



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
JACKSONVILLE DISTRICT CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
10117 PRINCESS PALM AVENUE, SUITE 120  
TAMPA, FLORIDA 33610-8302

September 26, 2017

REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF

Regulatory Division  
West Branch  
Tampa Permits Section  
SAJ-2013-03249 (NW-RGH)

Amanda Rice, P.E.  
Assistant Executive Director  
Southwest Florida Water Management District  
2379 Broad Street  
Brooksville, Florida 34609-6899

Dear Ms. Rice:

You requested re-verification of a project that we previously verified on August 1, 2014. Our file number is SAJ-2013-03249 (NW-RGH). The project called the Palm River Restoration would result in the following work:

The project will restore and/or improve wetlands and upland habitats on two parcels within the Tampa Bay watershed. Both parcels have extensive drainage ditch excavation that has resulted in reduced hydroperiods within palustrine wetlands and disruption of surface drainage due to extensive spoil banks. Disturbed areas on both parcels have been colonized by nuisance species, primarily Brazilian pepper and also lead tree, air potato, and cogongrass. Habitat restoration design elements will utilize a habitat mosaic approach that provides palustrine wetland enhancement and creation, oligohaline and estuarine wetland habitat enhancement, and enhancement of existing coastal oak/palm hammock uplands.

North parcel water quality enhancement will occur by diverting the drainage ditch along 12th Avenue into a wet detention treatment pond and littoral shelf system on the north side of the roadway. The existing ditch will be graded back to create a 2.6-acre wet detention pond and a structure set at a target elevation of 2.0-feet NAVD to retain the low flow condition and provide stormwater treatment. Any water stages above elevation 2.0 feet will be allowed to pass over the structure and discharge to the west, as occurs in the existing condition. The existing disturbed wetland areas located on either side of 12th Avenue will be incorporated into the proposed system and will be interconnected via an under road culvert. Upland and wetland habitats south of 12th Avenue have been altered via the excavation of upland-cut ditches that were apparently constructed to drain otherwise isolated wetlands. The primary enhancement of remnant palustrine wetlands will consist of the backfilling of the existing upland-cut drainage ditches using the extensive spoil mounds that are present along the ditch courses. Restored wetland areas will be treated to remove nuisance/exotic vegetation, followed by replanting with desirable wetland plant species. Wetland areas to be enhanced will

receive nuisance/non-native vegetation removal treatments. Upland areas outside of the spoil bank removal areas will be enhanced via nuisance vegetation removal and replanting if necessary.

The South parcel has two open ditch inflows. The existing drainage channel at the northern inflow will be diverted to a proposed wet detention pond. The secondary inflow to the South parcel will be captured within a proposed stormwater pond to retain the water up to a target elevation of 2.3 feet NAVD. The enhancement of wetland and upland habitats on the South parcel will be conducted in a similar fashion as those described for the North parcel.

The completed project will result in increased stormwater retention and nutrient load removal.

The project will result in 1.68 acres of temporary impacts, consisting of mostly dredge impacts to existing drainage ditches where stormwater detention areas are proposed. Permanent impacts of 0.36 acres will result from construction of drainage structures, ditch block and/or ditch backfill construction.

The project site consists of 2 parcels. The North parcel is located west of 12th Avenue South and the South parcel is located west of Colorado Avenue in Palm River – Clair Mel, Hillsborough County, Florida. The site is located in Section 21 and 28, Township 29 South, and Range 19 East. You stated in your request dated August 31, 2017 that there are no changes to that project.

Your project is authorized by Nationwide Permit (NWP) Number 27. This verification is valid until **March 18, 2022**. Some of the terms, conditions and regional conditions may have changed because our previous verification was based on the 2012 Federal Register and Regional Conditions. This letter is based on the project being performed in accordance with: the drawings attached to our previous letter; the terms and conditions found on pages 1983 to 2008, inclusive, of the Federal Register Vol. 82, dated January 6, 2017; the Regional Conditions dated March 14, 2017; and, the entirety of our previous letter, including the special conditions and attachments (except for the expiration date and the references to the 2012 Federal Register and Regional Conditions).

If you are unable to access the internet or require a hardcopy of any of the above-referenced documents, please contact me by telephone at 813-769-7075 or by electronic mail at [Ryan.G.Hendren@usace.army.mil](mailto:Ryan.G.Hendren@usace.army.mil).

Sincerely,

Ryan G. Hendren  
Project Manager

Enclosures

Copy Furnished:

Stephanie T. Powers, Ph.D.  
Senior Environmental Scientist  
7601 US Hwy. 301  
Tampa, FL 33637-6759

[Stephanie.Powers@swfwmd.state.fl.us](mailto:Stephanie.Powers@swfwmd.state.fl.us) (via email)

bcc:  
CESAJ-RD-PE

GENERAL CONDITIONS  
33 CFR PART 320-330

1. The time limit for completing the work authorized ends on **March 18, 2022**.
2. You must maintain the activity authorized by this permit in good condition and in conformance with the terms and conditions of this permit. You are not relieved of this requirement if you abandon the permitted activity, although you may make a good faith transfer to a third party in compliance with General Condition 4 below. Should you wish to cease to maintain the authorized activity or should you desire to abandon it without a good faith transfer, you must obtain a modification of this permit from this office, which may require restoration of the area.
3. If you discover any previously unknown historic or archeological remains while accomplishing the activity authorized by this permit, you must immediately notify this office of what you have found. We will initiate the Federal and state coordination required to determine if the remains warrant a recovery effort or if the site is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.
4. If you sell the property associated with this permit you must obtain the signature of the new owner in the space provided and forward a copy of the permit to this office to validate the transfer of this authorization.
5. If a conditioned water quality certification has been issued for your project, you must comply with the conditions specified in the certification as special conditions to this permit. For your convenience, a copy of the certification is attached if it contains such conditions.
6. You must allow a representative from this office to inspect the authorized activity at any time deemed necessary to ensure that it is being or has been accomplished in accordance with the terms and conditions of your permit.