

WATER QUALITY IMPACT EVALUATION

Florida Department of Transportation

District One

State Road (SR) 70 PD&E Study

Limits of Project: County Road (CR) 29 to Lonesome Island Road

Highlands County, Florida

Financial Management Number: 414506-5-22-01

ETDM Number: 14364

Date: July 2023

The environmental review, consultation, and other actions required by applicable federal environmental laws for this project are being, or have been, carried out by the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) pursuant to 23 U.S.C. § 327 and a Memorandum of Understanding dated May 26, 2022 and executed by the Federal Highway Administration and FDOT.

## WATER QUALITY IMPACT EVALUATION CHECKLIST

### PART 1: PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Name:	SR 70, From CR 29 to Lonesome Island Rd
County:	Highlands
FM Number:	414506-5-22-01
Federal Aid Project No:	
Brief Project Description:	The FDOT is conducting this PD&E Study to evaluate options for widening SR 70 in Highland County from CR 29 to Lonesome Island Rd.

### PART 2: DETERMINATION OF WQIE SCOPE

Does project discharge to surface or groundwater?  Yes  No

Does project alter the drainage system?  Yes  No

Is the project located within a permitted MS4?  Yes  No  
Name:

If the answers to the questions above are no, complete the applicable sections of Part 3 and 4, and then check Box A in Part 5.

### PART 3: PROJECT BASIN AND RECEIVING WATER CHARACTERISTICS

#### Surface Water

Receiving water(s) names: Harney Pond Canal

Water Management District: South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD)

Environmental Look Around meeting date: N/A  
*Attach meeting minutes/notes to the checklist.*

Water Control District Name (list all that apply): None

#### Groundwater

Sole Source Aquifer (SSA)?  Yes  No Name Biscayne  
If yes, complete Part 5, D and complete SSA Checklist from EPA website ([Figure 11-2](#))

Other Aquifer?  Yes  No Name \_\_\_\_\_

Springs vents?  Yes  No Name \_\_\_\_\_

Well head protection area?  Yes  No Name \_\_\_\_\_

Groundwater recharge?  Yes  No Name \_\_\_\_\_

Notify District Drainage Engineer if karst conditions are expected or if a higher level of treatment may be needed due to a project being located within a WBID verified as Impaired in accordance with Chapter 62-303, F.A.C.

Date of notification: 11 / 11 / 20

#### **PART 4: WATER QUALITY CRITERIA**

List all WBIDs and all parameters for which a WBID has been verified impaired, or has a TMDL in **Table 1**. This information should be updated during each re-evaluation as required.

Note: If BMAP or RAP has been identified in **Table 1**, **Table 2** must also be completed. *Attach notes or minutes from all coordination meetings identified in **Table 2**.*

EST recommendations confirmed with agencies?  Yes  No

BMAP Stakeholders contacted:  Yes  No

TMDL program contacted:  Yes  No

RAP Stakeholders contacted:  Yes  No

Regional water quality projects identified in the ELA  
yes, describe:  Yes  No

Potential direct effects associated with project construction  
and/or operation identified?  
If yes, describe:  Yes  No

Discuss any other relevant information related to water quality including Regulatory Agency Water Quality Requirements.


## PART 5: WQIE DOCUMENTATION

- A. No involvement with water quality
- B. No water quality regulatory requirements apply.
- C. Water quality regulatory requirements apply to this project (provide Evaluator's information below). Water quality and stormwater issues will be mitigated through compliance with the design requirements of authorized regulatory agencies.
- D. EPA Ground/Drinking Water Branch review required. X Yes  No  
Concurrence received? X Yes  No  
If Yes, Date of EPA Concurrence: 7 / 12 / 2023 (Attach the concurrence letter)

The environmental review, consultation, and other actions required by applicable federal environmental laws for this project are being, or have been, carried out by the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) pursuant to 23 U.S.C. § 327 and a Memorandum of Understanding dated May 26, 2022 and executed by the Federal Highway Administration and FDOT.

Evaluator Name (print): Curt Sprunger, P.E.

Title: Regional Stormwater Manager, Kisinger Campo & Associates

Signature: 

Date: 7/25/23

**Table 1: Water Quality Criteria**

Receiving Waterbody Name (list all that apply)	FDEP Group Number / Name	WBID(s) Numbers	Classification (I,II,III,IIIL,IV,V)	Special Designations*	NNC limits**	Verified Impaired (Y/N)	TMDL (Y/N)	Pollutants of concern	BMAP, RA Plan or SSAC
Harney Pond Canal	4/Fisheating Creek	3204				Y	N	Dissolved Oxygen, Nutrients (Chlorophyll-a, Macrophytes, Total Nitrogen and Total Phosphorous)	

\* ONRW, OFW, Aquatic Preserve, Wild and Scenic River, Special Water, SWIM Area, Local Comp Plan, MS4 Area, Other

\*\* Lakes, Spring vents, Streams, Estuaries

Note: If BMAP or RAP has been identified in Table 1, Table 2 must also be completed.

**Table 2: Regulatory Agencies/Stakeholders Contacted**

<b>Receiving Water Name (list all that apply)</b>	<b>Agency's Contact and Title</b>	<b>Date Contacted</b>	<b>Follow-up Required (Y/N)</b>	<b>Comments</b>

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**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**

REGION 4  
SAM NUNN ATLANTA FEDERAL CENTER  
61 FORSYTH STREET  
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303-8960

Ms. Lauren Peters  
Environmental Project Manager  
Florida Department of Transportation, District 1  
801 North Broadway  
Bartow, FL 33830

Subject: Sole Source Aquifer Review/Concurrence SR 70 Project Development and Environment (PD&E) Study from CR 29 to Lonesome Island Road in Highlands County, Florida, Financial Project ID: 414506-5-22-01.

Dear Ms. Peters:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 4 received the Florida Department of Transportation's (FDOT) request on May 16, 2023, to review the above referenced project pursuant to Section 1424(e) of the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA), [42 U.S.C. § 300h-3](#). The objective of the EPA's review is to determine if the project lies within the boundaries, including recharge and streamflow source zones, of an EPA designated Sole Source Aquifer (SSA), and to determine if the project poses potential adverse health or environmental impacts. A SSA is the sole or principal water source for a designated area.

The SR 70 Project Development and Environment (PD&E) Study from CR 29 to Lonesome Island Road (Project) has been determined to lie inside the designated boundaries of the Biscayne Sole Source Aquifer and based on the information provided, may cause a significant impact to the aquifer system when the Project's bridge foundations are installed and/or construction dewatering is undertaken. However, with proper implementation of best management practices (BMPs), these potential impacts can be adequately reduced or properly mitigated. To that effect, when installing bridge foundations, the FDOT must adhere to the list of BMPs provided as items 1 and 2 below. The dewatering operation BMPs are listed in item 3 below:

1. FDOT Design Manual Chapter 320 Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP)
2. FDOT Standard Specification for Road and Bridge Construction,
  - a. Section 6 – Control of Materials
  - b. Section 104 – Prevention, Control, And Abatement of Erosion and Water Pollution
  - c. Section 455 – Structures Foundations
3. U.S. Bureau of Reclamation Engineering Geology Field Manual – Chapter 20 Water Control. <https://www.usbr.gov/tsc/techreferences/mands/geologyfieldmanual-vol2/Chapter20.pdf>

Furthermore, all debris from any demolition of the existing structures must be properly contained and removed from the site prior to construction of the new structure. If applicable, all county flood plain management plans and public notification processes must be followed. During construction, it is the EPA's understanding and expectation that those responsible for the project will strictly adhere to all Federal, State, and local government permits, ordinances, planning designs, construction codes, operation, maintenance, and engineering requirements, and any contaminant mitigation recommendations outlined by federal and state agency reviews. All best management practices for erosion and sedimentation control must also be followed and State and local environmental offices must be contacted to address proper drainage and storm water designs. Additionally, the project manager should contact State and local environmental officials to obtain a copy of any local Wellhead Protection Plans. The following website provides information regarding the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Source Water Assessment and Protection Program. <http://www.dep.state.fl.us/swapp/Default.html>.

The EPA finds that, if the conditions outlined above are adhered to, this Project should have no significant impact to the aquifer system. Please note that this "no significant impact" finding has been determined based on compliance with the requirements outlined above and, on the information provided. Further, this finding only relates to Section 1424(e) of the SDWA, [42 U.S.C. § 300h-3](#). If there are any significant changes to the project, the EPA Region 4 office should be notified for further review. Other regulatory groups within the EPA responsible for administering other programs may, at their own discretion and under separate cover, provide additional comments.

Thank you for your concern with the environmental impacts of this project. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Manuel López Sánchez at 404-562-8259 or [LopezSanchez.Manuel@epa.gov](mailto:LopezSanchez.Manuel@epa.gov) or Mr. Larry Cole at 404-562-9474 or [Cole.Larry@epa.gov](mailto:Cole.Larry@epa.gov).

Sincerely,

**KHURRAM  
RAFI**

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KHURRAM RAFI  
Date: 2023.07.12  
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Khurram Rafi, Manager  
Groundwater and GIS Section  
Safe Drinking Water Branch  
EPA, Region 4, Atlanta, GA





*Florida Department of Transportation*

RON DESANTIS  
GOVERNOR

801 N Broadway  
Bartow, FL 33830

JARED W. PERDUE, P.E.  
SECRETARY

May 16, 2023

Mr. Larry Cole  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Region 4, Water Protection Division  
Ground Water and UIC Section  
61 Forsyth Street, SW  
Atlanta, GA 30303-8960  
[cole.larry@epa.gov](mailto:cole.larry@epa.gov)

RE: Sole Source Aquifer Impact Review & Concurrence  
SR 70 from CR 29 to Lonesome Island Road PD&E Study  
Highlands County, Florida  
Financial Project ID No. 414506-5-22-01  
ETDM No. 14364

Dear Mr. Cole,

The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) is conducting a Project Development and Environment (PD&E) Study to evaluate the proposed widening of SR 70 from County Road (CR) 29 to Lonesome Island Road in Highlands County, Florida, a distance of approximately 4.3 miles. The purpose of the PD&E Study is to provide documented information necessary for FDOT to reach a decision on the type, design, and location of improvements; as well as to assess the project's potential impacts to natural resources within the project study area. The improvements are needed to improve roadway deficiencies and enhance operational capacity, thereby improving vehicle safety and emergency evacuation/response times and access for standard roadway maintenance.

The environmental review, consultation, and other actions required by applicable federal environmental laws for this project are being, or have been, carried out by the FDOT pursuant to 23 U.S.C. §327 and a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) dated May 26, 2022 and executed by the Federal Highway Administration and FDOT.

The proposed project is located in a recharge area for the Biscayne Aquifer, a designated sole source aquifer. Pursuant to the Safe Drinking Water Act, as amended, 40 C.F.R. §149, and the PD&E Manual, the proposed project requires a sole source aquifer impact review and concurrence to ensure there is no potential for contamination. To assist in your review, please find the attached Project Location Map, Water Quality Impact Evaluation (WQIE), and Sole Source Aquifer (SSA) checklist. Based on our review, the FDOT has determined that through the implementation of

stormwater treatment facilities and best management practices, the proposed project will not impact the sole source aquifer.

The FDOT appreciates the Environmental Protection Agency's involvement with this project and respectfully requests your written letter of concurrence within **30** days. If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact me at 863.519.2515 or [lauren.peters@dot.state.fl.us](mailto:lauren.peters@dot.state.fl.us).

Sincerely,

Lauren Peters  
Environmental Project Manager  
FDOT, District One

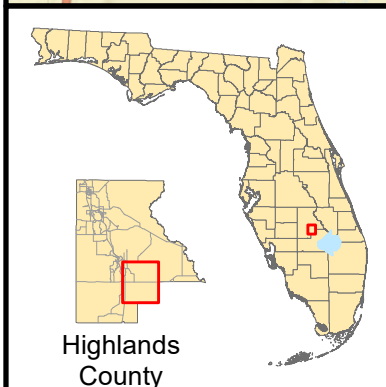
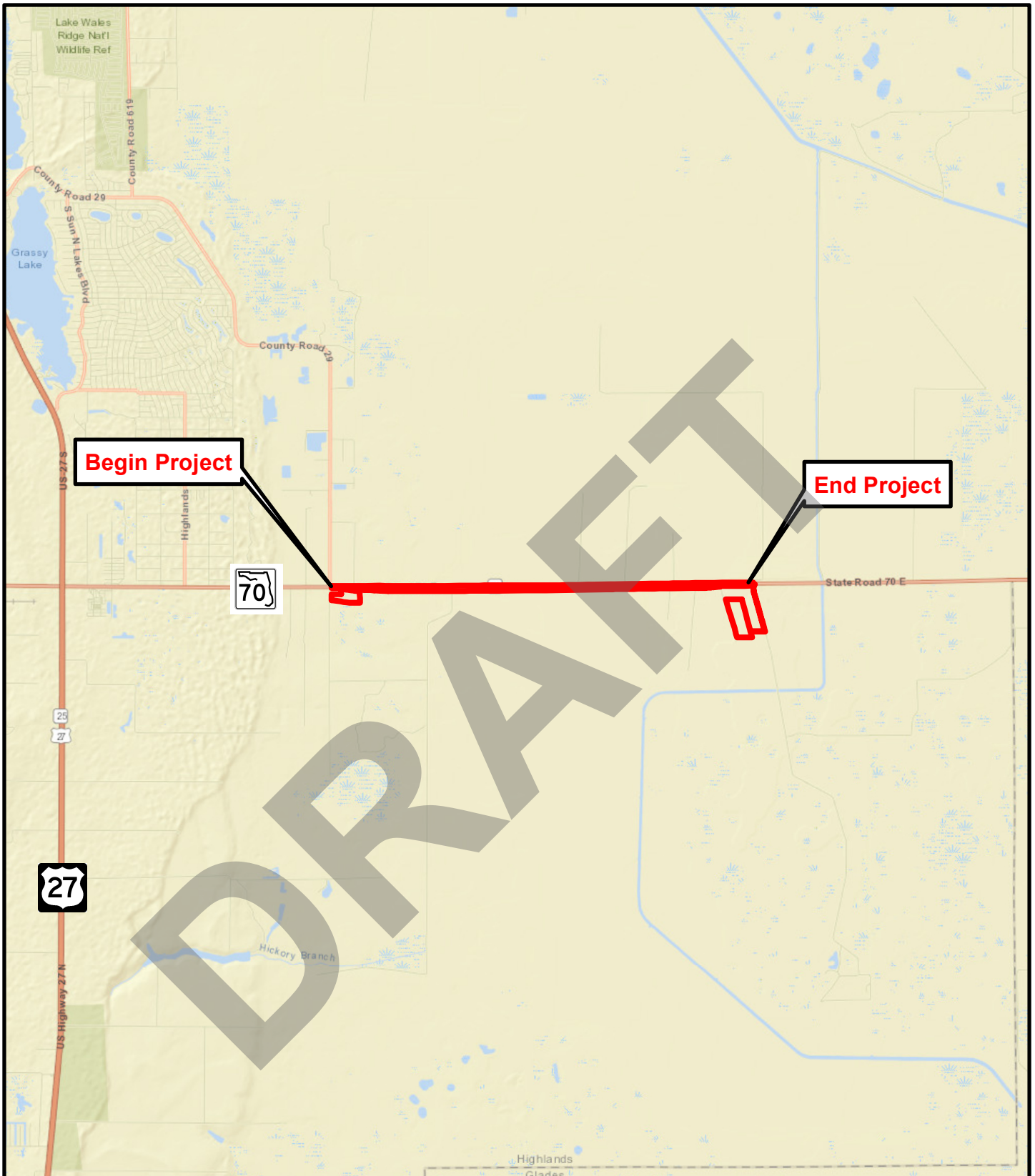
cc. David C. Turley, P.E., FDOT  
Lauren Peters, FDOT  
Mike Campo, P.E., KCA

Attachments: Project Location Map, WQIE, SSA Checklist


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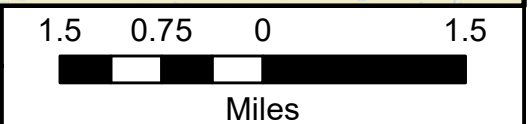
**Attachment A**  
**Project Location Map**

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**Legend**

 Project Study Area



**Project Location Map**  
 SR 70 from CR 29 to Lonesome Island Road  
 Project Development and Environment Study  
 Highlands County, Florida  
 FPID No. 414506-5-22-01

Kisinger Campo & Associates, Corp.  
 201 N. Franklin Street, Suite 400  
 Tampa, FL 33602  
 Phone: 813/871-5331

**Attachment A**

**Attachment B**  
**Water Quality Impact Evaluation**

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## WATER QUALITY IMPACT EVALUATION CHECKLIST

### PART 1: PROJECT INFORMATION

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Does project discharge to surface or groundwater?  Yes  No

Does project alter the drainage system?  Yes  No

Is the project located within a permitted MS4?  Yes  No  
Name:

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### PART 3: PROJECT BASIN AND RECEIVING WATER CHARACTERISTICS

#### Surface Water

Receiving water(s) names: Harney Pond Canal

Water Management District: South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD)

Environmental Look Around meeting date: N/A  
*Attach meeting minutes/notes to the checklist.*

Water Control District Name (list all that apply): None

#### Groundwater

Sole Source Aquifer (SSA)?  Yes  No Name Biscayne  
If yes, complete Part 5, D and complete SSA Checklist from EPA website ([Figure 11-2](#))

Other Aquifer?  Yes  No Name \_\_\_\_\_

Springs vents?  Yes  No Name \_\_\_\_\_

Well head protection area?  Yes  No Name \_\_\_\_\_

Groundwater recharge?  Yes  No Name \_\_\_\_\_

Notify District Drainage Engineer if karst conditions are expected or if a higher level of treatment may be needed due to a project being located within a WBID verified as Impaired in accordance with Chapter 62-303, F.A.C.

Date of notification: 11 / 11 / 20

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EST recommendations confirmed with agencies?  Yes  No

BMAP Stakeholders contacted:  Yes  No

TMDL program contacted:  Yes  No

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yes, describe:  Yes  No

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and/or operation identified?  
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- C. Water quality regulatory requirements apply to this project (provide Evaluator's information below). Water quality and stormwater issues will be mitigated through compliance with the design requirements of authorized regulatory agencies.
- D. EPA Ground/Drinking Water Branch review required. X Yes  No  
Concurrence received?  Yes X No  
If Yes, Date of EPA Concurrence: \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_ (Attach the concurrence letter)

The environmental review, consultation, and other actions required by applicable federal environmental laws for this project are being, or have been, carried out by FDOT pursuant to 23 U.S.C. § 327 and a Memorandum of Understanding dated December 14, 2016 and executed by FHWA and FDOT.

Evaluator Name (print): Curt Sprunger, P.E.

Title: Regional Stormwater Manager, Kisinger Campo & Associates

Signature:

Date: 3/27/2023





**Table 2: Regulatory Agencies/Stakeholders Contacted**

Receiving Water Name (list all that apply)	Agency's Contact and Title	Date Contacted	Follow-up Required (Y/N)	Comments

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**Attachment C**  
**Sole Source Aquifer Checklist**

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**PROJECT NAME:** SR 70 from CR 29 to Lonesome Island Road PD&E Study (FPID No. 414506-5-22-01)

**NAME OF SOLE SOURCE AQUIFER:** Biscayne Aquifer

**1. Location of project:**

SR 70 from County Road (CR) 29 to Lonesome Island Road in Highlands County, refer to **Attachment A** Project Location Map.

**2. Project description.**

The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) is conducting a Project Development and Environment (PD&E) study to evaluate widening State Road 70 (SR 70) in Highlands County, Florida. The study covers approximately 4.3 miles of SR 70 beginning at County Road 29 (CR 29) and ending at Lonesome Island Road. The study area and project limits are shown in **Attachment A**. The objective of the PD&E study is to evaluate widening the existing two-lane undivided roadway to a four-lane divided roadway. This study documents the purpose and need for capacity improvements within the SR 70 corridor and analyzes potential impacts which are documented in the Type 2 Categorical Exclusion Determination Form.

Based on analysis of existing conditions and environment along with potential environmental and utility impacts, one build alternative was developed for the project. The preferred build alternative extends south of existing FDOT right-of-way for the proposed four-lane roadway typical section by adding two travel lanes and a shared use path.

**3. Is there any increase of impervious surface? If so, what is the area?**

Yes, the project has an increase of 26.34 acres of new impervious surface area.

