

Appendix G

City of Tampa 1.9-MGD Source Identification



City of Tampa

Jane Castor, Mayor

Water Department
Office of the Director
7125 N. 30th Street
Tampa, FL 33610

Office: (813) 274-7105
Fax: (813) 231-1325

February 24, 2023

Southwest Florida Water Management District
Attn: Brian Armstrong
7601 Highway 301 North
Tampa, Florida 33637-6759
Via email: Brian.Armstrong@swfwmd.state.fl.us

Subject: Lower Hillsborough River MFL

Dear Mr. Armstrong:

As you are aware, the City of Tampa (City) and the Southwest Florida Water Management District (District) have been implementing the recovery strategy for the Lower Hillsborough River minimum flow which was established by the District in Rule 40D-80,073 Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.). With regard to the provision of water for the minimum flow and the prioritization of sources to be used the following is the subject of this letter, more specifically the provisions in rule 40D-80.073(2)(b)3.a.(l)

“ . . . the District shall deliver 75% of any water diverted from the Tampa Bypass Canal to the Hillsborough River under this provision to the Lower Hillsborough River. Delivery of the 75 percent of the water diverted from the TBC addresses concerns about potential losses due to the subsurface leakage, evaporation and transpiration.”

And, in Rule 40D-80.073(2)(b)2.:

“ . . . By October 1, 2013, provided that the transmission pipeline has been constructed and it operational, all of the water diverted from the TBC middle pool under this provision to help meet the minimum flow shall be provided to the Lower Hillsborough per paragraph 40D-80.073(2)(g), F.A.C. “ That paragraph reads as follows:

(g) Transmission Pipeline Project.

By October 1, 2013, and as specified in the Funding Agreement incorporated in subsection (1) above, the City shall complete the water transmission pipeline described in paragraph 40D-80.073(2)(e), F.A.C., and move the water the District will move as specified in paragraphs 40D-80.073(2)(b) and (h), F.A.C., to the Lower Hillsborough River directly below the dam as needed to help meet the minimum flow or to transport water in accordance with SWFWMD Water Use Permit No. 20006675.

1. This transmission line will eliminate all adjustment for losses described in paragraphs 40D-80.073(2)(b) and (h), F.A.C.
2. Additionally, the City will provide an additional flow of 1.9 million gallons each day to the base of the dam from the TBC middle pool provided that water is being transported in accordance with SWFWMD Water Use Permit No. 20006675. This additional 1.9 million gallons each day is anticipated to be part of the water savings associated with this transmission pipeline.



3. Once the pipeline is completed, the 1.9 million gallons each day of additional flow provided by the City as part of the water savings associated with the pipeline will be used in preference to all other sources except Sulphur Springs and Blue Sink to help meet the minimum flow for the Lower Hillsborough River.

4. In the event that this pipeline is not substantially completed by October 1, 2013, or that the City did not provide the District with a minimum ninety (90) days notice prior to October 1, 2013, of the delay of completion of the pipeline due to circumstances beyond its control, then, the City will be responsible for delivering the flows the District was previously obligated to divert from the TBC middle pool to the Hillsborough River and then to immediately below the City's dam under paragraphs 40D-80.073(2)(b) and (h), F.A.C.; except that the District shall continue to be responsible to pump water from the TBC lower pool to the middle pool as described in subparagraph 40D-80.073(2)(b)2., F.A.C., and from Morris Bridge Sink to the TBC middle pool as described in paragraph 40D-80.073(2)(h), F.A.C.

The City conducted a study of the potential water savings with a constructed pipeline. The study was subsequently peer reviewed by a panel of experts. The peer review report identified deficiencies in the study's assumptions. The City determined that the cost of the pipeline construction out-weighed the potential water savings and additional analysis. So the pipeline was not constructed. The City considered alternative sources including the potential use of alternative supplies still under consideration.

However, at this time, the City believes it can and will begin as of the date this correspondence to provide the additional twenty-five percent in the compliance with the minimum flow. The provision of this additional water eliminates the City's obligation to provide 1.9 MGD from another source as indicated in rule 40D-80.073(2)(b)4, F.A.C. The City and District staff have had multiple conversations over the years and more recently for this commitment. In the event that public health and safety concerns arise such as in a drought, the City anticipates that it and the District will coordinate between them and with Tampa Bay Water to assure that the City will have sufficient water for its customers.

It is the City's intention to have the District include this commitment in its current assessment for the Lower Hillsborough River minimum flow assessment to be concluded in 2024 for Governing Board consideration.

Sincerely,



Chuck Weber (Feb 27, 2023 10:01 EST)

Charles J. Weber, P.E.
Director

cc: Jean Duncan, P.E., Infrastructure and Mobility Administrator
Brad L. Baird, P.E., Deputy Administrator of Infrastructure
McLane Evans, Assistant City Attorney II
Jan McLean, Gray Robinson, P.A.
Jeannette Seachrist, Director, Research Management
Randy Smith, Bureau Chief, Natural Systems & Restoration
Danielle Rogers, Environmental Project Manager