



## **Caloosahatchee River and Estuary and Everglades West Coast Basin Management Action Plans (BMAPs) Update Technical Meeting**

**Nov. 20, 2024 at 9 a.m. EST  
South Florida Water Management District – Ft. Myers Office  
1st Floor Large Conference Room  
2301 McGregor Blvd.  
Ft. Myers, FL 33901**

### **Agenda**

- Florida Department of Environmental Protection BMAP Presentation
- South Florida Water Management District Presentation
- Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services Presentation
- Poster Session/Open Discussion
- Conclusion

# CALOOSAHATCHEE RIVER AND ESTUARY AND EVERGLADES WEST COAST BASIN MANAGEMENT ACTION PLANS (BMAPS) UPDATE TECHNICAL MEETING



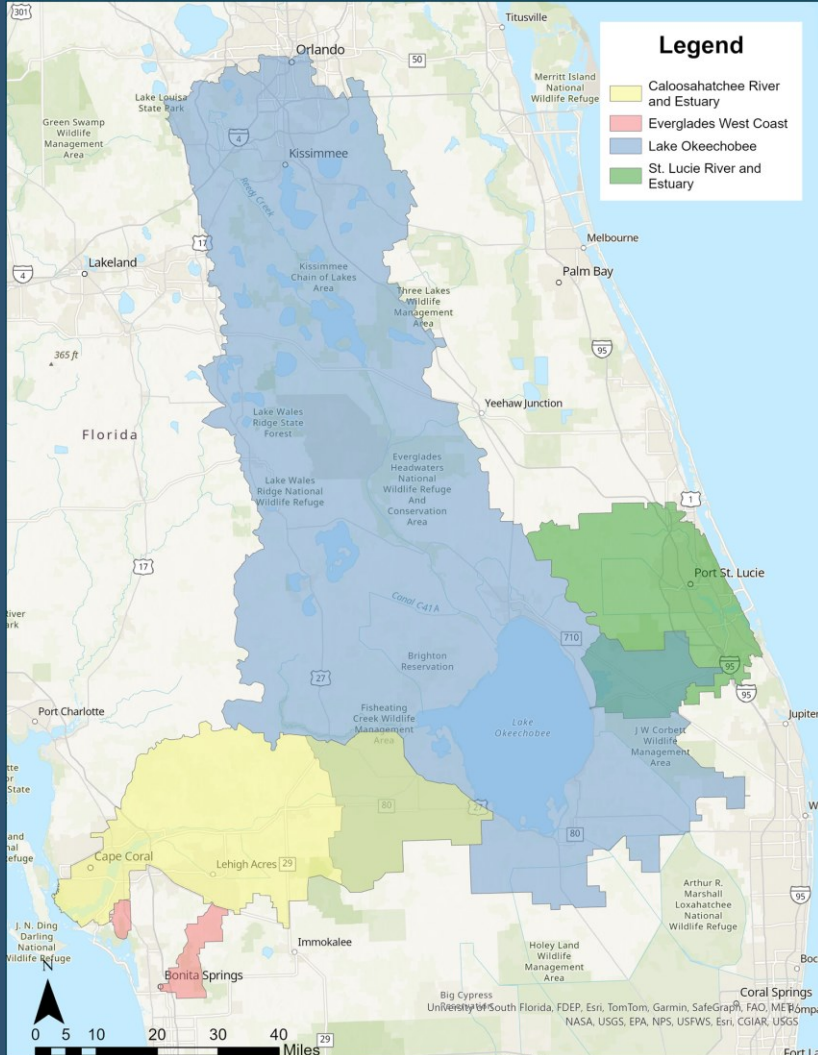
**Evelyn Becerra**

Division of Environmental Assessment and Restoration  
Florida Department of Environmental Protection

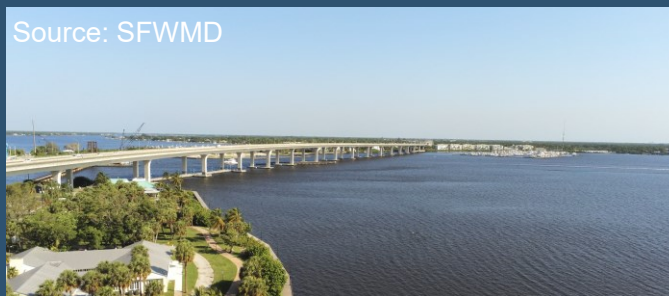
Ft. Myers, FL | Nov. 20, 2024



# BMAP UPDATE MEETING



Source: SFWMD



Source: SFWMD



Source: SFWMD

## Agenda:

- Logistics.
- Basin Management Action Plan (BMAP) Update Highlights.
- South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) Watershed Protection Plans Highlights.
- Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (DACS) Update.
- Poster Session.



