

RESTORE Act Ecosystem Restoration Project Proposals
for consideration in the Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council's Comprehensive Plan
2012

Contact Information: David E. Lindsay-East County Water Control District-dlindsay@ecwcd.com					Date of Submittal: October 31, 2012		
Name of Project: Moving Water South					Org and Rank: 3		
Project Description: The "Moving Water South Project" has been envisioned for many years. Phase I (Halfway Pond Pump Station) is already complete. The concept of Phases II and III is to remove excess and sometimes problematic stormwater from the ECWCD (Lehigh Acres) system and move it south under the State Road 82 widening project, pump it up onto the existing ECWCD preserve areas south of State Road 82 and then allow the storm water to gravity flow onto wetlands further to the south. This project has the ability to provide benefits and cost savings to ECWCD, SFWMD, FDOT, Lee County and the Lee County Port Authority. The benefits of this project include: • Less freshwater discharge to the Orange River, Caloosahatchee River and it's estuarial system, and the Gulf of Mexico, during periods of wet season high-flows • Increased storm water storage necessary for future growth • Groundwater recharge • Flood protection • Extended hydro-periods on many of existing isolated wetlands and creation of new wetlands							
Project Location: Lee County. Latitude 26°33'10.26"N, Longitude 81°38'5.939"W							
Responsible Party: East County Water Control District				Partners: SFWMD, Florida Department of Transportation, Lee County, Lee County Port Authority			
NEP: CHNEP		Project Cost: \$3,400,000			Dollars Needed: \$2,100,000		
Start: 2013				Completion: 2015			
Status of Project Design and Permitting: Preliminary Design							
What Date or Year could Construction Feasibly Begin: January 1, 2014							
Your Proposed Timing of Funding (given permits, phasing, staging, etc.)							
FY	12/13	13/14	14/15	15/16	16/17	17/18	Total
	\$100K	\$800K	\$2,500K				
Quantify Environmental Results and How to Measure Them: This project will improve the habitat of 630 acres of drained wetlands that will increase the number of birds that utilize these wetlands. The bird population is estimated to increase by over 1,100 birds. The project will also reduce the volume of freshwater inflows to the Caloosahatchee River estuary by 2,500 acre feet per year, and the pollutant load reduction will be 218 and 2,240 Kg/yr Total Phosphorus and Total Nitrogen.							
Economic Benefits (including ecosystem services): \$76,800,000							
Estimated number of Jobs Created or Preserved: 88							
How much Habitat will be restored and conserved?: Restored habitat is estimated to be 1,262 acres.							
Quantify pollutant reductions: 218 Kg/yr Total Phosphorus and 2,240 Kg/yr Total Nitrogen							
What living coastal/marine resources will be improved and by how much?: Estuarine submerged aquatic vegetation and dependent biota such as oysters and fisheries will be improved							

due to reduced freshwater discharges to the Caloosahatchee River estuary. The degree of improvement has not been calculated.

How will community resilience be enhanced? Higher groundwater levels in the dry season will reduce the need for extensive irrigation to keep lawns healthy, which will result in higher baseflows to the estuary. The project will also reduce flooding in Lehigh Acres and the Orange River, which will reduce damages to residences associated with flooding.

Additional Justification: The project will also be able to handle stormwater runoff from the widening of SR 82 from Alabama to Homestead Roads, which will reduce the overall project cost to the Florida Department of Transportation. The widening project will also reduce the amount of land that has to be purchased for the road right-of-way, which will reduce the duration of the project for FDOT.

Add any photos or maps that explain project:



