## Water Management During High Water Conditions Recent Experience

Akin Owosina PE. Bureau Chief, Hydrology & Hydraulics South Florida Water Management District

Air & Waste Management Association 54<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference and Expo October 23, 2018

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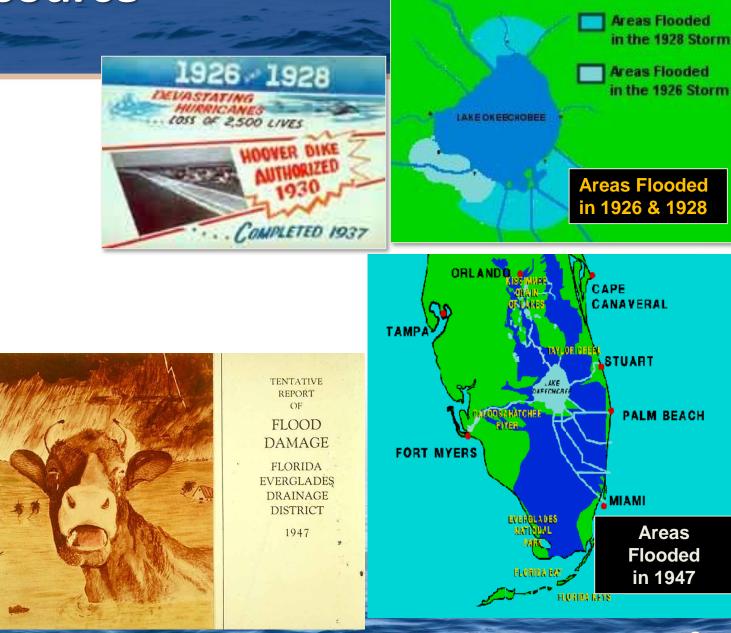
# A Brief History of Water Management in South Florida

- Early explorers in south Florida recognized its value and challenges
  - Unique sub-tropical climate in North America offered a prime agricultural opportunity
  - Vast extent of flooded lands precluded settlement
- As development progressed in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, pressure increased to drain the region
- The early efforts to reclaim these flooded areas were largely ineffective
  - Flooding and droughts persisted
  - Soil subsidence increased

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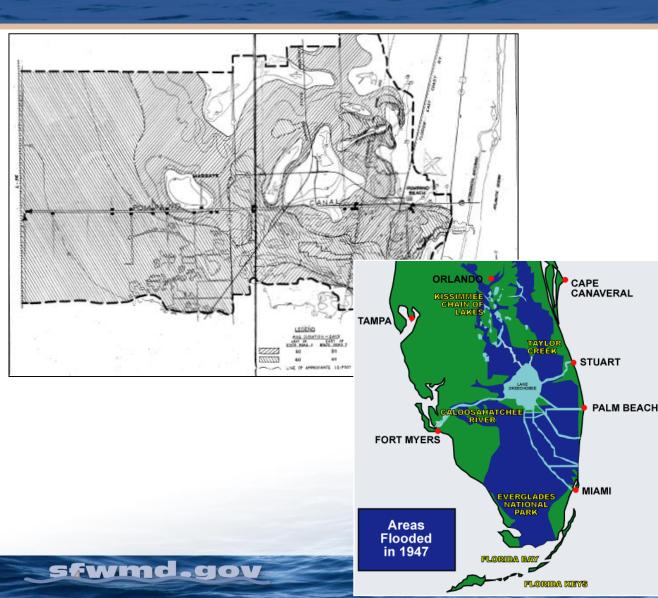
## SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT Historic Water Resource Problems

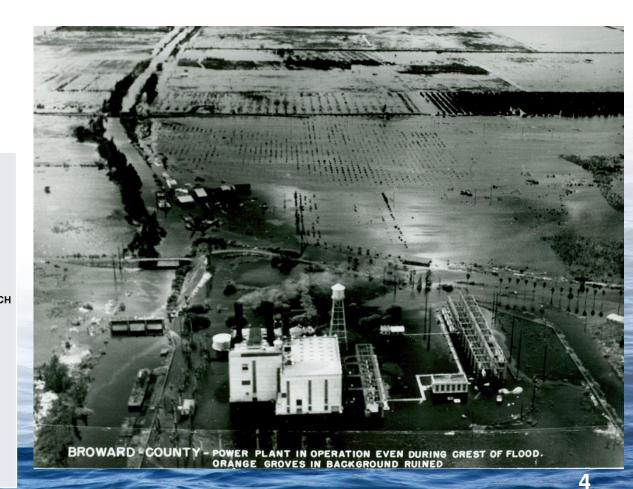
- Flood Control
  - 1926/1928: Lake Okeechobee
    Levee Failure
  - 1947: Hurricane Flooding
- Water Supply
  - 1931 1945: Lower East Coast saltwater intrusion threat identified
- State of Florida requested federal assistance

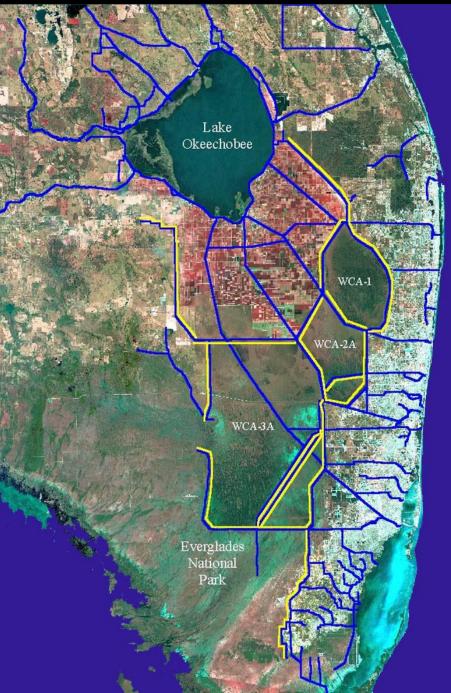


SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

## The Entire Region Flooded in 1947, 1950 & 1951





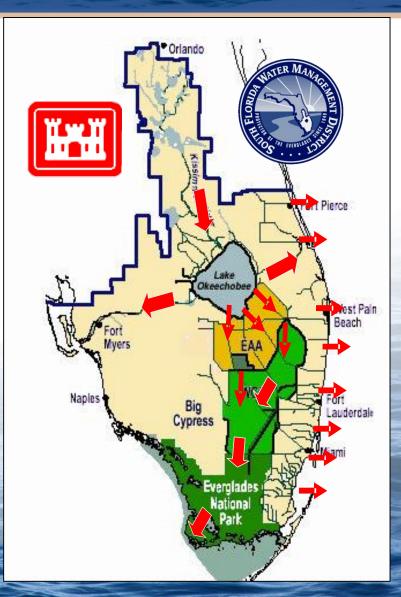


## **Plan to Reduce Flooding**

- Wall off the Everglades
  - East Coast Protective Levee
  - EAA Levees
- Drain to the Ocean
  - -Cheap
  - Effective
  - Minimal footprint on high priced lands
  - -Water lost, but we had too much

