

Chapter 1: Introduction to the 2006 South Florida Environmental Report – Volume II

David Gilpin-Hudson

This chapter provides the background and outline of Volume II of the *2006 South Florida Environmental Report* (SFER). Whereas Volume I of the 2006 SFER focuses on the reports unique to the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD or District), Volume II includes the reports that are prepared by all five of Florida's water management districts. Volume II is a consolidation of seven annual reports.

LEGAL AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

Volume II is prepared as specified by Chapter 2005-36, Laws of Florida, which was passed during the 2005 legislative session. This legislation calls for all five water management districts to consolidate annual reports submitted to the Executive Office of the Governor or the Florida legislature. This legislation is intended to encourage better, more efficient reporting of water management district activities, and to allow easier access to such information by policymakers, stakeholders, and the public.

Within the 2006 SFER, the SFWMD is exercising the option of completing an Annual Work Plan Report (as an addendum to its Strategic Plan) in lieu of the District Water Management Plan (DWMP) Annual Report.

VOLUME II OBJECTIVES

Objectives for the development of Volume II are increased reporting efficiency, quality, and accessibility. Over time, a series of annual reports has been required of Florida's water management districts, either legislatively or by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP). These reporting requirements are designed to document progress in achieving implementation of plans developed to address areas of responsibility on a regional or District-wide basis. While the reports are integral to project management reporting and central to the District's functions, over time several of these reporting requirements have developed significant overlaps. These overlaps are largely due to implementation projects intentionally designed to serve more than one function. Continuing on the success of the 2005 SFER organization, Volume II includes an Access™ database of project descriptions that are referenced in the SFER, resulting in projects and processes only being described once. This also allows more comprehensive project descriptions than were previously found in individual reports and enables efficiencies in project description, information gathering, compilation, review, printing, and distribution. Volume II replaces previous annual reports, and is designed to yield a better, more

efficient report, making information more accessible to policymakers, stakeholders, and members of the public.

VOLUME II CONTENT

Volume II consolidates seven reports that had previously been prepared as separate publications into the following chapters (Chapters 2 through 7). This facilitates comparative review with previous years' reports.

- **Annual Work Plan Annual Report:** Chapter 2 is an implementation status report for the Strategic Plan and resulting Annual Work Plan, including activity summaries and performance measures. State-wide performance measures previously reported in the DWMP Annual Report are also included.
- **Minimum Flows and Levels Priority List and Schedule:** Chapter 3 is an annual status report describing District success in setting and implementing Minimum Flows and Levels (MFLs), as well as a schedule for establishing future MFLs.
- **Five-Year Capital Improvements Plan:** Chapter 4 is an annual report of the District's capital projects, covering all District programs, which includes project-level detail and shows projected expenditures and corresponding funding sources for a five-year period, Fiscal Years 2006–2010 (FY2006–FY2010).
- **Water Supply Report:** Chapter 5 includes the Five-Year Water Resource Development Work Program, which provides projected five-year financial costs and water supply benefits for implementation of the District's regional water supply plans, as well as a status report of the water resource development efforts for the previous year. This chapter also includes the Alternative Water Supply (AWS) Annual Report, which is an annual summary report of the AWS projects funded by the SFWMD, including the quantity of water made available, SFWMD funding, and total cost.
- **Florida Forever Work Plan, 2006 Annual Update:** Chapter 6 is a progress report and presentation of projects eligible for funding under the Florida Forever Act for land acquisition, water resource development, stormwater management, water body restoration, recreational facility construction, public access improvements, and invasive plant control.
- **Mitigation Donation Annual Report:** Chapter 7 is an annual report on the status of mitigation funds, including any funds received as mitigation for wetland impacts, as well as monies received by the District as a result of other agencies' permit requirements. This report also summarizes mitigation fund expenditures for FY2005 and projected expenditure for FY2006.

CONSOLIDATED PROJECT REPORT DATABASE

District projects and processes are often designed to serve multiple functions. In the previous reports that the SFER is replacing, these projects and processes were re-described for every function in every annual report they served. The Consolidated Project Report Database is designed to facilitate single SFWMD project (and process) descriptions that make up

implementation strategies referenced in the 2006 SFER. Descriptive project and process data are stored in widely available Access™ software, which enables multiple search and sort routines. Menu options are available for added data entry efficiency.

The fields contained in this database are the following numbered project or process attributes. Details of this database are described in Appendix 1-1 of this volume.

- 1) Title
- 2) Type
- 3) Lead Agency
- 4) Lead SFWMD Organization #
- 5) Lead Program
- 6) Related Program
- 7) Partners
- 8) Manager
- 9) State Reporting Category
- 10) Last Updated
- 11) Description
- 12) Area(s) of Responsibility
- 13) Location (street address, county, planning region)
- 14) Legislative Reference
- 15) Square Footage/Physical Description
- 16) Land Requirement
- 17) Objective
- 18) Historical Background/Need
- 19) End Products (scheduled products for processes)
- 20) Major Water Bodies Impacted
- 21) Expected Completion Month/Year
- 22) Associated Projects/Project Linkage
- 23) Major Milestones Completed in Last Fiscal Year
- 24) Milestones in Next Fiscal Year
- 25) Expenditures in Last Fiscal Year
- 26) Total Project Cost
- 27) Resource Performance Measures
- 28) Project Performance Measures
- 29) Alternative(s)
- 30) Major Uncertainties
- 31) District Financial Summary (all for five-year period)
- 32) Funding Source
- 33) Report References (including Florida Forever Goal, if applicable)

An added advantage of using this database to communicate project information, instead of the project tables in the previous reports, is the sorting capability. For example, if the reader wants to review all the Capital Improvement Flood Protection projects in Collier County (and all the information associated with those projects), then those projects can be quickly identified along with their associated information. In this way, the database offers added flexibility and utility with regard to information and project management. Brief instructions on navigating the database are presented in Appendix 1-2 of this volume. The Consolidated Project Report Database is included as Appendix 1-3 of this volume.