# BMAP UPDATE COMPONENTS

- Recent legislative requirements:
  - Clean Waterways Act (2020).
  - Wastewater effluent limits changes.
  - Onsite Sewage and Treatment Disposal System (OSTDS) requirements for new systems on lots 1 acre or less.
- List of identified projects to meet five-year milestones.
- Regional projects.
- Hot spot analysis.
- Additional water quality analyses.
- Additional updates needed to the monitoring network.
- Recommendations from the Five-Year Review.





# UPCOMING SCHEDULE

Aug. 1, Final wastewater treatment plans and OSTDS remediation plans due.

Nov. 18, Second Annual NEEPP Public Workshop.

Nov. 19 - 21, Technical BMAP update public meetings.

Jan. 2025, Draft BMAP update public meetings.

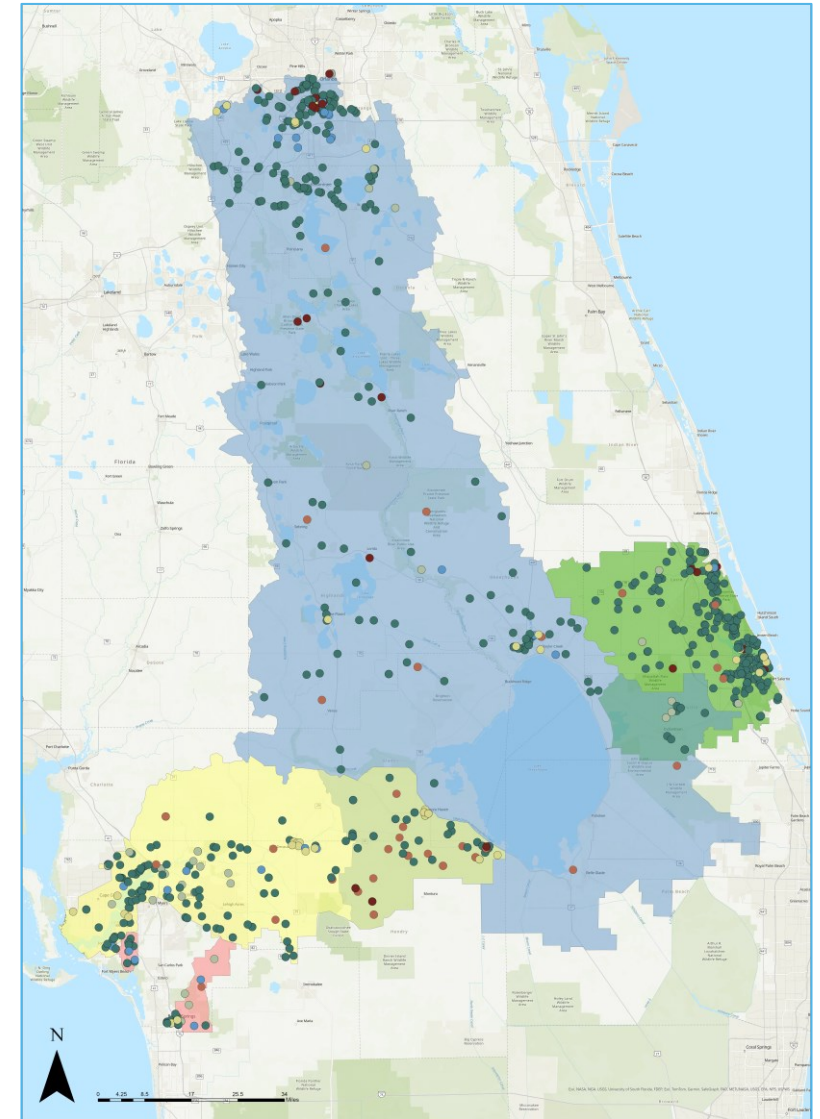
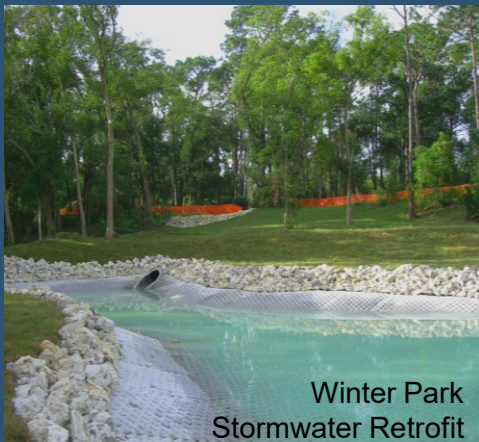
Jan./Feb. 2025, Draft BMAP update comment period.