## **Central and Southern Florida Project**

- Designed for multiple purposes
  - Flood Control
  - Water Supply
  - Navigation
  - Prevention of Saltwater Intrusion
  - Protection of Fish & Wildlife
- Constructed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers between 1949 and 1970
- Operated and maintained by the South Florida Water Management District
- Recent improvements include regional storage (FEBs) and stormwater treatment projects to improve water quality entering the Everglades



Who we are and what we do

## SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

- Oldest and largest of the state's five regional water management districts
- Protecting water resources in the southern half of the state since 1949



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## Who we are and what we do

Covers an 18,000 squaremile region: 16 counties; 8.1 million residents

**Mission Elements:** 

- Water Quality
- Flood Control
- Natural Systems
- Water Supply

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## Water Management System

- 2,060 miles of canals
- 2,028 miles of levees
- 160 major drainage basins
- 1,413 water control structures
- 71 pumping stations
- 60,000 acres of regional wetland Stormwater Treatment Areas
- Lake Okeechobee
  - 450,000 acre water storage area
- Water Conservation Areas
  - 959,000 acre water storage

## SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT Why and Where is High Water A Concern

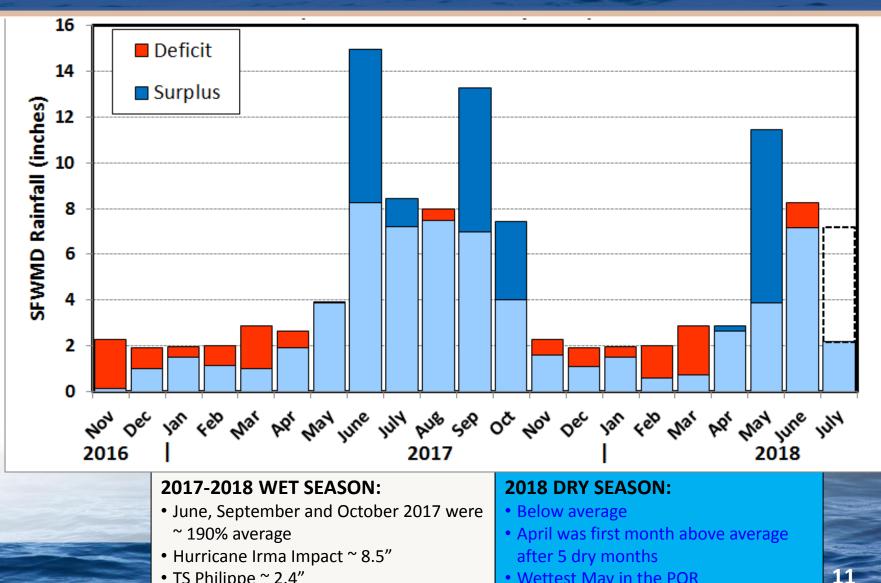
- Areas of south Florida lie any where from 1 to 6 feet above sea level
- Adjacent to huge water management features separated by levees
- Water management features serve dual purposes – storage and environmental
- Environmental objectives not compatible with excessively high water
- Necessary to manage water levels to ensure levee integrity for life and safety reasons



## **Highwater Drivers - Rain**

- Rain accumulation
- Rain distribution
- Rain intensity
- Transitioned from drought response to flood response in less than a month
- Compounded by a hurricane

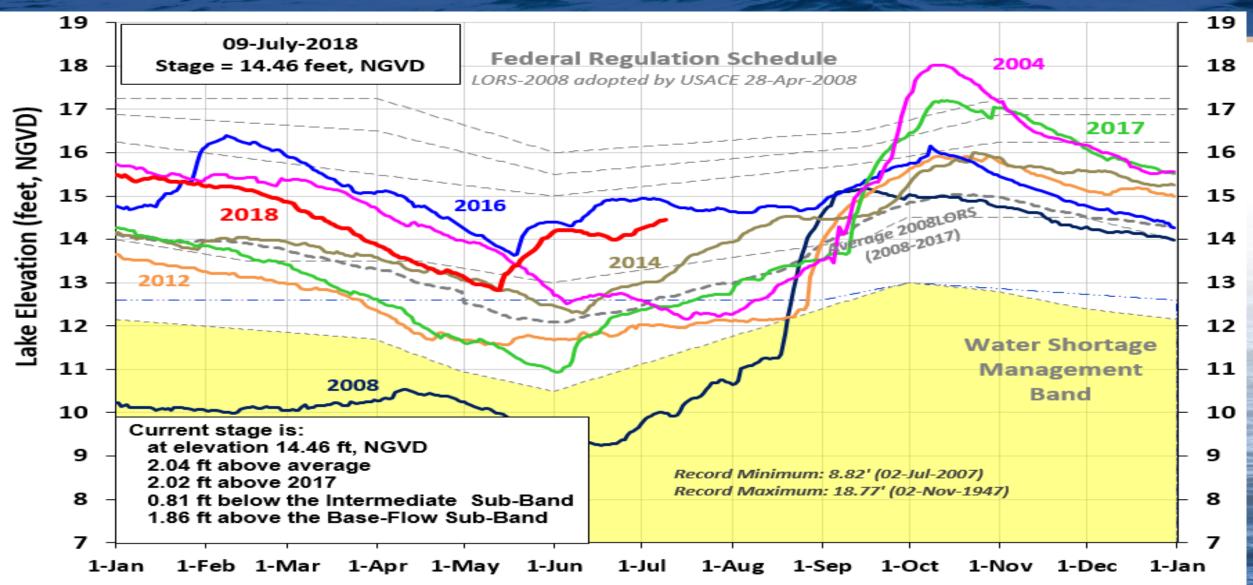
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• Wettest May in the POR

• TS Philippe ~ 2.4"

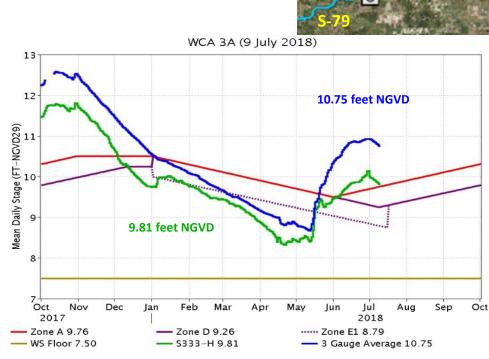
## **Effect on Water Levels in Lake Okeechobee**



12

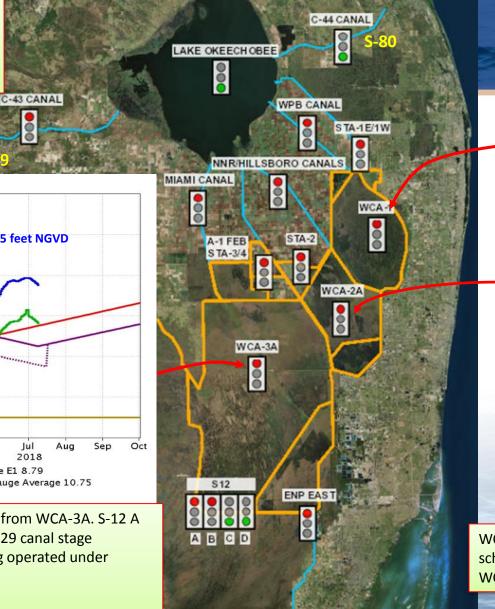
#### SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

