4)(d)5 and §373.4592(13), F.S. Northern Everglades and Estuaries Protection Program – §373.4595(6), F.S.

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Table 1-1. Continued.

Chapters and Appendices	Key Report Elements	Reporting Requirements
Chapter 7	Status of Nonindigenous Species	Consolidated Annual Report – §373.036(7)(e)2, F.S. Everglades Forever Act – §373.4592(13), F.S.
Chapter 8A	NEEPP Annual Progress Report	Consolidated Annual Report – §373.036(7)(b) and §373.036(7)(e)2, F.S. Everglades Forever Act – §373.4592(13), F.S. Northern Everglades and Estuaries Protection Program – §373.4595(6), F.S. Progress Reports – §403.0675, F.S.
Chapter 8B & Appendices	Lake Okeechobee Watershed Research and Water Quality Monitoring Results and Activities	Consolidated Annual Report – §373.036(7)(b)9 and §373.036(7)(e)1, F.S. Everglades Forever Act – §373.4592(13), F.S. Northern Everglades and Estuaries Protection Program – §373.4595(6), F.S.
Chapter 8C & Appendices	St. Lucie and Caloosahatchee River Watershed Research and Water Quality Monitoring Results and Activities	Consolidated Annual Report – §373.036(7)(b)9 and §373.036(7)(e)1, F.S. Everglades Forever Act – §373.4592(13), F.S. Northern Everglades and Estuaries Protection Program – §373.4595(6), F.S.
Chapter 9	Kissimmee River Restoration and Basin Initiatives	

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