July 1, 2025, Statutory deadline for updated nutrient BMAPs.



# PROJECT PORTAL IS OPEN

- Portal will remain open through mid-January 2025 for annual reporting.
- Updates to existing projects and any newly input planned projects needed to reach next milestone have been submitted and are being compiled.



# THANK YOU



**Evelyn Becerra**  
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Basin Coordinator

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Basin Coordinator

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# SFWMD Update

## 2025 Caloosahatchee River Watershed Protection Plan (WPP) Update

**Megan Jacoby, Bureau Chief**

Everglades & Estuaries Protection Bureau

Caloosahatchee River and Estuary BMAP Meeting – Fort Myers

November 20, 2024



# 2025 Caloosahatchee River Watershed Protection Plan Update – *5-Year Update*

- Since 2020, SFWMD completed annual Caloosahatchee River Watershed Construction Project (CRWCP) reviews, as part of the Watershed Protection Plan (WPP) reviews
- Annual reviews are important to:
  - Maintain transparency and accountability in BMAP process
  - Assist to progressively move toward achieving state's TMDLs
  - Consolidate into NEEPP annual progress reporting (South Florida Environmental Report, or SFER) per §373.4595(6), F.S.
  - ***Develop and update WPPs required every five years***
- Draft 2025 CRWPP Update (5-Year Update)
  - Project accomplishments through Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 (Oct. 1, 2023–Sept. 30, 2024); data evaluation/key findings through Water Year (WY) 2024 (May 1, 2023–April 30, 2024)
  - Draft 2025 SFER – Volume I, Chapter 8D (available at [SFWMD.gov/SFER](https://www.sfwmd.gov/SFER))