**4. Describe how storm water is currently treated on the site?**

There are no existing stormwater management facilities servicing the SR 70 project corridor. The roadway drainage is currently conveyed to flanking canals to the north and south of the project. There are also three existing crossdrains located within the project limits that hydraulically connect these canals. These canals ultimately discharge into the Harney Pond Canal (C-41 Canal).

**5. How will storm water be treated on this site during construction and after the project is complete?**

A stormwater pollution prevention plan (SWPPP) or an erosion and sediment control plan will be developed and adhered to for the duration of construction, and in compliance with the anticipated National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Construction Generic Permit to be obtained prior to construction. Construction contractors will follow best management practices (BMPs) to reduce dust, erosion, and sedimentation to prevent any potential impacts to water quality. After project completion, stormwater runoff from SR 70 will be collected and conveyed to stormwater management facilities (SMF), e.g. linear ponds. These stormwater management facilities will provide water quality (treatment) and water quantity (attenuation) (**Table 1**). Additionally, the construction contractor will adhere to *FDOT's Standard Specifications for Road and Bridge Construction*, including requirements that will be followed during construction to prevent erosion and water quality impacts.

The design of the drainage and stormwater facilities will comply with the standards set forth by the FDOT Drainage Manual, FDOT Drainage Design Guide, and the South Florida Water Management District

(SFWMD) Environmental Resource Permit (ERP) Applicant’s Handbook II. The size of the ponds were estimated using a variety of sources including, but not limited to, the FDOT Drainage Manual, FDOT Drainage Design Guide, and SFWMD ERP Applicant’s Handbook. Where impaired water bodies were present, pond sites were designed using presumptive criteria.

**Table 1: Summary of Preferred Pond Sites**

Pond Site	Road Name	Pond Area (Acres)
SMF (linear ponds)	SR70	46.10
FPC 1A	SR70	19.0
FPC 2A	SR70	31.5

SMF: Stormwater Management Facility  
 FPC: Floodplain Compensation Site

**6. Are there any underground storage tanks present or to be installed? Include details of such tanks.**

A Level 1 Contamination Screening Evaluation Report (CSER) (May 2023) was prepared for the mainline and drainage pond sites for the project’s existing and proposed right-of-way. No underground storage tanks were found within the project’s existing or proposed right-of-way. Furthermore, no underground storage tanks will be installed as part of this project.

**7. Will there be any liquid or solid waste generated? If so, how will it be disposed of?**

No liquid or solid waste will be generated from the proposed roadway project. During construction, any liquid or solid waste generated will be disposed of in accordance with *FDOT’s Standard Specifications for Road and Bridge Construction*. Also, during construction, disposal sites and project specific disposal methods for waste generated as a result of construction will comply with State and Federal regulations.

**8. What is the depth of excavation?**

The depth of excavations for the proposed ponds will vary from 2 feet to 6 feet throughout the proposed project.

**9. Are there any wells in the area that may provide direct routes for contaminants to access the aquifer and how close are they to the project?**

Wells were searched and identified using the Florida Department of Environmental Protection’s open data portal Map Direct. Water supply restoration wells, public wells, private wells, and upper Floridan aquifer wells data were reviewed. Only wells within 0.25 miles of the recommended alignment were reviewed. No wells were identified within 0.25 miles of the recommended alignment and no wells were identified within the recommended alternative alignment.

**10. Are there any hazardous waste sites in the project area, especially if the waste site has an underground plume with monitoring wells that may be disturbed? Include details.**

There are no hazardous waste sites in the preferred alternative alignment.

**11. Are there any deep pilings that may provide access to the aquifer?**

No, there are no deep pilings that may provide access to the aquifer.

**12. Are Best Management Practices planned to address any possible risks or concerns?**

Yes. Construction will adhere to the FDOT's *Standard Specifications for Road and Bridge Construction*. Additionally, the project will have a specific SWPPP or Erosion and Sediment Control Plan that outlines the BMPs to be followed during construction. The SWPPP will be developed during the design phase of this project and the construction contractor will obtain a NPDES Construction Generic Permit prior to starting construction.

**13. Is there any other information that could be helpful in determining if this project may have an effect on the aquifer?**

No.

**14. Does this Project include any improvements that may be beneficial to the aquifer, such as improvements to the wastewater treatment plan?**

No. There are no wastewater treatment facilities within the project's existing or proposed right-of-way.

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