

Apopka Update
for November Governing Board

Lake Apopka North Shore Restoration:

The USACE recently issued the Nationwide Permit for construction of infrastructure on major portions of the NSRA. Work has already begun on Phase 3 and another work-order will be issued soon for infrastructure on Phases 6, 7, & 8. District staff expects to apply for two more permits in November to allow completion of the infrastructure this fiscal year. Re-flooding began on Phase 2 in May 2009. Initial testing of fish tissue indicates low levels of pesticides. This is important because if this holds for the necessary time period, it confirms that the soil inversion was successful in that area. These Phase 2 data become part of the next biological assessment to flood additional acres.

Lake Apopka Marsh Flow-Way Project:

Because of drawdown of the C-cells for maintenance, flow through the system over the past month has been reduced to about 77 cfs. At present, both C cells are being operated at low flow conditions (< 10 cfs). Of the cells that were in full operation efficiency (percent removal) and mass removal has been low. During the past month, the operating cells retained 4.7 metric tons suspended solids/day but released 47 kg of TN/day and 4.2 kg TP/day. This is typical during summer months when water temperatures are high and dissolved oxygen concentrations in water are low relative to other months. Alum systems in the flow-way operate to mitigate the short-term release of phosphorus due to the summer release of soluble reactive phosphorus. In addition, lake water quality has improved, reducing the efficiency of the system. In early October, the lake concentration of total phosphorus was 69 ppb.