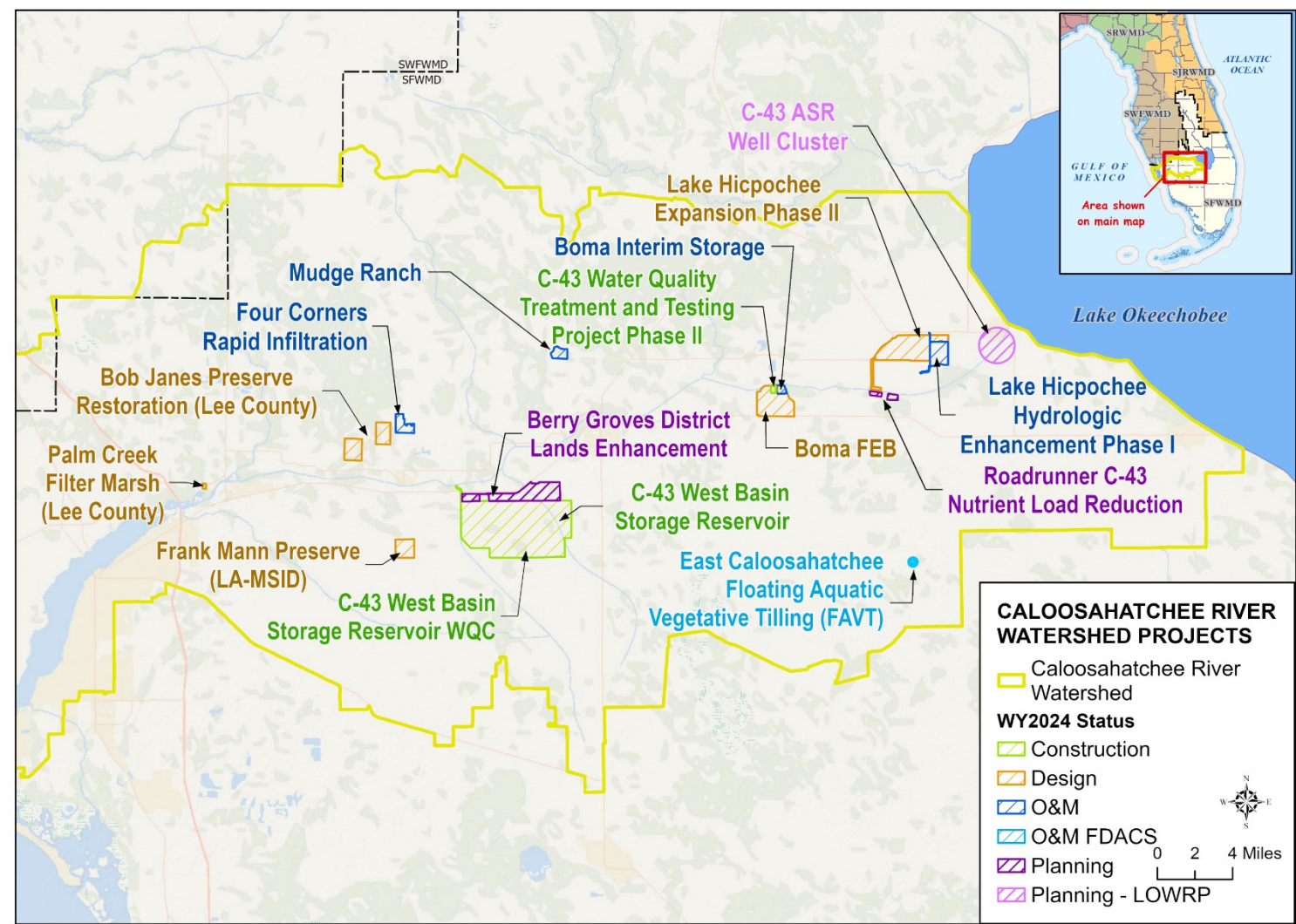
# SFWMD Projects

## ➤ 2024 CRWCP Status:

- 4 projects – planning/design
- 3 projects – construction
- 4 projects – operations



Inflow pumps at Four Corners Rapid Infiltration Project

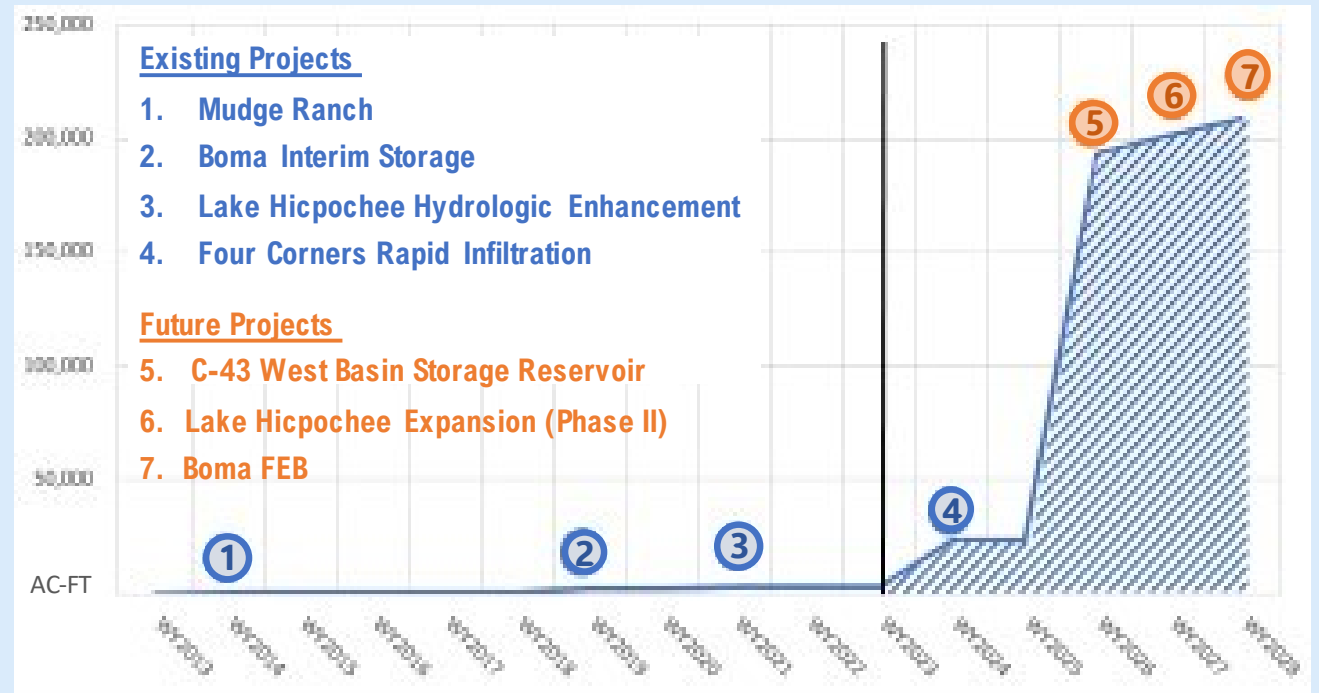


# Water Storage Benefits

- Key DWM program benefits:
  - Reduces runoff/discharge to and stores/treats water in regional system
  - Promotes hydrologic enhancement, groundwater recharge, improves habitat
  - Avoids high cost of land purchase and keeps private lands on local tax rolls
  - Storage and/or treatment provided typically exceeds permit requirements
- During WY2024, 3 SFWMD-led operational projects provided 25,274 ac-ft of storage\*
- Future projects are planned to add storage capacity of nearly 184,000 ac-ft over the next five years