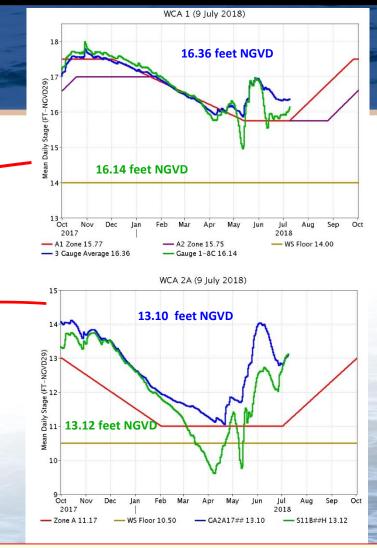
Lake Okeechobee stage is in the Low Sub-Band and less than 1 ft from the Intermediate Sub-band. Releases to St. Lucie and Caloosahatchee Estuaries are on hold. Maximum practicable releases to the south through the WCAs from Lake Okeechobee.



Rainfall Plan calls for maximum flood control releases from WCA-3A. S-12 A and B are closed. S-333 passing ~ 995 cfs to NESRS. L-29 canal stage constraint is at 8.0 feet NGVD. WCA3A and SDCS being operated under transition plan from Increment 1.1/1.2 to 2.0.

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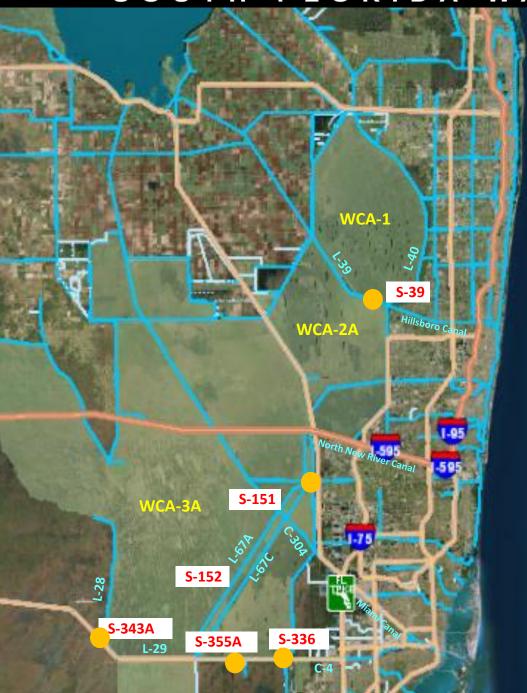




WCA-1 is above schedule (Canal gauge 1-8C); WCA-2A is above schedule; WCA-3A is above schedule. Flood control releases from WCA-3A to ENP are occurring now. S-10s and S-11s are closed.

System considerations for sending water south for the period 07/03/2018 to 07/09/2018

#### SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT



# Emergency Measures to Manage High Water Levels

- Reducing inflows to Lake Okeechobee or WCA where possible
- Use gravity structures to move water to tide
- Use Pump Station to manage water
- Store water in regional storage, the A-1 Flow Equalization Basin and L-8 Flow Equalization Basin
- Store water on public lands through the Dispersed Water Management program.
- Work with private landowners to store water on their properties
- Install temporary pumps where possible to add discharge capacity

## **Temporary Pump Operation Near Structure S-39**





Fig 3: Releasing water from WCA 1 to Hillsboro Canal (looking downstream)

Fig 1: 2- 42" pumps at L-39 moving water through L-39 levee from WCA 2 into WCA 1 near WCA 1 spillway structure

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Fig 2: Pumps releasing water from WCA 2 to WCA 1

## **Some Limitations and Challenges**

- Algae bloom in northern estuaries attributed to high discharges from Lake Okeechobee
- STA treatment capacity limits flows south
- Need to prioritize local runoff limits ability to rapidly lower lake and WCAs

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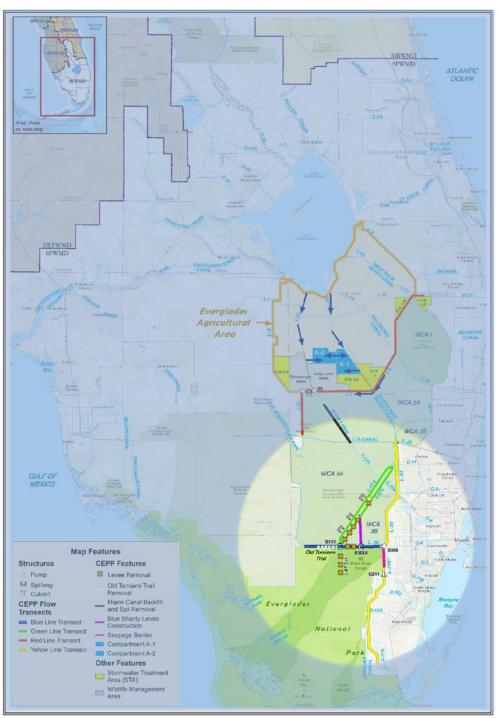


#### SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANA

## **Future Assets and Strategies**

- Storage, including ASR associated with Everglades Restoration is part of the long term solution
- Enhancement of getaway capacity in the lower half of the everglades envisioned as part of CEPP will help
- Emergency Estuary Protection Wells, deep injection wells into the Boulder Zone

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## **Dedicated Managing High Water Website**

SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

www.sfwmd.gov/managinghighwater

WHO WE

OUR

WORK

#### Social Media Communication

South Florida Water Management District July 5 at 12:05 PM - 🕥

sfwmd.gov

SFWMD Chief Engineer John Mitnik gives an update on current water conditions and actions taken by the District to lower water levels, including the installation of emergency temporary pumps.

Visit www.sfwmd.gov/managinghighwater for the latest on SFWMD measures being taken to alleviate the high water emergency caused by record rainfall throughout South Florida.



Flood Control	0
Water Supply Planning	0
Water Quality Improvement	0
Ecosystem Restoration - By Region	0
Ecosystem Restoration - Projects and Programs	0
MFLs & Water Reservations	٥
Land Management	۲
Local Projects and Programs	0

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SFWMD Rainfall 02-May-2018 to 01-Jun-2018

DISTRICT-WIDE: 11.45" (301%, +7.64"

#### Managing High Water Levels in the Wet Season

Following an emergency declaration from Gov. Rick Scott and an emergency order issued by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) is implementing an array of actions, in addition to other efforts that were already underway, to create capacity in the Everglades Water Conservation Areas (WCAs) and move water south from Lake Okeechobee. These measures, which would have been slowed by typical agency approval processes, are moving forward on an expedited basis to help reduce the severity of and need for regulatory releases that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) is making from the lake to the Caloosahatchee and St. Lucie estuaries.



month, with more than 16 inches of rain. This rainfall inundated the Water Conservation Areas and caused Lake Okeechobee to rise more than a foot. As a result, the USACE began making releases from the lake to the northern estuaries on June 1 for public safety.

