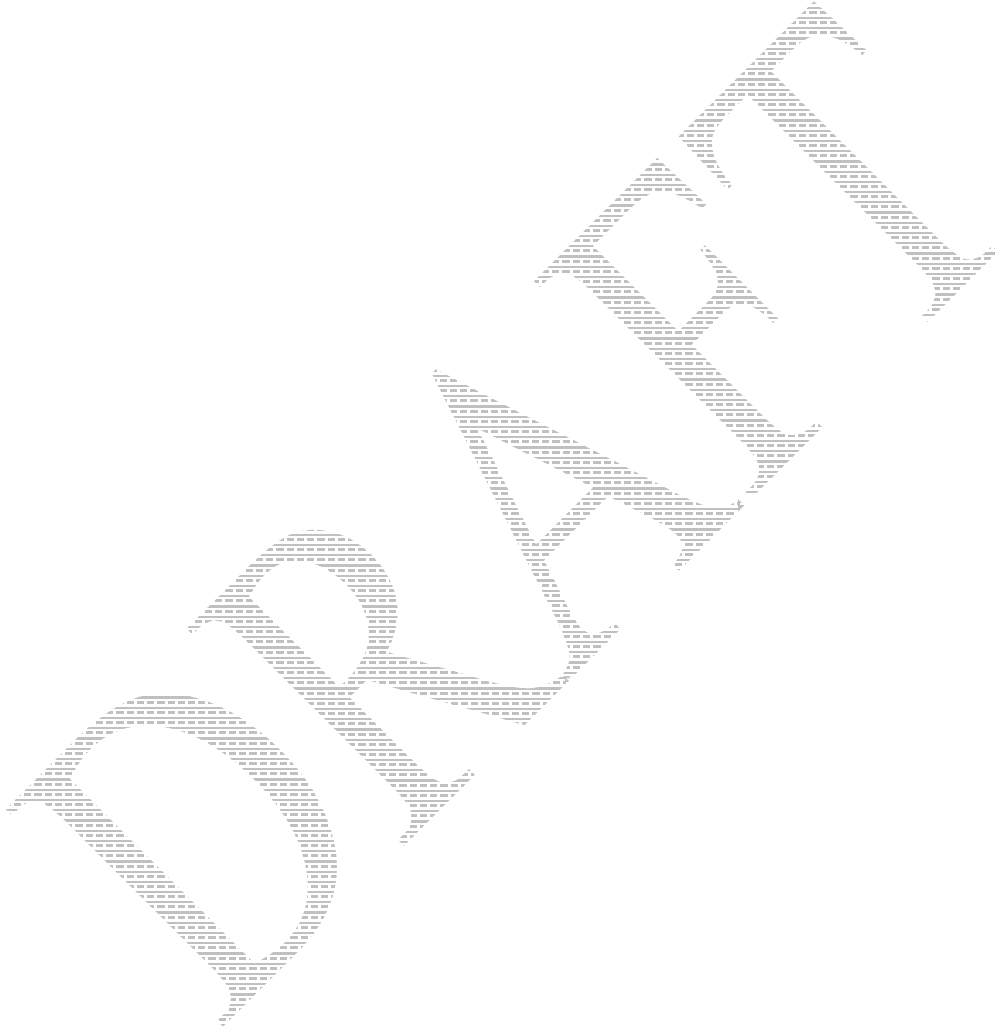


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APPENDIX C
DROUGHT CONTINGENCY PLAN



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APPENDIX C
DROUGHT CONTINGENCY PLAN
FOR THE
KISSIMMEE RIVER AND LAKE ISTOKPOGA BASINS

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1 **C-01. Purpose.** This appendix is written to (1) provide a platform from which to make
2 decisions to implement water conservation measures during droughts. (2) Review the
3 operational flexibility of the Kissimmee River and Lake Istokpoga basins Water Control
4 Plan in a drought, and (3) address the potential problems associated with an extreme
5 drought.

6
7 **C-02. References.**

- 8
9 a. ER 1110-2-1941---"Drought Contingency Plans"
10 b. ER 1110-2-240---"Water Control Management"
11 c. EM 1110-2-3600--"Management of Water Control Systems"
12 d. Chapter 40E-21 ---"Water Shortage Plan" published by SFWMD
13 e. Chapter 40E-22 ---"Regional Water Shortage Plans" published by SFWMD
14

15 **C-03. Introduction.** A severe drought in the Kissimmee River and Lake Istokpoga basins
16 develops over a fairly long period of time and has a typical duration of 6 to 12 months.
17 Adequate time will be available to plan specific details of drought operation. Therefore,
18 this plan is an outline of water management measures and coordination actions to be
19 considered when a severe drought occurs. Details of particular water management
20 measures and the timing of their application will be determined as the drought progresses.
21

22 **C-04. Background.** The passage of the Florida Water Resources Act of 1972 (Chapter
23 373 of Florida Statutes) invested in the Florida Department of Environmental Resources
24 (DER) the power and responsibility to accomplish the conservation, protection,
25 management, and control of the waters of the state to attain a number of goals. Authority
26 to implement the Act has been delegated to five water management districts which cover
27 the entire state. In 1972 the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) was
28 established (formerly known as the Central and Southern Florida Flood Control District)
29 and became the local sponsor for the Kissimmee River and Lake Istokpoga basins portion
30 of the Central and Southern Florida Project for flood control and other purposes. As a
31 government agency, the SFWMD has established rules and regulations that establish
32 priorities and define procedures for restricting use during conditions of water shortage.
33