\* Note: WY2024 data does not include the Hicpochee Hydrologic Enhancement (Phase I) Project

## Increasing Water Storage in the Caloosahatchee River Watershed



# NEEPP Model Update

- Original 2008/2009 storage targets for Northern Everglades watersheds have been confirmed to meet the NEEPP legislative goals
  - CRW storage target = 400,000 acre-feet per year
- **New! 2025 NEEPP Regional Simulation Model Update**
  - Evaluated hydrology using the Regional Simulation Model for Basins (RSMBN)
  - Current, future, and additional conceptual projects were evaluated for hydrologic performance across all three Northern Everglades watersheds
  - SFWMD is making progress toward the NEEPP storage goals—both realized and planned
- **Now Underway: 2025 Update Reviews**
  - Model overview poster today
  - Draft modeling results presented at upcoming NEEPP Public Workshop
  - Draft 2025 SFER – Volume I, Appendix 8A-1 for public review ([SFWMD.gov/SFER](https://www.sfwmd.gov/SFER))

# Mark Your Calendars!



Caloosahatchee Estuary  
Oyster Reef

**AVAILABLE NOW**

## 2025 CRWPP Update

Draft 2025 SFER – Volume I, Chapter 8D

Web Release Date: November 12, 2024

Public Comment Period: through December 17, 2024

**For more information, visit:**

**[SFWMD.gov/SFER](https://www.sfwmd.gov/SFER)**



# Contact Information

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[sfwmd.gov](http://sfwmd.gov)

# *Caloosahatchee BMAP & Everglades West Coast BMAP Public Meeting*

**November 20, 2024**

**Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services**

**Office of Agricultural Water Policy**

**Jennifer Thera**



# Office of Agricultural Water Policy (OAWP)

- **West Gregory**; Director [West.Gregory@FDACS.gov](mailto:West.Gregory@FDACS.gov)
- **J.P. Fraites**; Asst. Director [John.Fraites@FDACS.gov](mailto:John.Fraites@FDACS.gov)
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# OAWP Staff

- **Maddy Hart**; Environmental Administrator - [Madeline.Hart@fdacs.gov](mailto:Madeline.Hart@fdacs.gov)
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- **Jessica Ferris**; Regional Project Coordinator [Jessica.Ferris@fdacs.gov](mailto:Jessica.Ferris@fdacs.gov)



# Best Management Practices (BMP) Manual Updates

<https://www.fdacs.gov/Divisions-Offices/Agricultural-Water-Policy/Rule-Development-Activities>

Home / Divisions & Offices / Agricultural Water Policy / Rule Development Activities

## Office of Agricultural Water Policy's Rule Development Activities

Learn about recent rule development activities for Chapter 5M, Florida Administrative Code.

<a href="#">5M-1 Rulemaking</a> Division of Agricultural Water Policy	<a href="#">5M-6 Rulemaking</a> Best Management Practices for Florida Nursery Operations	<a href="#">5M-8 Rulemaking</a> Best Management Practices for Florida Vegetable and Agronomic Crop Operations	<a href="#">5M-9 Rulemaking</a> Best Management Practices for Florida Sod
<a href="#">5M-11 Rulemaking</a> Best Management Practices for Florida Cattle Operations	<a href="#">5M-13 Rulemaking</a> Best Management Practices for Florida Specialty Fruit & Nut	<a href="#">5M-14 Rulemaking</a> Best Management Practices for Florida Equine Operations	<a href="#">5M-16 Rulemaking</a> Best Management Practices for Florida Citrus
<a href="#">5M-17 Rulemaking</a> Best Management Practices for Florida Dairy Operations	<a href="#">5M-19 Rulemaking</a> Best Management Practices for Florida Poultry	<a href="#">5M-20 Rulemaking</a> Soil and Water Conservation	<a href="#">5M-21 Rulemaking</a> Best Management Practices for Florida Small Farms and Specialty Livestock Operations



# Cost Share

## BMP Cost Share Program



The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services' (FDACS) Office of Agricultural Water Policy (OAWP) administers the Best Management Practices (BMP) Cost Share Program to assist eligible producers or landowners with BMPs. Project funding is on a continuous basis until program funds are fully encumbered.

OAWP will prioritize awarding first-time participants in the BMP Cost Share Program and projects that will result in the highest level of nutrient reductions to help achieve basin management action plan (BMAP) goals and conservation of water use. Funding will be based on the submittal of the necessary information on the funding request. Completed requests will be reviewed in the order in which they are received. Review of each cost share funding request will be conducted by FDACS. Additional information from the producer, including a site visit, may be requested by FDACS before a funding decision is made.

