

SOUTHWEST FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

FDOT MITIGATION PLAN

December 15, 1998

INTRODUCTION

This mitigation plan has been developed by the Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD) to provide regional, long range mitigation planning for Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) projects in accordance with Section 373.4137, Florida Statutes.

The FDOT has provided an annual statewide inventory of projected road construction impacts since 1996. In July 1998 the FDOT identified projected impacts for road construction projects planned in Fiscal Years 1999/2000 through 2001/02 and information regarding modifications to previously identified projects. In addition, advance notice was provided for certain large projects scheduled beyond this planning horizon so that appropriate mitigation projects can be developed. For each road project, information was provided regarding the acreage and type of wetland impacts anticipated from road construction.

Based on the information provided by the FDOT, mitigation projects were included in this plan to offset those impacts anticipated within the SWFWMD geographic area. Proposed mitigation projects are intended to meet ERP and federal permitting criteria pertaining to mitigation.

Selection of mitigation projects was conducted in consultation with staff from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Florida Department of Transportation, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Marine Fisheries Commission, and the Florida Game and Freshwater Fish Commission. Other interested parties, including representatives of private mitigation banks, also provided input during the selection process. It should be noted that this plan does not represent approval from SWFWMD or any of the participating regulatory agencies for the wetland impacts identified in the inventory or any other impacts that may be related to the inventoried road projects. These agencies reserve their authority to fully evaluate permit applications for each of the road construction projects according to applicable rules at the time of application.

This mitigation plan is not specifically designed to offset impacts to any State or Federal listed species or any secondary impacts that may be incurred as a result of road construction. This does not mean, however, that the mitigation projects included herein could not be used for such purposes if subsequent analysis determined a mitigation project was suitable and sufficient mitigation was available to meet this need.

This plan attempts to provide enough flexibility to account for any subsequent revisions that may be necessary to address specific permitting needs of the FDOT. Annual updates will be made to add projects planned for each new year and to revise those projects already inventoried. Revisions may be required to address changes to construction start date, inventoried projects or wetland impact information. Revisions may also be necessary to provide any additional mitigation required by federal regulatory agencies.

WETLAND IMPACTS

Since the inception of the FDOT mitigation program in 1996, FDOT Districts 1 (Bartow), 7 (Tampa), and 5 (Deland) have identified forty-eight road construction projects with wetland impacts in the SWFWMD through 2006. Distributed over ten drainage basins, the total wetland impact acreage projected by FDOT during this period is approximately 252.7 acres. Figure 1 locates and summarizes these projected impacts. Detailed impact information is provided in Table 1. Impact information is also provided below in a basin-by-basin summary of impacts and mitigation.

MITIGATION PROJECTS

The District mitigation plan incorporates mitigation projects developed by District staff, projects proposed by external parties such as the Department of Environmental Protection and The Nature Conservancy, and mitigation credits purchased from private mitigation banks. Figure 2 locates and summarizes the selected mitigation projects. A basin-by-basin summary of impacts and mitigation projects is provided below. Mitigation details are provided in Appendix 1.

MODIFICATIONS TO PREVIOUS MITIGATION PLANS

This plan also includes modifications to previous mitigation plans. Modifications proposed in this plan are required to replace previously identified mitigation projects with more suitable or cost-effective projects, adjust projected impact acres to account for road design revisions by FDOT, and to reconcile projected impact acres with permitted impact acres following issuance of ERP permits for road construction.

Road projects and mitigation projects representing plan modifications are so noted where they occur in the plan. Table 2 summarizes proposed modifications.

FUNDING REQUESTED FOR NEW PROJECTS

In addition to the modifications referenced above, this plan includes proposed mitigation for new road projects. In cases where sufficient mitigation opportunity was available, existing mitigation projects were selected to accommodate additional road impacts. In other cases, new mitigation projects are proposed. Table 3 summarizes all requested new funding, including new projects and modifications to previously funded projects. No funding was requested for projects identified beyond the year 2000. These projects were deferred from this plan, but will be included in future updates of the mitigation plan.

