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Southwest Florida Water Management District

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Executive Director

October 1, 2025

Mounir Bouyounes
County Administrator
Marion County
601 SE 25th Ave
Ocala, FL 34471

Subject: Review of the Surface Water Improvement and Management (SWIM) Program
Priority List

Dear Mounir Bouyounes:

In 1987, the Florida Legislature enacted the Surface Water Improvement and Management (SWIM) Act to restore and protect water bodies of state and regional significance. Section 373.453, Florida Statutes, in the SWIM Act requires each water management district, in cooperation with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Florida Department of Agricultural and Consumer Services, Florida Department of Commerce, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and local governments to maintain a list that prioritizes water bodies of regional or statewide significance within the water management district. The list must be reviewed and updated every five years.

To date, the Southwest Florida Water Management District (District) has developed, and the state has approved, SWIM plans for twelve priority water bodies identified on the current SWIM Program Priority List. They are:

- 1) Tampa Bay,
- 2) Rainbow River,
- 3) Crystal River/Kings Bay,
- 4) Lake Panasoffkee,
- 5) Charlotte Harbor,
- 6) Lake Tarpon,
- 7) Lake Thonotosassa,
- 8) Winter Haven Chain of Lakes,
- 9) Sarasota Bay,
- 10) Weeki Wachee River,
- 11) Chassahowitzka River,
- 12) Homosassa River.

On September 23, 2025, the District's Governing Board was notified that the District is initiating the process to review the District's SWIM Priority List. To date, District staff have not identified any needed updates to this current List, which assists in prioritizing District resources and project funding.

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Mounir Bouyounes

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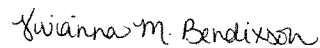
October 1, 2025

A link is included for your reference to the District's SWIM Program website that contains an update for ongoing and completed projects, and all twelve of the SWIM Plans, which include descriptions of each SWIM priority water body, including the issues, status, and trends, as well as the goals and accomplishments for each water body. www.swfwmd.state.fl.us/projects/swim

Essential to carrying out the District's SWIM Program is the cooperation of local governments and agencies in developing and implementing effective SWIM Plans.

No revisions to the current SWIM Program Priority List have been identified at this time, District staff anticipates recommending no changes to the List to the Governing Board, which will consider the matter at its December 2025 meeting. Following Governing Board approval, the SWIM Program Priority List will be forwarded to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection. If you have any questions, please contact me at (813) 344-5832.

Sincerely,



Vivianne M. Bendixson
Manager
Surface Water Improvement & Management Section
Natural Systems & Restoration Bureau
Southwest Florida Water Management District

VB