FDACS will review completed requests based on the following minimum criteria:

1. Confirmation of producer eligibility.
2. Prioritization of projects taking place in a BMAP.
3. Confirmation that the project type is on the [approved list](#), to be used for implementing a checklist item, has an adequate relative water quality benefit, and is appropriate for the size of the operation.
4. Justification and consideration of the water quality benefit or water quantity benefit and the relative size and scope of the benefit.
5. Confirmation that the project type is directly linked to the implementation of the producer's manual checklist item.
6. Confirmation that the project type has the necessary precision/technology features.
7. The level of data-reporting commitment from the producer and corresponding cost share percentage.

## Producer Eligibility Requirements

When applying, producers must meet the following requirements for their funding request to be considered:

1. The property where the prospective project is located must be in production for at least one year prior to applying (regardless of ownership/lease).
2. The producer must have an active Notice of Intent to Implement Agricultural BMPs (NOI) for the property where the

## Project Types Eligible for Cost Share Funding

Project types eligible for cost share funding are provided in the expandable lists below. FDACS will determine the suitability of the project type based on the cost/benefit of the project and the estimated water quality or water quantity benefit compared to the current practice.

- ▶ [Nutrient Management Project Types](#)
- ▶ [Irrigation Management Project Types](#)
- ▶ [Water Resource Protection Project Types](#)

## New Project Types

Producers may request an item or project that is not currently on the list by submitting a request that:

1. Identifies the applicable BMP checklist item that will be implemented through the installation of the item or completion of the project.
2. Describes why the new project type is necessary to implement the BMP compared to the producer's current practices.
3. Quantifies the estimated water quality benefit compared to the current practice.
4. Provides justification or proof of the item having a water quality or water quantity benefit (e.g., case studies, research, demonstrations or field tests).

Project types that show potential but do not satisfy the four criteria above may be eligible for funding as "research or demonstration projects" for the purpose of becoming eligible in the future.

## How to Request Project Funding or a New Project Type

To request project funding or a new project type, select the following button to create an account and sign into our BMP Cost Share Program portal:

[Request Project Funding](#)

Alternatively, you may download and complete the [Funding Request Form](#) (1.3 MB) and submit it to [OAWPCostShare@FDACS.gov](mailto:OAWPCostShare@FDACS.gov). **Please note:** Submitting a form may take more time to process and review.

**Important: Do not begin work on a project prior to executing a cost share agreement.**

## Additional Funding Resources

FDACS works with multiple partners, including the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, water management districts, and soil and water conservation districts, to provide funding to assist producers in implementing Best Management Practices.

<https://www.fdacs.gov/Agriculture-Industry/Water/Agricultural-Best-Management-Practices/BMP-Cost-Share-Program>

## On Website

- Producer Eligibility Requirements
- List of Project Types Eligible for Cost Share Funding
- Opportunity to apply for new types
- New Application Portal is active



# Agricultural Lands in the Caloosahatchee BMAP

Location	Agricultural acres	Unenrolled - Unlikely Enrollable Acres	Agricultural Acres – Adjusted	Agricultural Acres Enrolled as of April 30, 2024	% Agriculture enrolled in BMP Program
C19	24,540	637	24,374	24,116	99%
East Caloosahatchee	194,582	10,606	192,099	175,636	91%
Lake Hicpochee	5,189	1,656	4,953	4,675	94%
Long Hammock	68,802	6,395	65,867	56,045	85%
S4	29,284	1,211	30,040	27,547	92%
Tidal Caloosahatchee	57,182	5,974	50,650	46,126	91%
Townsend	28,868	265	28,003	26,828	96%
West Caloosahatchee	180,758	8,670	167,128	153,026	92%

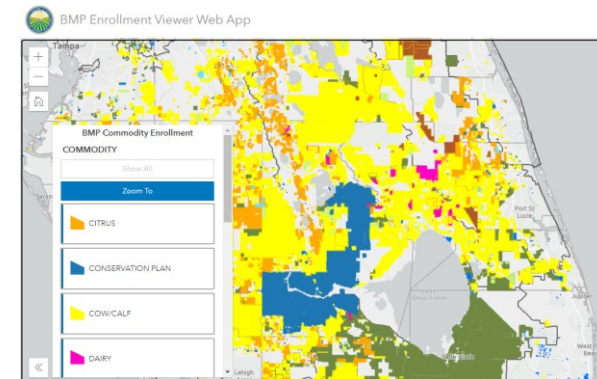


# Agricultural Lands in the Everglades West Coast BMAP

Location	Agricultural acres	Unenrolled - Unlikely Enrollable Acres	Agricultural Acres – Adjusted	Agricultural Acres Enrolled as of April 30, 2024	% Agriculture enrolled in BMP Program
Hendry Creek	103	0	102	0	0%
Imperial River	9,091	2,316	6,607	4,977	75%

