

SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

May 5, 2022

Ms. Arleen Hunter, City Manager City of Bonita Springs 9109 Bonita Beach Road Bonita Springs, FL 34135

Subject: Operational Plan for Emergency Pumps in the City of Bonita Springs

Dear Ms. Hunter,

Please find attached the final draft Operational Plan for Emergency Pumps (the plan) in fulfillment of the District's obligation under our agreement with the City of Bonita Springs (City). We understand that some portions of the City are prone to significant residential flooding, and the South Florida Water Management District (District) prepared this draft Operational Plan for Emergency Pumps to assist with temporary flooding conditions for residents within the City. The operations identified in the attached plan allow for pumping towards the Cocohatchee Canal only when there is capacity and will ensure that pumping from the City towards the Cocohatchee Canal has minimal adverse impact on the regional system.

Prior to finalizing the operational plan, the City and District must ensure regional coordination with local stakeholders. We appreciate your review and input to the earlier drafts of the plan and hope to, over the next several weeks, continue our discussion with your staff, Collier County, and other key stakeholders to finalize the plan.

The District balances the needs of South Florida's regional water management systems to reduce the risk of adverse impacts system wide. Please note, this draft operational plan provides criteria for activating and/or securing the pumps and deactivating the pumps, however, it does not authorize use of the pumps. The City must request emergency authorization from the District each time the City wishes to use the pumps. The District will provide pumping conditions and requirements should the emergency authorization be granted. The District will manage appropriate coordination with water managers of the Big Cypress Basin and South Florida Water Management District throughout any declared emergency. In addition, notification to Collier County of the District's decision to approve pumping towards the Cocohatchee system will be part of the District's standard operating procedures in the event of a request from the City.

As acknowledged in the language of our cooperative agreement, this plan does not confer any new authority to the City and deployment and operation of the temporary pumps is subordinate to regional water management needs and subject to all legal requirements.

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The current plan and identified operational criteria are based on the pumps identified by the City with a maximum total flow rate of 65 cubic feet per second (cfs). Should the City wish to acquire additional pump capacity for diverting flows towards the regional system, the operational plan <u>must</u> be modified and approved by the District.

At the request of City staff, we have used the following City contact email in the plan: watermanager@cityofbonitasprings.org. It is important that the City create this email and forward communication through this email address to the appropriate staff on receipt of this plan.

We look forward to your input. Please let us know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Smith Chief of Staff

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Enclosure

c: The Honorable Adam Botana, Representative, Florida House of Representatives Phil Flood, Regional Representative, South Florida Water Management District Akin Owosina, Bureau Chief – Hydrology and Hydraulics, South Florida Water Management District

Lisa Koehler, Administrator – Big Cypress Basin, South Florida Water Management District