REPAYMENT OF ADVANCE FUNDING

Pursuant to Section 373.4137, F.S., the FDOT provided \$12 million in advance mitigation funding. These funds were distributed statewide to various projects listed in each of the Water Management Districts' Surface Water Improvement and Management (SWIM) plans and to specific aquatic and exotic plant control projects. To the extent these projects offset the wetland impacts identified in the inventory, the FDOT can receive mitigation credit for them, thus offsetting a portion of the advance funding. Of the \$12 million distributed statewide, the SWFWMD received \$1.9 million for SWIM projects. It is expected that savings from cost-effective mitigation projects (i.e. projects costing less than the funding available based on impact acreage) will also be credited toward the advance funding. Upon approval of this mitigation plan, the SWFWMD will be able to contribute approximately \$4.4 million to offset the statewide \$12 million advance.

Hillsborough River Basin

Project: Bruce B. Downs Bike Path
WPI# 7123606 / 7123664
Date: March 1999
Impacts: 0.3 acres
Mitigation: Upper Hillsborough Tri-Ditch Restoration Project
Status: new project

Project: SR 600 – Macintosh Rd. to Forbes Rd.
WPI# 7113951
Date: August 2006
Impacts: 12.4 acres
Mitigation: Upper Hillsborough Tri-Ditch Restoration Project
Status: new project

Project: SR 600 – Kingsway to Macintosh
WPI# 7113950
Date: September 2006
Impacts: 4.8 acres
Mitigation: Upper Hillsborough Tri-Ditch Restoration Project
Status: new project

Project: SR 54 – CR 581 to Morris Bridge Rd.
WPI# 7116024
Date: October 1997
Impacts: 0.9 acres
Mitigation: Upper Hillsborough - US 301 Restoration Project
Status: modification of 1996 plan

Project: Interstate 4 – County Line to Memorial Blvd.
WPI# 1147946
Date: October 1997
Impacts: 15.9 acres
Mitigation: Upper Hillsborough - US 301 Restoration Project
Status: modification of 1996 plan

Hillsborough River Basin (cont'd)

Project: SR 50 – Rital Croom to SR 700
WPI# 7112126
Date: November 1997
Impacts: .38 acres
Mitigation: Upper Hillsborough Tri-Ditch Restoration Project
Status: no change from 1997 plan

Project: SR 54 - US 41 to Cypress Creek
WPI# 7115981
Date: August 1998
Impacts: 15.7 acres
Mitigation: Lake Thonotosassa Restoration Project
Status: no change from 1997 plan

Project: US 41 - Bell Lake to Tower Rd.
WPI# 7115951
Date: April 2000
Impacts: 1.80 acres
Mitigation: Lake Thonotosassa Restoration Project
Status: no change from 1997 plan

Project: Interstate 275 - Fletcher Ave. to US 41 Overpass
WPI# 7143142
Date: November 1999
Impacts 1.0 acres
Mitigation: Lake Thonotosassa Restoration Project
Status: no change from 1997 plan

Kissimmee Ridge Basin

Project: US 27 - Lake Glenada to Hal McRae Rd.
WPI# 1112576
Date: March 2001
Impacts: 0.57 acres
Mitigation: TNC Tiger Creek Restoration Project (0.17 acres)
Reedy Creek Mitigation Bank (0.4 acres)
Status: new project

Lower Coastal Basin

Project:US 41(Bus) - Venice Ave. to Bypass

WPI# 1119295

Date: March 2000

Impacts: 0.47 acres

Mitigation: Quick Point Nature Preserve

Status: no change from 1997 plan

Project:US 41(Bus)- Shamrock to Venice Ave

WPI# 1119317

Date: July 1999

Impacts: 0.07 acres

Mitigation: Quick Point Nature Preserve

Status: no change from 1997 plan

Project:SR 789 - Ringling Causeway Bridge

WPI# 1119232

Date: December 1998

Impacts: 0.68 acres

Mitigation: Quick Point Nature Preserve (previously identified as Joan M. Durante Park)

Status: modification of 1997 plan

Project:SR 64 Bridge - Perico & Palma Sola Bays

WPI# 1115456

Date: April 1999

Impacts: 0.23 acres (reported as 2.90 acres in 1997 plan)

Mitigation: Quick Point Nature Preserve

Status: modification of 1997 plan (- 2.67 acres impacts)

Project:SR 64 – SR 789 to east of Anna Maria Island Bridge

WPI# 1115357

Date: April 1998

Impacts: none, project dropped (reported as 3.16 acres in 1997 plan)

Mitigation: none (previously identified as Joan M. Durante Park)

Status: modification of 1997 plan (- 3.16 acres)