This web page features weekly video undates on SFWMD's efforts to alleviate the current emergency situation

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#### SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

# **Questions?**



**CLOSED** 

**PUBLIC ACCE** 

Miami Herald, Nov 03, 2017



SFWMD, June 27, 2017



### **The Water-Energy Nexus**

Air & Waste Management Association Conference

October 23, 2018

#### **Agenda**

- Water use in power generation
- FPL's innovative use of water
- Future opportunities for reclaimed water use





World's #1 producer of renewable energy from the wind and sun

- Operating in 30 U.S. states & Canada, but Florida is our home
- Consistently ranks among Fortune's World's Most Admired Companies

### Introduction



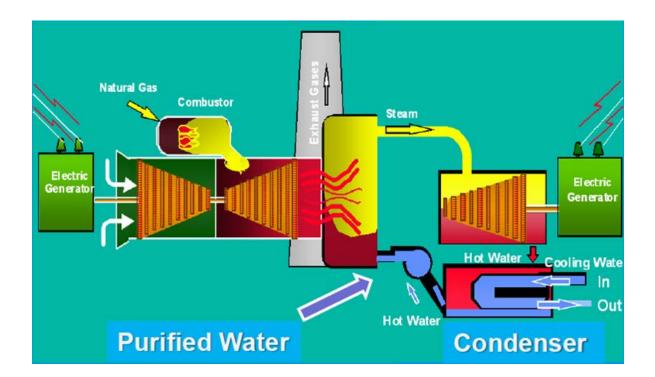
# Largest of Florida's 55 electric utilities

Powering about half the state 4.9 million accounts nearly 10 million people



## Water is a critical resource for steam powered electric generating facilities

#### **Combined Cycle Steam Electric Generating Plant**



Combined-cycle technology reduces water use as ~60% of generation is produced by combustion turbines, which don't use water for cooling



# Cooling technology has evolved from once-through systems reliant on large waterbodies to closed-cycle systems



#### Power Plant Water Usage





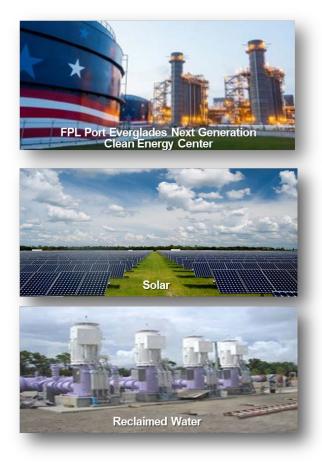
Recent water conservation focus has been exploration and utilization of different water sources



Water conservation in power generation is accomplished through improved fleet efficiency, use of renewable resources, and innovative use of water

#### **FPL's Water Conservation Efforts**

- Modernization of FPL fleet to high efficiency combinedcycle facilities that use clean, U.S. produced natural gas
- Expansion of renewable energy generation technology with no required water use
- Enhanced utilization of degraded water resources
  - Policy, economics, technology and environmental considerations affect the options for users and suppliers of reclaimed water





## FPL has embarked on an unprecedented expansion of solar energy centers that require no water to operate



**FPL Solar Energy Centers** 

FPL solar centers avoided the use of 44.4 million gallons of water in 2017



West County Energy Center, a 3,750 MW combined-cycle facility that uses 22 mgd of reclaimed water, is a example of innovative water reuse

#### **FPL's West County Energy Center**

- Originally designed to use
  Floridan water
- Converted to use Palm Beach County's treated wastewater in 2011
- Water pumped from reclaimed treatment facility 17 miles east of West County
- Plant retains original Floridan well system as restricted backup



Extensive coordination and commitment between reclaimed water supplier and user is required for success



FPL and Miami-Dade County are collaborating to explore use of reclaimed water to address water challenges

#### **Reclaimed Opportunities in Miami-Dade**

- Ocean Outfall Legislation will require two key changes in how Miami-Dade handles wastewater
  - Up to 60% of treated wastewater goes to ocean outfalls currently; this will not be an option after 2025
  - A target to reuse 117 mgd of treated wastewater has been set
- Miami-Dade and FPL have executed a Joint Participation Agreement to explore opportunities to reuse wastewater at FPL's Turkey Point



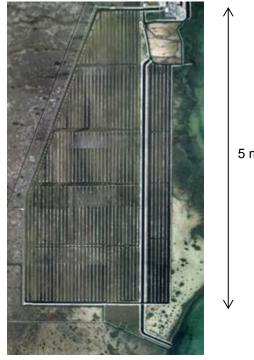
An advanced reclaimed water facility is proposed to enable the sustainable reuse of up to 60 mgd of wastewater at Turkey Point



## Turkey Point cooling canals are a 168 linear mile system that presents a unique opportunity for reclaimed water use

#### **Turkey Point Overview**

- Turkey Point Site includes:
  - One fossil unit with cooling towers (Floridan wells)
  - Two nuclear units with cooling canal system
- Cooling canals are an Industrial Waste Water Facility permitted to interact with Biscayne Aquifer
- Evaporation and rainfall deficits increase salinity in the cooling canals
- Floridan aquifer water is used to manage salinity



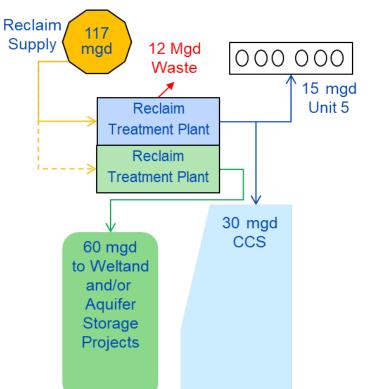
5 miles



Using innovative technology, reclaimed water would be treated and delivered to site via a large dedicated pipeline

#### **Reclaimed Opportunities at Turkey Point**

- Joint Participation Agreement envisions up to 60 mgd for use as makeup water and freshening water
- Existing Floridan wells would be converted to a backup system
- Additional treatment of another 60 mgd could support wetland hydration projects



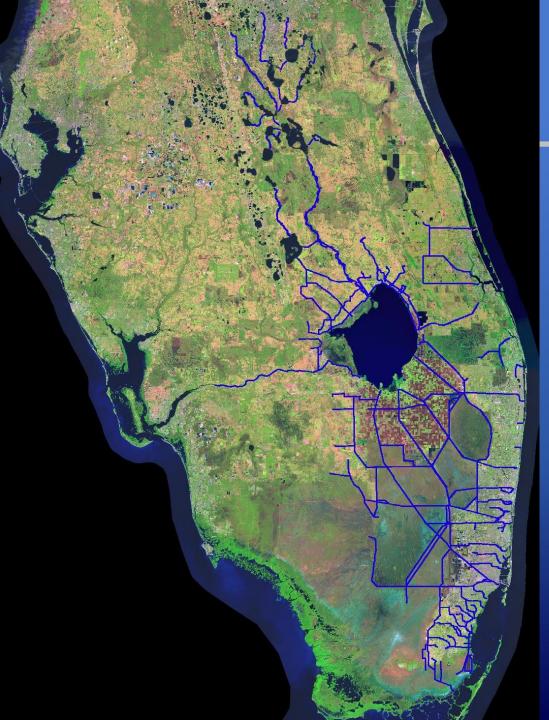
Reclaimed water used by Turkey Point does not compete with reclaimed water reserved for Everglades restoration