BMP Enrollment Viewer Web App:

[Office of Agricultural Water Policy: BMP Enrollment Map \(fdacs.gov\)](https://fdacs.gov)



## Poster #1 & 2 - BMAP Metrics

### Agricultural Progress in the Caloosahatchee BMAP

**Agricultural Requirements in Adopted BMAPs**

- Enroll in and implement the applicable Best Management Practices (BMPs) identified for an operation
- OR
- Perform water quality monitoring at the producer's own expense
- FDACS must perform an Implementation Verification (IV) site visit at least every 2 years
- IV site visit includes review and collection of certain records

**Enrolled Agriculture and Cost Share**

**Ag BMP Program Metrics**

Enrollment Metrics		
Ag Acres	Enrolled Ag Acres	Unlikely Enrollable Ag Acres*
589,204	515,438	31,385

**Cost Share Project Counts by Type**

Nutrient Management	Irrigation Management	Water Resource Protection
79	121	172

**Estimated TN Loading from Ag Lands**

**Progress Toward Milestones**

Reductions Achieved - Tidal (lbs-N/yr)		
Enrollment	FDACS Cost Share	Other Projects
54,817	17,746	TBD

Reductions Achieved - East & West (lbs-N/yr)		
Enrollment	FDACS Cost Share	Other Projects
424,803	277,459	TBD

Milestone Progress - Tidal			Milestone Progress - East & West		
2027 Milestone	Reductions Achieved (lbs-N/yr)	Progress Toward Milestone	2030 Milestone	Reductions Achieved (lbs-N/yr)	Progress Toward Milestone
198,236	72,563	37%	475,441	707,262	148%

Milestone Progress - Tributaries		
2030 Milestone	Reductions Achieved (lbs-P/yr)	Progress Toward Milestone
7,984	13,019	163%

**FDACS BMAP Contacts**

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**Matt Warren** - Environmental Administrator Field Services  
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### Agricultural Progress in the Everglades West Coast BMAP

**Agricultural Requirements in Adopted BMAPs**

- Enroll in and implement the applicable Best Management Practices (BMPs) identified for an operation
- OR
- Perform water quality monitoring at the producer's own expense
- FDACS must perform an Implementation Verification (IV) site visit at least every 2 years
- IV site visit includes review and collection of certain records

**Enrolled Agriculture and Cost Share**

**Estimated TN Loading from Ag Lands**

**Progress Toward Milestones**

Reductions Achieved (lbs-N/yr)		
Enrollment	FDACS Cost Share	Land Use Change
8,219	163	26,537

**Ag BMP Program Metrics**

Enrollment Metrics		
Ag Acres	Enrolled Ag Acres	Unlikely Enrollable Ag Acres*
8,919	4,977	2,885

**FDACS BMAP Contacts**

**Jennifer Thera** - Environmental Consultant BMAP / Water Supply  
[Jennifer.Thera@fdacs.gov](mailto:Jennifer.Thera@fdacs.gov)

**Matt Warren** - Environmental Administrator Field Services  
[Matt.Warren@fdacs.gov](mailto:Matt.Warren@fdacs.gov)

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### Agricultural Cooperative Regional Water Quality Elements (ACE)

**What is an ACE?**

- New BMAP requirement (2023)
- Section 403.067(7)(e), F.S.
- Requires FDEP & FDACS to work cooperatively with agricultural producers to develop regional projects in certain BMAPs
- Next Steps:
  - Host basin-specific meetings with agricultural producers
  - Solicit potential project ideas

**Proposed ACE Process**

```

    graph TD
      A[ACE Need Identified in BMAP] --> B[Assessment of Agriculture within BMAP]
      B --> C[Meet with Stakeholders (producers, industry)]
      C --> D[Identify Applicable Project Criteria e.g., springs vs. surface waters]
      D --> E[Cooperative Review of Submitted Projects and Estimated Impacts]
      E --> F[Project Modifications or Solicit Additional Projects (As Needed)]
      F --> G[Monitoring and Assessment]
      G --> H[Project Implementation]
      H --> I[Project Solicitation Based on Applicable Criteria]
      I --> B
      I --> J[Determine Cost and Nutrient Reduction Estimates for Each Project]
      J --> E
      I --> K[Project Implementation]
      K --> H
      
```