Manatee River Basin

Project: US 301 (Ellenton) – 60th Ave. to Erie Rd.
WPI# 1115399
Date: February 1999
Impacts: 0.87 acres
Mitigation: Terra Ceia SWIM project
Status: new project

Myakka River Basin

Project: SR 72 – Deer Prairie to Big Slough
WPI# 1119303
Date: September 1998
Impacts: 0.87 acres
Mitigation: Myakka State Park Restoration Project
Status: new project

Project: SR 72 – Big Slough to Desoto County line
WPI# 1119215
Date: January 1999
Impacts: 1.49 acres
Mitigation: Myakka State Park Restoration Project
Status: new project

Project: SR 776 – E. of Sunnybrooke to W. of CR 771
WPI# 1110167
Date: February 2000
Impacts: 0.15 acres
Mitigation: Myakka State Park Restoration Project
Status: new project

Project: SR 776 – CR 771 to Willow Bend Rd.
WPI# 1110148
Date: November 1998
Impacts: 11.0 acres, permitted (3.03 acres reported in 1997 plan)
Mitigation: Cattle Dock Point (8.93 ac.),
Little Pine Island Mitigation Bank (2.08 ac.)
Status: modification of 1997 plan (+7.97 acres impacts)

Ocklawaha River Basin

Project: SR 40 – CR 225a to SW 52nd Ave
WPI# 5113632
Date: June 2000
Impacts: 0.11 acres
Mitigation: not yet identified
Status: deferred – not included in this plan

Project: SR 500 – CR 464 to CR 225a
WPI# 5113549
Date: September 1999
Impacts: 1.09 acres
Mitigation: Lake Apopka Marsh Flow-Way Project
Status: new project; mitigation funding requested by the St. John's River Water Management District

Project: SR 500 - Levy Co. line to CR 326
WPI# 5113511
Date: August 2000
Impacts: 7.01 acres (previously reported as 1.72 acres in 1997 plan)
Mitigation: not yet identified
Status: deferred – not included in this plan

Peace River Basin

Project: US 17 (SR 35) – CR 764 South to CR 764 North
WPI# 1110152
Date: February 2002
Impacts: 3.47 acres
Mitigation: not yet identified
Status: deferred – not included in this plan

Project: Trabue Harborwalk Bike Path
WPI# 1120075
Date: February 1999
Impacts: 0.31 acres
Mitigation: Little Pine Island Mitigation Bank
Status: new project

Project: Ft. Green/Ona Rd. – SR 62 to N. of Vandolah Rd.
WPI# 1121259
Date: July 1998
Impacts: 2.08 acres (previously reported as 2.16 acres)
Mitigation: Boran Ranch Mitigation Bank (previously reported as Saddle Creek Restoration Project)
Status: modify 1997 plan (-0.08 acres, change mitigation project)

Project: CR 633 (Ft. Green/Ona Rd.) – Vandolah Rd. to N. of Vandolah Rd. (Segment 2)
WPI# 1121257
Date: July 1999
Impacts: 14.84 acres
Mitigation: Boran Ranch Mitigation Bank
Status: new project

Project: CR 633 (Ft. Green/Ona Rd.) – Vandolah Rd. to N. of Vandolah Rd. (Segment 3)
WPI# 1121256
Date: September 1997
Impacts: 5.90 acres
Mitigation: Boran Ranch Mitigation Bank
Status: new project

Peace River Basin (cont'd)

Project: Interstate 4 – W. of Memorial Blvd. To W. of US 98
WPI# 1147955
Date: February 2003
Impacts: 2.08 acres
Mitigation: not yet identified
Status: deferred – not included in this plan

Project: US 98 - Keller Rd. to east of Lk. Buffum Rd.
WPI# 1118352
Date: December 1999
Impacts: 2.72 acres (reported as 0.57 acres in 1997 plan)
Mitigation: Tenoroc/Saddle Creek Restoration Project
Status: modification of 1997 plan (+2.15 acres impacts)

Project: SR72 - Sarasota County Line to SR 70
WPI# 1110453
Date: March 1998
Impacts: 1.19 acres, permitted (2.20 acres reported in 1997 plan)
Mitigation: Tenoroc/Saddle Creek Restoration Project
Status: modification of 1997 plan (- 1.01 acres impacts)

