



the journey to restore
America's Everglades

The QAOT and How We can Assist You

Introduction/Past/Future

Introducing the QAOT

What is the QAOT?

A multi-agency team led by the USACE & SFWMD with representatives from 4 federal and 2 state agencies

- Established in 2003 through Corp Guidance Memorandum (CGM) 41
- Reports to the Design Coordination Team (DCT)

Current Co-chairs

- Deborah Scerno (USACE)
- Ming Chen (SFWMD)

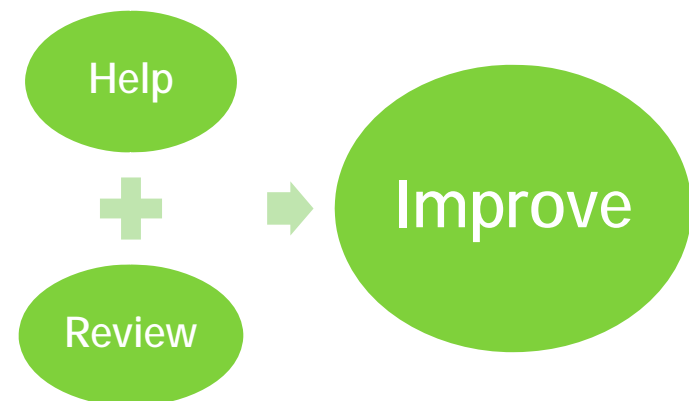
QAOT Purpose

What is the QAOT's Purpose?

The goal of the QAOT is to provide Quality Assurance (QA) guidance at the CERP program level to help generate data with documented quality, known certainty, and consistency

The QAOT provides

- Tools to facilitate data quality
- A forum to develop certainty
- Outreach and communication for consistency



QAOT Tools

The QAOT has established tools to guide the collection of high quality data

It is the Project Delivery Team's (PDT) job to **develop** documents based on these tools, guidance, and templates

- Quality Assurance Systems Requirements (QASR) manual implementation
- Training and workshops
- Determining data quality objectives (DQOs)
- Monitoring plan development
- Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) development

QAOT Assistance

The QAOT is available to assist the PDTs

The QAOT **reviews** documents and provides assistance in developing documents, if needed

- Monitoring plan reviews
- Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) reviews
- Field / laboratory audits
- Laboratory performance evaluations
- Quality Assessment Reports for continuous process improvement

QA Systems Requirements (QASR)

QASR is the primary tool for ensuring data consistency and accuracy

It establishes minimum QA requirements and technically rigorous methods for:

Sample & Data Collection

- Water Quality Field Measuring and Sampling (**Chapter 3**)
- Chemical Analysis & Laboratory Requirements (**Chapter 4**)
- Hydrometeorological & Hydraulic Monitoring (**Chapter 6**)
- Soil and Sediment Characterization & Sampling (**Chapter 7**)
- Biological Monitoring & Assessment (**Chapter 8**)
- Remote Sensing (**Chapter 9**)

Data Reporting & Assessment

- Data Verification & Validation of Chemistry Data (**Chapter 5**)
- Information & Data Management (**Chapter 10**)
- Data Quality Evaluation & Assessment (**Chapter 11**)

QAOT SOPs

Quality System = QASR manual + SOPs

4 SOPs have been developed to define QAOT procedures:

- Document Control (**SOP-001**)
- QA Activities & Responsibilities (**SOP-002**)
- QAR Preparation (**SOP-003**)
- Monitoring plan & SOW Review (**SOP-004**)

The SOPs are located on the QAOT website:

<http://www.evergladesplan.org/pm/qaot.aspx>

Ensuring Data Quality

The QAOT cannot ensure data quality!

- Data quality is ensured through proper and consistent sample and data
 - Collection
 - Analysis
 - Reporting
- **Each** agency and individual involved with CERP monitoring is responsible for knowing and implementing the established CERP methods and QA/QC procedures

Project Life-Cycle QA

The QAOT tools are implemented throughout the project life cycle

PDT Role	QAOT Role/Tools
1. Planning <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Method selection- Laboratory selection	QASR Methods Lab PE and audit reports SOP Reviews Monitoring Plan review
2. Monitoring <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Contract execution	Field observations and audits Laboratory audits
3. Reporting	ADaPT data Validation/consistency
4. Lessons learned/improvement	Quality Assessment Report

The QAOT and PDT must work together throughout the project life cycle so that data are accurate and comparable

Questions

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THANK YOU!