**Examples of Potential ACE Projects**

**Have a Project Idea?**

**FDACS Contact:**

**Jennifer Thera**  
[Jennifer.Thera@fdacs.gov](mailto:Jennifer.Thera@fdacs.gov)  
 (850) 617-1722

Scan the QR code to learn more about the Office of Agricultural Water Policy

<http://www.fdacs.gov/Divisions-Offices/Agricultural-Water-Policy>

# Thank You!



Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services



**Caloosahatchee River and Estuary and Everglades West Coast  
Basin Management Action Plans (BMAPs) Meeting Summary**

*South Florida Water Management District Service Center*

*2301 McGregor Boulevard, Fort Myers, FL 33901*

*Wednesday, November 20, 2024*

*9:00 am – 10:45 am*

**Participants**

Santiago Acevedo, SFWMD

Evelyn Becerra, DEP

Jenna Bobsein, SFWMD

Brad Cornell, Audubon

Rebecca Dougherty, SFWMD

Yesenia Escribano, FDACS

Alexandria Foos, Geosyntec (FDOT Central)

Marcy Frick, Tetra Tech

Victoria Greenlee, Calusa Waterkeeper

Moira Homann, DEP

Megan Jacoby, SFWMD

Lisa Kreiger, Lee County

Garrett Kusienki, Lee County

Jacob Landfield, SFWMD

Laura Layman, SFWMD

Celeste Lyon, RES

Jessica McPherson, Lee County

Holly Milbrandt, City of Sanibel

Codty Pierce, Calusa Waterkeeper

Connie Ramos-Williams, Calusa Waterkeeper

Maya Robert, City of Cape Coral

Maria Romero, Lee County

Steve Smith, FDACS

Mary Szafraniec, RES

Jennifer Thera, FDACS

Raychel Thomas, Pavese Law

Tony Tomalewski, DEP

Diana Turner, DEP

Jordan Varble, Johnson Engineering

**Welcome and Introductions**

Marcy Frick welcomed everyone to the Caloosahatchee River and Estuary and Everglades West Coast BMAPs meeting, and the participants introduced themselves and the entity they represent.

**Agency Presentations**

Evelyn Becerra reviewed the BMAP update components and summarized recent legislative requirements including wastewater and septic system remediation plans. The BMAP update will include a list of projects to meet five-year milestones, as well as regional projects. The Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has been conducting water quality analyses to evaluate progress including hotspot, targeted restoration area (TRA), and trend evaluations. They also identified any modifications needed to the monitoring networks. Evelyn reviewed the BMAP update schedule, which includes technical meetings this week, draft BMAP update in January for review, another round of public meetings to present on the draft BMAP document, public comment period, and then finalization by July 1, 2025. The BMAP project collection portal was opened early for BMAP updates and it will remain open until mid-January for the Statewide Annual Report (STAR). Evelyn stated that the numbers on the poster for the project reductions are reflective of the last STAR through December 31, 2023, and do not include the new project information that stakeholders recently provided.

Megan Jacoby stated that the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) is conducting the five-year update for the Caloosahatchee River Watershed Construction Project (CRWCP). They have been providing updates on the projects annually in the South Florida Environmental Report (SFER) to promote transparency, provide accountability to stakeholders, and help achieve the total maximum daily

loads (TMDLs). The CRWCP has 4 projects in planning/design, 3 in construction, and 4 in operations. She noted that a key part of what they are evaluating is the water storage goal of 400,000 acre-feet. Projects to date have provided over 25,000 acre-feet of storage, with an additional 184,000 acre-feet of storage from future projects. SFWMD is also updating the previous model from 2008–2009, and the updated model shows the estimated storage needed for this watershed from the previous modeling is correct. The draft 2025 SFER is available for public comment through December 17.

Jennifer Thera reviewed the staff changes at the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS). She noted that they are working to update all 12 best management practice (BMP) manuals and the FDACS website has a rule development activities webpage with the latest details on the updates. They plan to have the updates completed early next year. FDACS is also updating the cost-share program to create a system to evaluate projects and status to provide transparent information. Producers can apply for different measures and FDACS has a better tool to evaluate effectiveness to determine what projects are most needed. They also increased the cost-share limit including higher amounts if the producer agrees to monitoring. Jennifer showed the BMP enrollment status for the Caloosahatchee subwatershed and impaired tributaries as well as the Everglades West Coast subwatersheds. The FDACS website includes an interactive map showing enrollment, commodity type, and last implementation verification visit.

### **Poster Session**

After the agency presentations, a poster session was held to allow participants to have one-on-one discussions with the agency staff, ask questions, and provide comments. No comment cards were submitted during the meeting.