Project: SR 66 Bridges at Mineral Branch and Charlie Creek
WPI# 1111272
Date: November 1998
Impacts: none, permitted (1.0 acres reported in 1997 plan)
Mitigation: none (previously Tenoroc/Saddle Creek Restoration Project)
Status: modification of 1997 plan (- 1.0 acres impacts)

Peace River Basin (cont'd)

Project: SR 540 - Thornhill Rd. to Recker Hwy.
WPI# 1118367
Date: July 1998
Impacts: 5.87 acres, permitted (5.94 acres reported in plan)
Mitigation: Tenoroc/Saddle Creek Restoration Project
Status: modification of 1997 plan (- 0.07 acres impacts)

Project: SR 540(Cypress Gardens) - 9th St. to Overlook
WPI# 1118363
Date: November 1998
Impacts: 0.41 acres, permitted (1.74 acres reported in 1997 plan)
Mitigation: Tenoroc/Saddle Creek Restoration Project
Status: modification of 1997 plan (- 1.33 acres)

Project: US 92 Bridge at Saddle Creek
WPI# 1118320
Date: November 1999
Impacts: none, project dropped (1.0 acres reported in 1997 plan)
Mitigation: Tenoroc/Saddle Creek Restoration Project
Status: modification of 1997 plan (- 1.0 acres impacts)

Project: US 17 – SR 64 to north of Peace River Bridge
WPI# 1111213
Date: July 1998
Impacts: 5.9 acres
Mitigation: Tenoroc/Saddle Creek Restoration Project
Status: no change from 1997 plan

Project: SR 72 - County line to Peace River Relief Canal
WPI# 1110457
Date: December 1999
Impacts: 1.0 acres
Mitigation: Tenoroc/Saddle Creek Restoration Project
Status: no change from 1997 plan

Tampa Bay Basin

Project: SR 679 (Bayway) – Bunces Pass Bridge #150
WPI# 7116992
Date: August 1999
Impacts: 0.52 acres
Mitigation: Gateway Restoration Project
Status: new project

Project: SR 676 - Maritime Blvd. To SR 60
WPI# 7113975
Date: April 1999
Impacts: 1.3 acres
Mitigation: Gateway Restoration Project (0.9 ac.), Cockroach Bay Restoration Project (0.4 ac.)
Status: modification of 1997 plan to add Cockroach Bay Restoration Project

Project: SR 55 - Drew St. to Railroad
WPI# 717045
Date: November 1998
Impacts: 0.50 acres
Mitigation: Cockroach Bay Restoration Project (1997 plan identified Gateway Restoration Project)
Status: modification of 1997 plan to replace mitigation project

Project: Interstate 275 - Roosevelt to Big Island Gap
WPI# 7147874
Date: December 1999
Impacts: 12.00 acres
Mitigation: Gateway Restoration Project (4.1 ac.), Cockroach Bay Restoration Project (7.9 ac.)
Status: modification of 1997 plan to add Cockroach Bay Restoration Project

Upper Coastal Basin

Project: SR 54 – E. of North Suncoast Pkwy. to W. of US 41
WPI# 7115977
Date: July 1999
Impacts: 6.90 acres
Mitigation: Anclote parcel
Status: new project

Project: SR 54 – E. of Gunn Hwy. to W. of North Suncoast Pkwy.
WPI# 7115975
Date: August 2002
Impacts: 9.60 acres
Mitigation: none identified yet
Status: deferred – not included in this plan

Project: SR 54 - Mitchell to Gunn Hwy.
WPI# 7115974
Date: December 1999
Impacts: 10.29 acres
Mitigation: Anclote Parcel
Status: new project

Withlacoochee River Basin

Project: SR 44 – CR 470 to County Line
WPI# 7119003
Date: September 2001
Impacts: 12.10
Mitigation: unidentified
Status: deferred – not included in this plan

Project: Interstate 4 – E. of US 98 to E. of SR 33
WPI# 1147947
Date: November 2002
Impacts: 27.7 acres
Mitigation: unidentified
Status: deferred – not included in this plan

Project: Interstate 4 – E. of SR 33 to E. of SR 35
WPI# 1147952
Date: December 2003
Impacts: 11.26 acres
Mitigation: unidentified
Status: deferred – not included in this plan

Project: Interstate 4 – E. of CR 557 to W. of US 27
WPI# 1147954
Date: September 2002
Impacts: 35.97 acres
Mitigation: unidentified
Status: deferred – not included in this plan

Appendix 1.
Mitigation Project Details