

THE NORTHWEST FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
81 Water Management Drive
Havana, Florida 32333

APPROVAL OF REGIONAL MITIGATION PLAN MODIFICATION

Pursuant to Chapter 373, Florida Statutes (F.S.), the Northwest Florida Water Management District (District), has approved a modification to the annual Northwest Florida Umbrella, Watershed-based, Regional Mitigation Plan (UWRMP) for Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) impacts identified in the annual FDOT environmental impact inventory submitted pursuant to §373.4137, F.S.

BACKGROUND

§373.4137, F.S., requires the District, in consultation with the Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP), the United States Army Corps of Engineers (COE), the FDOT and other appropriate federal state and local governments, and other interested parties, to develop and approve an annual regional mitigation plan for the mitigation needs of the FDOT. Through consultation, the District's UWRMP was designed and evaluated to meet the mitigation requirements of Chapter 373, Florida Statutes, and 33 U. S. C. § 1344.

This modification to the UWRMP reflects the most recent FDOT District-3 Environmental Impact Inventory (May 1, 2007) provided to the District. Three FDOT impacts were added to the Inventory for a total estimated wetland impact of 35.96 acres, and an estimated cost of mitigation activities, including staff and administrative costs, of \$3,474,311. The added FDOT projects are replacement of the US 90 Perdido River Bridge (3.6-acre impact), widening of US 331 from the Choctawhatchee Bay Bridge to SR 20 (32.13-acre impact), and widening of US 90 from CR 0353 to I-10 in Leon Co. (0.23-acre impact).

A copy of the UWRMP may be accessed online at <http://nwfwmdwetlands.com> or may be obtained from Ron Bartel (ron.bartel@nwfwmd.state.fl.us), Resource Management Division, Northwest Florida Water Management District, 81 Water Management Drive, Havana, FL 32333-4712.

The District concludes, as of the date of this approval, that the UWRMP complies with the mitigation requirements of Chapter 373, F.S., and 33 U.S.C. §1344.

In accordance with §373.4137 (7), upon approval by the governing board of the water management district or its designee, the mitigation plan shall be deemed to satisfy the mitigation requirements of §373.4137, F.S., for impacts specifically identified in the FDOT environmental impact inventory and any other mitigation requirements imposed by local, regional, and state agencies for these same impacts. The approval of the governing board of the water management district or its designee shall authorize the activities proposed in the mitigation plan, and no other state, regional or local permit or approval shall be necessary.

In accordance with §373.4137 (8), approval of the plan and any amendment does not eliminate the need for FDOT to meet the permitting requirement to reduce or eliminate impacts of the transportation projects, nor does it change any other permitting criteria for those transportation projects. This approval only addresses mitigation requirements for the specified road projects. It does not grant or imply that the specified projects satisfy any other permitting requirements under Part IV of Chapter 373, F.S., or rules adopted there under.

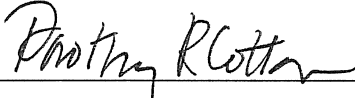
APPROVED this 29th day of February, 2008



Douglas E. Barr, Executive Director
Northwest Florida Water Management District
81 Water Management Drive
Havana, Florida 32333

STATE OF FLORIDA
COUNTY OF GADSDEN

February 29, 2008
Date



Dorothy R. Cotton
Commission # DD528520
Expires March 14, 2010
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