

Chapter 1: Introduction to the 2009 South Florida Environmental Report – Volume II

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This chapter provides the background and outline of Volume II of the *2009 South Florida Environmental Report* (SFER). Whereas Volume I of the 2009 SFER focuses on the reports unique to the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD or District), Volume II includes the state-mandated reports that Florida's five water management districts are required to prepare. Volume II consolidates eight reports: the Fiscal Year 2008 (FY2008) Annual Work Plan Report; Minimum Flows and Levels Priority List and Schedule; Five-Year Capital Improvements Plan; Five-Year Water Resource Development Work Program; Alternative Water Supply Annual Report; Florida Forever Work Plan, 2009 Annual Update; Land Stewardship Annual Report; and Mitigation Donation Annual Report.

LEGAL AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

Volume II is prepared as specified by Chapter 2005-36, Laws of Florida (http://election.dos.state.fl.us/laws/laws_proceed.shtml), which was passed during the 2005 legislative session. This legislation calls for all five water management districts in Florida to consolidate annual reports submitted to the Florida legislature or executive office of the governor. It is intended to encourage better, more efficient, and unified state-wide reporting of water management district activities, and to allow easier access to such information by policy makers, stakeholders, and the public.

Within the 2009 SFER, the SFWMD is exercising the option of completing an Annual Work Plan Report (as an addendum to its Strategic Plan), available on the District's web site at www.sfwmd.gov, under the *About SFWMD* tab, in lieu of the District Water Management Plan (DWMP) Annual Report.

VOLUME II OBJECTIVES

The objectives in developing Volume II are to provide, in consolidated form, the District's set of annual reports that are required of each of Florida's five water management districts. These reports document for policy makers, stakeholders, and the public the SFWMD's progress in implementing 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, reporting requirements historically caused significant overlaps across several of the reports. These overlaps were largely due to implementation of projects intentionally designed to

serve more than one function. As in previous years, a database of project descriptions is included, but for the first time this database is available via the Internet, rather than on an individual disk. This database allows projects to be described once comprehensively, and provides efficiencies in project description, information gathering, compilation, review, printing, and distribution. The 2009 SFER database is available on the District's web site at www.sfwmd.gov/SFER, under the *Database* tab.

VOLUME II CONTENT

Volume II consolidates eight reports that were formerly prepared as separate publications and are now organized into the following chapters.

- **Fiscal Year 2008 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 success indicators.
- **Minimum Flows and Levels Priority List and Schedule:** Chapter 3 is an annual status report describing the District's success in setting and implementing Minimum Flows and Levels (MFLs) as well as a schedule for establishing future MFLs. A list and schedule for the SFWMD's development of initial Water Reservations is also included.
- **Five-Year Capital Improvements Plan:** Chapter 4 is an annual report of the District's capital projects, covering all of the agency's programs. This chapter includes project-level detail and shows projected expenditures and corresponding funding sources for a five-year period, FY2009–FY2013.
- **Five-Year Water Resource Development Work Program:** Chapter 5A 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.
- **Alternative Water Supply Annual Report:** Chapter 5B is an annual summary report of the Alternative Water Supply projects funded by the SFWMD, including the quantity of water made available, agency funding, and total cost.
- **Florida Forever Work Plan, 2009 Annual Update:** Chapter 6A is a progress report and presents the projects eligible for funding under the Florida Forever Act [Chapter 259.105, Florida Statutes (F.S.)] for land acquisition, water resource development, stormwater management, water body restoration, recreational facility construction, public access improvements, and invasive plant control.
- **Land Stewardship Annual Report:** Chapter 6B is an annual report on the District's FY2008 management of District lands managed for conservation. This is done primarily through the Water Management Lands Trust Fund established under Chapter 373.59, F.S., and, through lease agreements, for project lands acquired for massive ecosystem scale restoration initiatives.
- **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 FY2008 and projected expenditure for FY2009.

CONSOLIDATED PROJECT REPORT DATABASE

District projects and processes are often designed to serve multiple functions. Prior to the SFER, these projects and processes had to be re-described in every annual report they served. The Consolidated Project Report Database is designed to facilitate single SFWMD project or process descriptions that make up implementation strategies referenced in the 2009 SFER. Descriptive project and process data are stored in a database that can be accessed, queried, and sorted using routines described at www.sfwmd.gov/SFER, under the *Database* tab, which also describes the database in detail. Drop-down menu options are available for added data entry efficiency.

The fields contained in the Consolidated Project Report Database include the following project or process attributes.

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| • Title | • End Products |
| • Type | (scheduled products for processes) |
| • Lead Agency | • Major Water Bodies Impacted |
| • Lead SFWMD Organization Unit | • Expected Completion Month/Year |
| • Lead Program | • Associated Projects/Project Linkage |
| • Related Program | • Major Milestones Completed in |
| • Partners | Last Fiscal Year |
| • Manager | • Milestones in Next Fiscal Year |
| • State Reporting Category | • Expenditures in Last Fiscal Year |
| • Last Updated | • Total Project Cost |
| • Description | • Resource Performance Measures |
| • Area(s) of Responsibility | • Project Performance Measures |
| • Location (street address, county, | • Alternative(s) |
| planning region) | • Major Uncertainties |
| • Legislative Reference | • District Financial Summary |
| • Square Footage/Physical Description | (all for five-year period) |
| • Land Requirement | • Funding Source |
| • Objective | • Chapter References (including |
| • Historical Background/Need | Florida Forever Goal, if applicable) |

An added advantage of using this database to communicate project information 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. The Consolidated Project Report Database, including navigation instructions, is available at www.sfwmd.gov/SFER, under the *Database* tab.