



Agenda Item Summary

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Agenda Date: [Publish Date]

Agenda Item Name:

Lower Santa Fe and Ichetucknee Rivers Minimum Flows and Levels (MFL) Update

Presenter:

Stacie Greco, Water Resources Program Manager, Environmental Protection Department, 352-264-6829

Description:

The Water Management Districts and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection have been working on updating the Minimum Flows and Levels (MFL) and Prevention and Recovery Plan for the Lower Santa Fe and Ichetucknee Rivers since 2019. Staff will provide an update, as we anticipate the process will conclude in 2026.

Recommended Action:

Hear Presentation

Prior Board Motions:

The BoCC listened to a staff presentation on this MFL process at the May 7, 2024 policy meeting and authorized a chair letter on September 24, 2024.

Fiscal Note:

N/A

Strategic Guide:

Environment

Background:

The establishment of Minimum Flows and Levels (MFLs) is required by state law under Subsection 373.042(2), Florida Statutes (F.S.). The MFLs are developed by the Water Management Districts and adopted by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection. MFLs set water levels and flows to prevent significant harm to the water resources or ecology from water withdrawals. MFLs protect non-consumptive uses of water that include water necessary for navigation and recreation, for fish and wildlife habitat, and for other natural resources in accordance with Chapter 62-40, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.).

Water Management and FDEP Staff are currently updating the MFL rule for the Lower Santa Fe and Ichetucknee Rivers and Springs, and it is anticipated that it will be submitted in 2026 for ratification.