34 **C-05. Summary of Existing Water Control Plan.** The authorized purposes of the
35 Kissimmee River and Lake Istokpoga basins portion of the Comprehensive Central and
36 Southern Florida Project for Flood Control are flood control, environmental
37 enhancement, and agricultural water supply. The water control plan is written to provide
38 for these purposes. Regulation flexibility is very limited under existing authority. When
39 the elevations in the project areas are below their optimum, the project will be operated to
40 meet water supply and environmental enhancement.
41

42 **C-06. Definition of Drought.** Droughts generally are considered to have three
43 components—duration, magnitude (average water deficiency), and severity (cumulative
44 water deficiency). Dry periods occur randomly during any time period. There is no
45 major indicator to distinguish "normal" dry periods from severe droughts. Conditions
46 may vary slightly depending on the time of year, length of time that water elevations

1 remain below optimum levels and the water supply and water quality requirements. The
2 SFWMD uses the following definitions:

3
4 40E-21.051 Definitions

5
6 (1) "Water shortage" means that situation within all or part of the District when
7 insufficient water is available to meet the present and anticipated needs of the users, or
8 when conditions are such as to require temporary reduction in total use within a particular
9 area to protect water resources from serious harm. A water shortage usually occurs due
10 to drought.

11
12 (2) "Water shortage emergency" means that water shortage situation so sudden or
13 severe that water shortage procedures which can be exercised under Part II of Chapter
14 40E-21 are not sufficient to protect the public health, safety, or welfare, or the health of
15 animals, fish or aquatic life, or a public water supply, or commercial, industrial,
16 agricultural, recreational or other reasonable uses.

17
18 **C-07. Drought Operations.** If the SFWMD determines there is an increased likelihood
19 that there will be an insufficient amount of water to meet the estimated anticipated user
20 demands within a source class or to protect the water resource from serious harm, the
21 following actions shall be initiated by the SFWMD and the Jacksonville District of the
22 Corps of Engineers.

23
24 a. Initiation of appropriate "General Water Use Restrictions" established in
25 Chapter 40E-21.271 and 40E-22 by the SFWMD. (These rules are an attachment to this
26 appendix).

27
28 b. Enforcement of the water use restrictions by the SFWMD.

29
30 c. Public press releases shall be made on an "as-need" basis through the Public
31 Affairs Office (PAD) of the Jacksonville District. These statements shall provide the
32 public with a full explanation of drought operations and expected conditions in an effort
33 to reduce inquiries from recreation and concerned interests. Similarly, the SFWMD will
34 make press releases notifying the public of water use restrictions.

35
36 d. Drought situation reports for the Kissimmee River and Lake Istokpoga basins
37 and other projects within the Jacksonville District shall be prepared by the Water
38 Management and Meteorology Section of the Jacksonville District. This report shall
39 provide detailed information on current and forecast situations for informational purposes
40 of District and South Atlantic Division (SAD) elements.

41
42 **C-08. Drought Management Plan.** The following steps could be used to lessen the
43 effects of a severe drought in the Kissimmee River and lake Istokpoga basins.

44
45 a. Implementation of "General Water Use Restrictions" and "Regional Water
46 Shortage Plans" to conserve water. (Section 40E-21.271 and 40E-22).

1 b. Temporarily relax State standards for water quality requirements in the Water
2 Management Areas to permit the continued operation of agricultural pumps, and conserve
3 remaining water in storage.

4
5 c. Should water quality or all water supply storage become depleted in the Water
6 Management Areas, potential alternatives include but are not limited to:

7
8 (1) Emergency reallocation of water from other portions of the Central and
9 Southern Florida project.

10
11 (2) Declaration by the State of Florida of a water emergency. After a
12 water emergency has been declared, emergency diversions to meet the needs of human
13 consumption, necessary sanitation, and public safety can be made.

1 **SELECTED FEDERAL EMERGENCY AUTHORITIES PROVIDING**
2 **DROUGHT ASSISTANCE**
3

4 The responsibility for providing an adequate supply of water to inhabitants of any area is
5 basically non-Federal. Corps assistance to provide emergency water supplies will only
6 be considered when non-Federal interests have exhausted reasonable means for securing
7 necessary water supplies, including assistance and support from other Federal agencies.
8

9 Assistance may be available from the Corps through PL 84-99 as amended by PL 95-51.
10 Before Corps assistance is considered under PL 95-51, the applicability of other Federal
11 authorities should be evaluated. If these programs cannot provide the needed assistance,
12 then maximum coordination should be made with appropriate agencies in implementing
13 Corps assistance. The applicability of programs administered by the following Federal
14 agencies, as a minimum, will be determined prior to consideration of Corps assistance.
15

- 16 1. Small Business Administration (SBA).
- 17
- 18 2. Farmers Home Administration (FmHA).
- 19
- 20 3. Economic Development Administration (EDA).
- 21

22 **Corps Authority for Drought Assistance.**
23

24 The Corps authority for Drought Assistance is contained in Chapter 6, "Emergency Water
25 Supplies and Drought Assistance" of Engineering Regulation (ER) 500-1-1 Natural
26 Disaster Procedures (1983). Under this authority, the Chief of Engineers, acting for the
27 Secretary of the Army, can construct wells and transport water to farmers, ranchers, and
28 political subdivisions within areas he determines to be drought-distressed.
29