### Questions

Danielle Hall Environmental Services Florida Power & Light Company Danielle.Hall@fpl.com



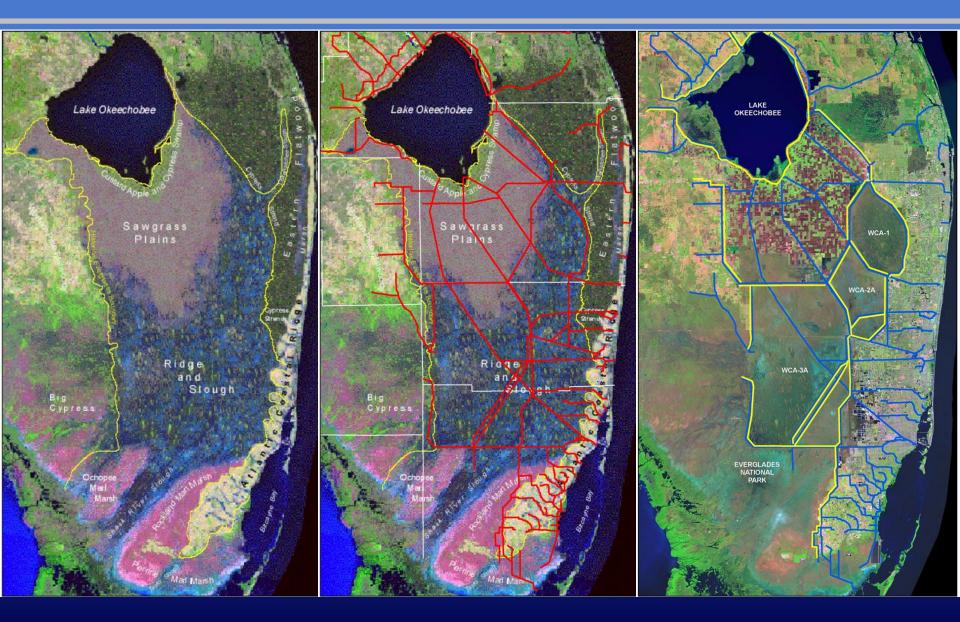
### Lake Okeechobee Management

The Perspective from the Agricultural Sector

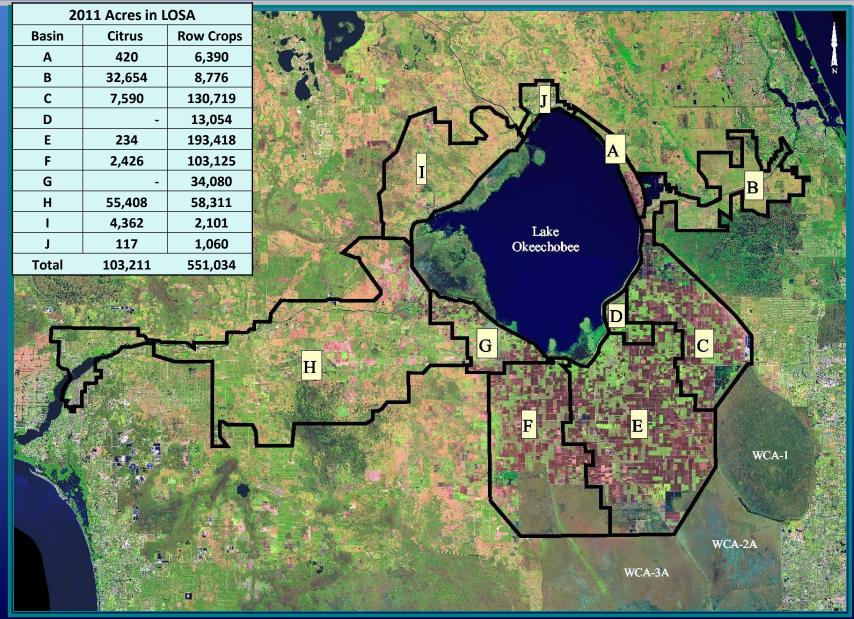
Florida Section of A&WMA Conference & Exposition October 2018



## Changes in the System Over Time



## Lake Okeechobee Service Area (LOSA)



## Agriculture in the Lake Okeechobee Service Area





Winter Vegetable Capital of the US

- Largest producer of sweet corn
- Salad Bowl for the eastern US
- Major rice production

\$500 million per year



# Largest Cane Sugar Production in US

- Over 400,000 acres in LOSA
- Reduced phosphorus off farm by 55% (paid for by farmers)
- Paid \$200 million for government water quality projects
  - Farmers pay an agricultural privilege tax as established in the Everglades Forever Act



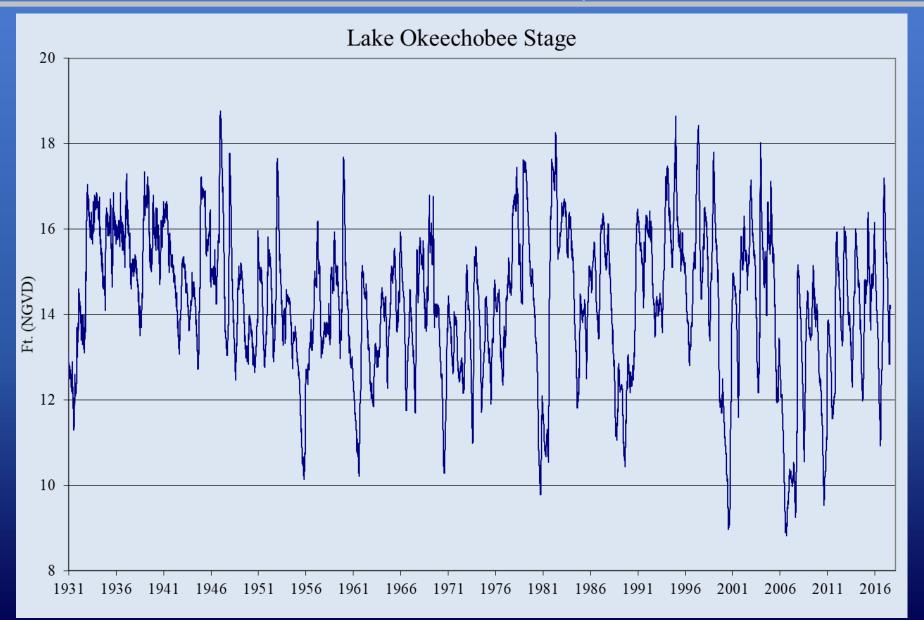
# An Essential Part of the Florida Economy

