

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Governing Board Members

FROM: Rich Virgil, P.E., Field Operations Division

DATE: September 11, 2025

SUBJECT: Publish a Notice of Proposed Rule in the Florida Administrative Register and Adopt Rules 40E-7.700 through 40E-7.702, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.)

Agenda Item Background:

The District is responsible for the operation and maintenance of the Central and Southern Florida Flood Control Project (C&SF) system consisting of 2,200 miles of canals, 2,100 miles of levees, over 1,500 water control structures, and 90 pump stations. The C&SF system provides flood control, water supply, navigation, water management, and recreational benefits to South Florida. The District must maintain the C&SF system free of aquatic vegetation, trash, and other debris, which can lead to blockage of canals and structures resulting in increased risks of flooding, navigational hazards, and impediments to water supply. Hazards arising from the accumulation of aquatic vegetation, trash, and other debris in the C&SF system are particularly prevalent in Collier, Broward, Glades, Hendry, Highlands, Lee, Martin, Miami-Dade, Okeechobee, Orange, Osceola, Palm Beach, Polk, and St. Lucie Counties.

Staff drafted new rules to establish measures required to prevent discharges of aquatic vegetation, trash, and other debris into C&SF system or other Works of the District, and to set forth remedial action when the District determines a system owner and/or operator is violating or has violated the rules in this new chapter. Staff conducted two rule development workshops in 2023 and revised the draft rules based on public comments received from these workshops. Staff also hired an economist to prepare a Statement of Estimated Regulatory Costs (SERC). The SERC will be available at <https://www.sfwmd.gov/our-work/flood-control> once the Notice of Proposed Rule is published in the Florida Administrative Register.

Staff seeks Governing Board approval to publish a Notice of Proposed Rule and Adopt Rules 40E-7.700, 40E-7.701, and 40E-7.702, F.A.C., provided that no requests for public hearing are received, and no substantive changes are made to the proposed rules.

Additional Item Background:

Core Mission and Strategic Priorities:

This rulemaking will ensure the District's ability to carry out its responsibilities and objectives under Chapter 373, Florida Statutes, without the destruction and financial burdens caused by aquatic vegetation, trash, and other debris discharging into the C&SF system from secondary and tertiary water management systems owned and operated by landowners and special districts that directly connect to and make use of the C&SF system or other Works of the District.

Funding Source:

The rulemaking activities will be completed using in-house staff resources.

Staff Contact and/or Presenter:

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ATTACHMENTS:

[Resolution No. 2025-0905](#)

[Presentation Backup](#)

[Notice of Proposed Rule](#)