

REGULATORY TEAM REVIEW OF SOLUTIONS PLANNING TEAM PROJECTS

Project name and description:

Grove Land Reservoir & Stormwater Treatment Area

The proposed Grove Land Reservoir and STA (GLRSTA) is located in northern Okeechobee and southern Indian River counties. The project consists of a 5,000 acre reservoir, 2,000 acre storm water treatment area (STA), intake/discharge structures, conveyance improvements and other associated facilities. The GLRSTA Project is selling storage and treatment, not water. The reservoir water supply would consist of excess stormwater runoff captured from the C-25, C-24, and C-23 basins via the C-25, C-24 and C-23 Canals owned by the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD). The reservoir would also be able to store water flows from the C-52 watershed via the C-52 flow-way owned by the St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD). As part of this Project, the hydraulic connection between these two water management districts would be re-established. Water from the reservoir would enter the stormwater treatment area (STA) which would be sited north of the reservoir. The STA would reduce total phosphorus (TP) and total nitrogen (TN) concentrations. This treated water could be discharged to the SJRWMD C-52 flow-way (and subsequently north to the St. Johns River) or to the SFWMD's C-25 Canal (and subsequently south to potential water users).

Planning Level Review for Permittability

The project appears to be reasonably permissible from a planning-level perspective. To the extent a water use permit is required for the diversion of water, it is anticipated that such permit would be issued by SFWMD since the source supply is in SFWMD. The fact that there has been a planning-level determination should not be interpreted as the determination or application of the district's consumptive use permitting criteria. Before such a determination can be made, all details of the project's design and operation must be prepared by a permit applicant and submitted to SFWMD in a permit application. The application must then be reviewed for consistency with all of the SFWMD's consumptive use permitting criteria applicable to the project. The proposed project would be further refined during the final design and permit application review process to address all permitting criteria.

To the extent that future projects include actual water withdrawals from the St. Johns River in SJRWMD resulting from augmented flows from this project, the SJRWMD's consumptive use permitting criteria would be applicable to those future withdrawal projects. One of the key criteria in the permit application review will be whether the proposed consumptive use is "in accordance with any minimum flow or level and implementation strategy established pursuant to Sections 373.042 and 373.0421, F.S." MFLs have been established at various locations in the St. Johns River downstream of the project. All of the relevant MFLs in the St. Johns River would be applicable in the evaluation of the permits for those future withdrawal projects. See, for

example, the permissibility discussion for the following projects: St. Johns River/Taylor Creek, St. Johns River Near Yankee Lake and St. Johns River Near SR 44.

Because this is a regional project that would provide water for use across county boundaries, the Governing Board will also consider the factors in Section 373.223(3), F.S., as part of the completed permit application for a specific project, in making a determination of whether the project is consistent with the public interest pursuant to Section 373.223(5), F.S. As required by Section 373.223(3), F.S., SJRWMD and SFWMD may use the information in its applicable regional water supply plan as the basis for its consideration of the special public interest criteria ("local sources first") during its review of the permit application.

Identification of consumptive use permit program inconsistencies between the water management districts which may impact the project:

None identified.

Identification of Chapter 373, F.S., impediments, if any, associated with project:

In addition to a water use permit, this project would involve activities requiring an environmental resource permit pursuant to Part IV of Chapter 373, F.S. That permit would likely be issued by SJRWMD, since the project would be partially within SJRWMD, and would divert new water flows into the SJRWMD that could potentially impact the SJRWMD's Upper St. John River Basin Project. The proposed project would need to meet all applicable ERP permitting criteria. Of particular importance would be criteria concerning not increasing flooding and not causing a violation of water quality standards.

Identification of unusual, non-Chapter 373, F.S., considerations:

None identified.