- 23,000 sugar industry jobs in Florida
- Four sugar factories (Clewiston, South Bay, Pahokee and Belle Glade)
- Two refineries (South Bay and Clewiston)
- Largest Biomass-to-Electricity plant in the US (New Hope Power Plant 140 MW)
- Modern product distribution center
- \$3 Billion annual economic impact

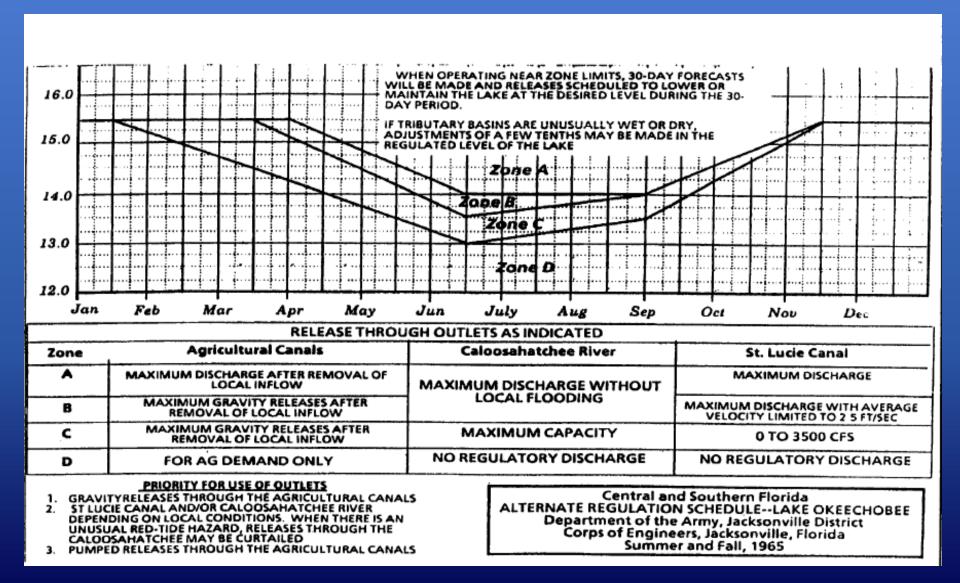




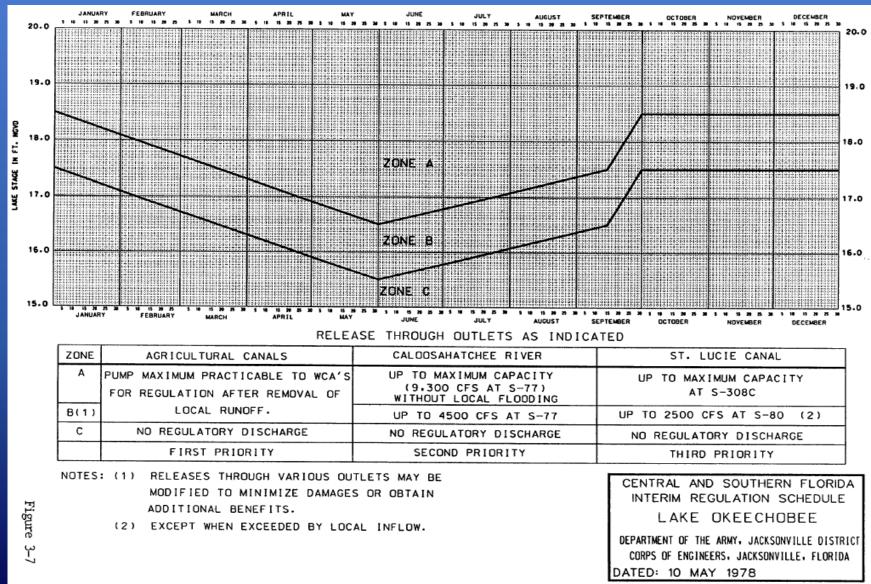
There is no place in the world with south Florida's combination of climate and regional water management infrastructure, and Lake Okeechobee is the key



The Corps has created a process, and rules to manage releases from the Lake based on water level and the time of year. Check Zone D

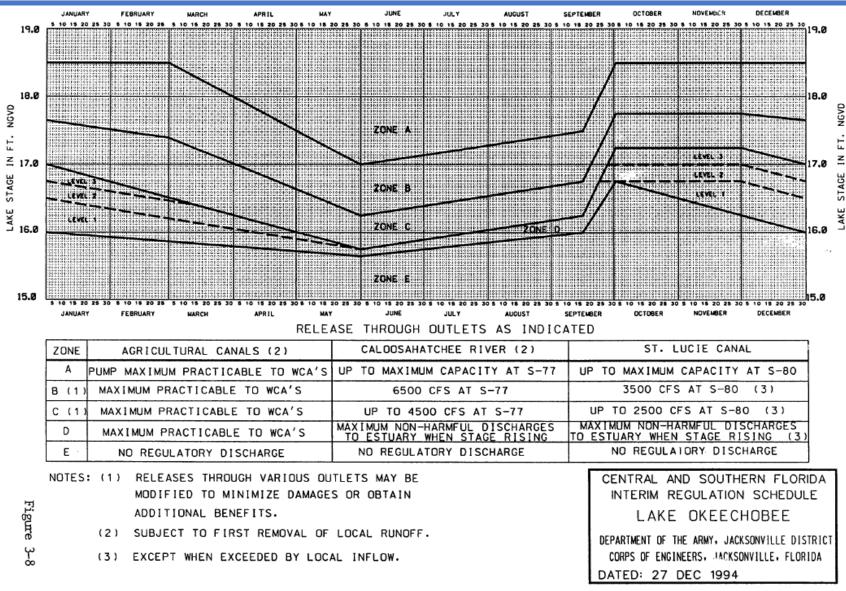


Water Supply was a big deal from the beginning and in the 1970s the Corps approved a new operational schedule to hold more water in the Lake.



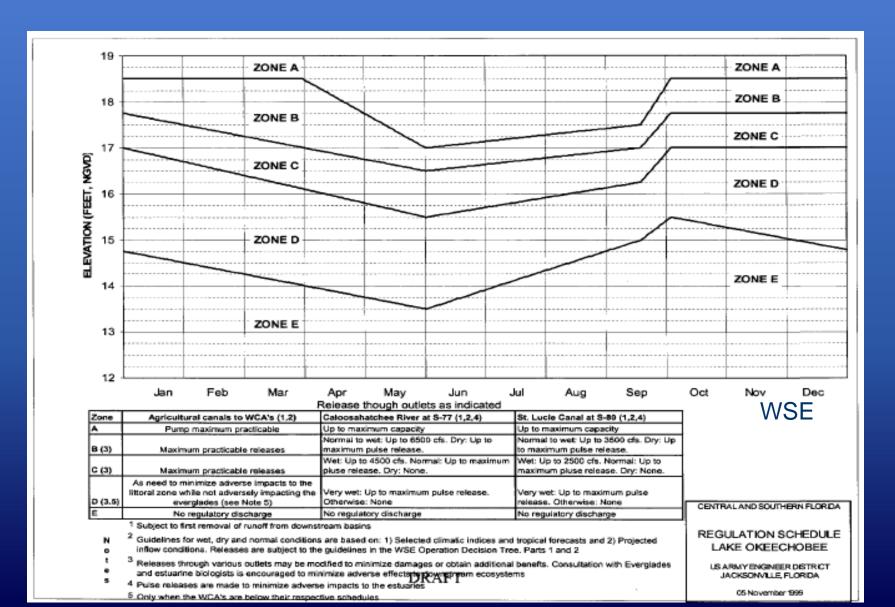
78 SCHEDULE

The big challenge was always how to release water with the least harm possible. This schedule, adopted in 1994, added more flexibility to deal with the releases

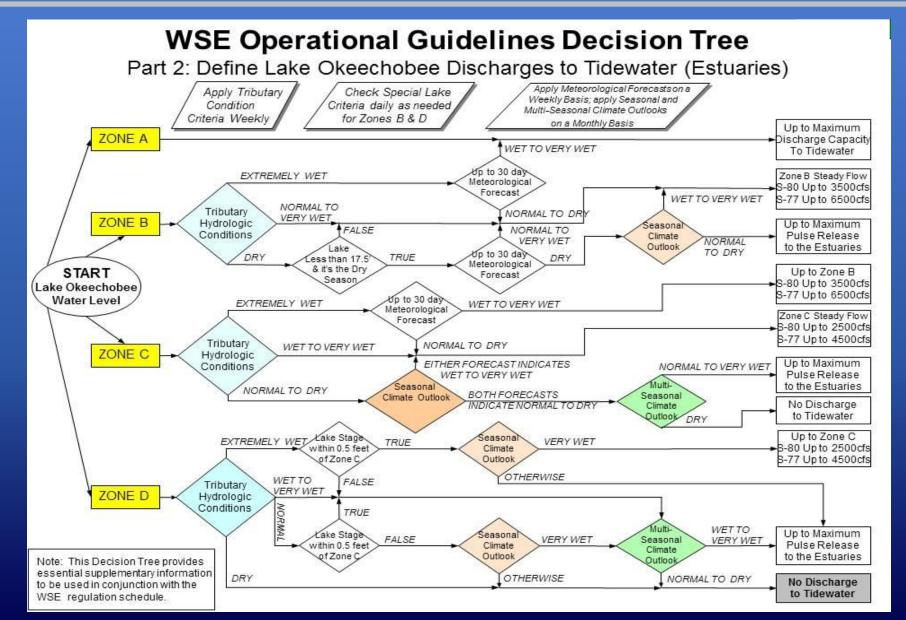


RUN 25

In 1999 the WSE schedule was adopted with even more flexibility, and for the first time introduced factors based on climate forecasts and regional hydrology



The WSE incorporated a Decision Tree to formally add climate and hydrologic conditions to the determine the releases from the Lake



A dramatic new schedule was adopted in 2008 because of concern for the structural integrity of the Herbert Hoover Dike. It lowers the Lake levels and adds a new Base Flow Zone for environmental releases to the estuary

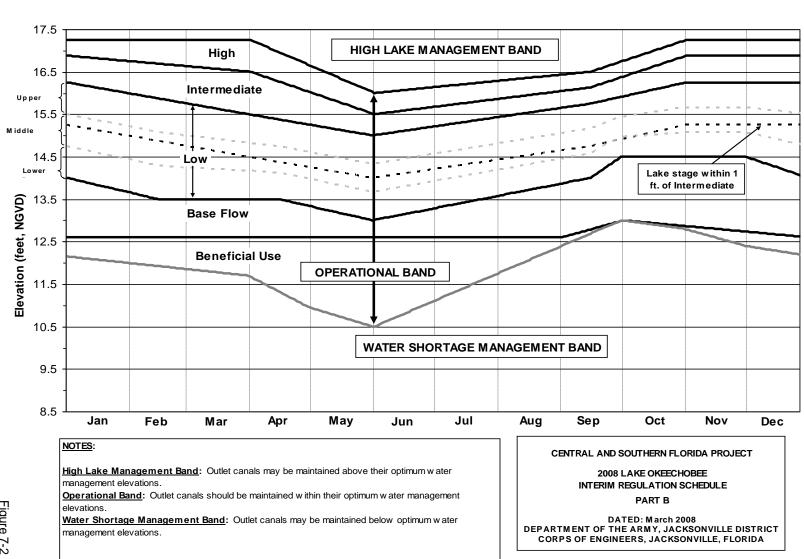
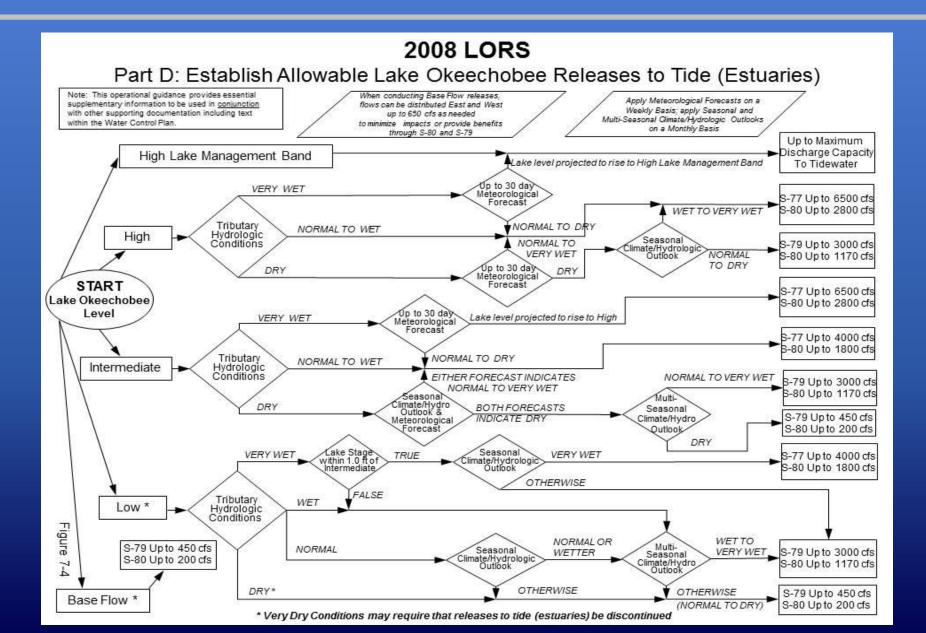


Figure 7-2

#### The 2008 schedule employs a similar Decision Tree logic as WSE



# **Temporary Forward Pumps**





- Lake Outlets designed for gravity flow into primary canals
- Most farm inflow is through simple culverts from primary canals
- At Lake stages below 10.0 gravity is not sufficient

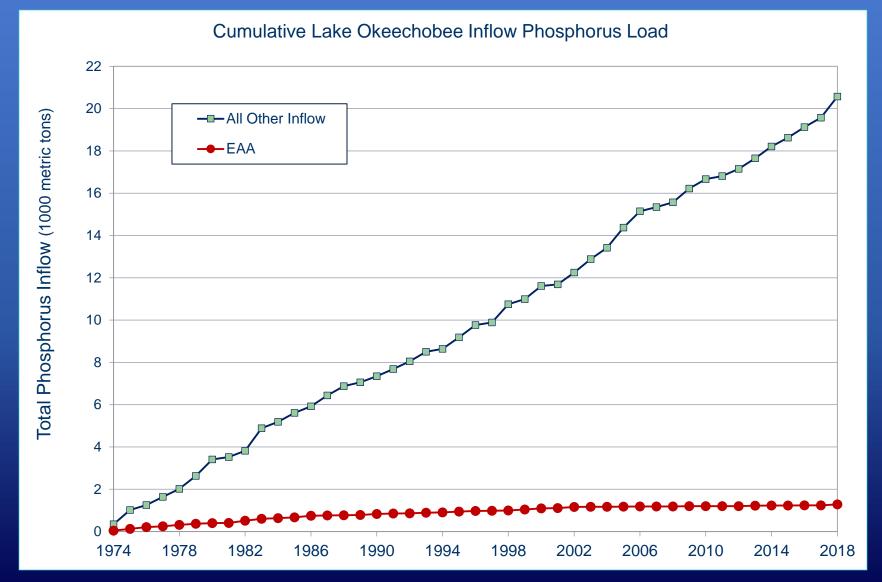


## The EAA is a Minor Factor in Phosphorus Inflow to Lake Okeechobee

Lake Okeechobee Inflow Phosphorus Load (May through April Water Year) 1,200 8% All Other Inflow **EAA** 4% 1,000 1% 2% 4% 1% 800 11% 8% 7% 2% **6%**<sup>5%</sup> 1% 600 3% 2% 6% 8% 1% 10% 26% 12% 400 0% 16% 0% 200 11% 0% 5% 3% 21 0 1974 1978 1982 1986 1990 1994 1998 2002 2006 2010 2014 2018

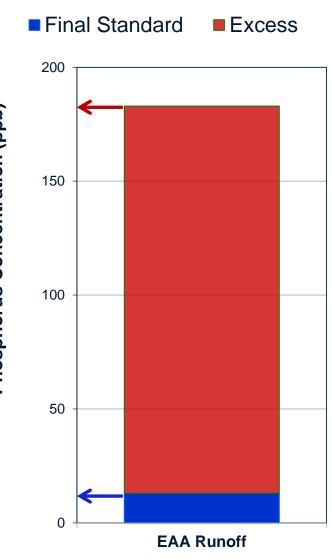
Total Phosphorus (metric tons)

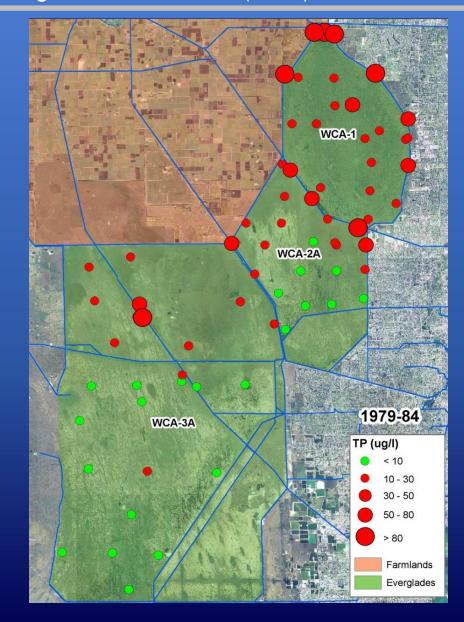
# The EAA has Contributed 6% of the Phosphorus Inflow to the Lake Since 1974



### The Phosphorus Standard Must Be Met (1988 Litigation)

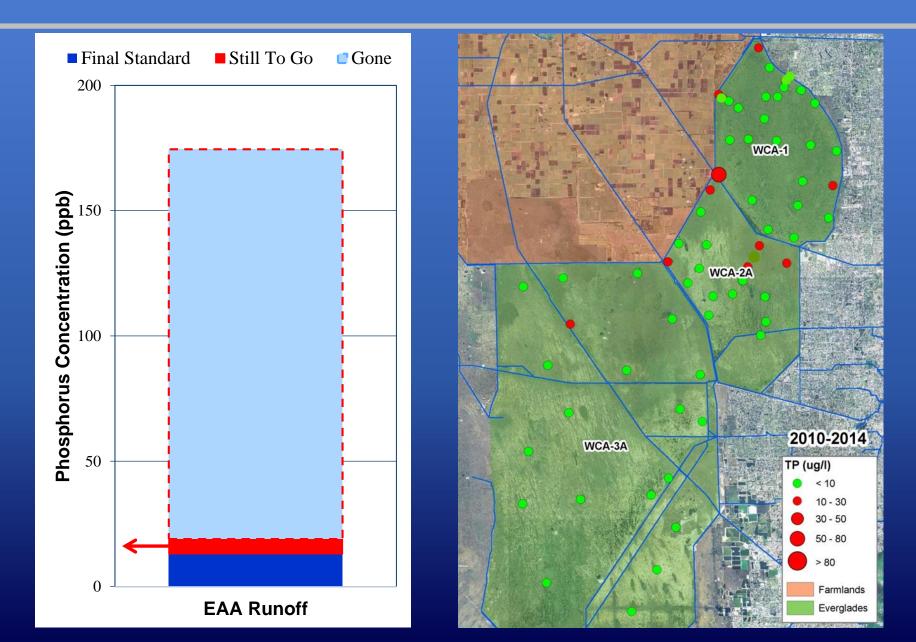
The situation before the Everglades Forever Act (1994)





Phosphorus Concentration (ppb)

## Where Are We Now?

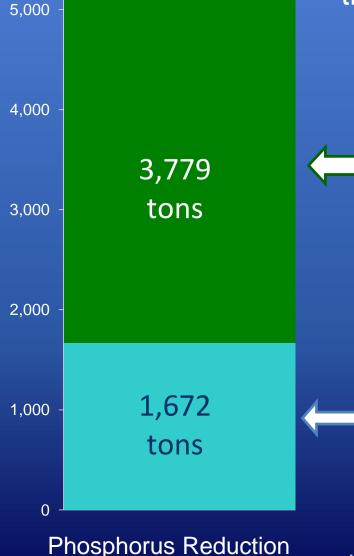


Phosphorus Prevented from Entering the Everglades Since the Everglades Forever Act in 1996

> Amount removed by Agricultural Best Management Program, Paid for and Implemented 100% by Farmers

Amount Removed to Achieve Restoration Water Quality Targets through Stormwater Treatment Areas, paid for jointly by Farmers and SFWMD

Note: All data from South Florida Water Management District



# The Farmer's Perspective





- We want a healthy Lake
- We want clean water for the Everglades... and we pay for it
- We hate it when Lake flood releases hurt the estuaries
- We are a significant part of the social and economic fabric of south Florida, and have been for generations
- We love what we do!!

Thank you