Examples of Instream Flow Program Goals and Objectives:

FLORIDA (Excerpt from Southwest Florida Water Management District Water Management Plan, July 2005; http://www.swfwmd.state.fl.us/about/watermanagementplan/)

A. Vision and Mission Statement

The following vision statement reflects the preferred conditions fifty years into the future in terms of both the water resource and the agency. The purpose of the vision is to show where the District wants to go – in effect, a picture of a successful future for water management and protection. Everyone in the District has a role in realizing the vision. Once effectively communicated, all parties can do their part to move us toward the preferred future. This vision will be revisited periodically to assure it remains appropriate.

Vision – The Resource

> There is an ample supply of clean water for all appropriate uses, including the environment. This is a result of several factors, including interconnection of major water utilities, a widespread conservation ethic, careful management and protection by the District, and technological advances that have lessened human needs for fresh water. Primary among these advances is the ability to make efficient use of alternative sources, including reuse and seawater. In short, sustainable resource use, or "safe yield," has been achieved.
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> Floodplains are serving their natural functions due to the evolution of "enviro-urban habitats" where development reflects a balance between humans and nature. The combination of strategic District land acquisitions, consistent application of local government land use and zoning powers and futuristic development techniques have resulted in preservation of key flood-prone areas for natural attenuation and responsible redevelopment that prevents major damage during even large scale storm events. An effective partnership of the District, local, regional and state governments is involved in disaster prediction, response and recovery.
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> Water quality in Tampa Bay and other water bodies has been restored, including use for swimming, and the fishing industry has made a strong recovery. A comprehensive resource data network is in place, allowing continual real-time monitoring of water quality throughout the District. Water quality management has assured viable ecosystems, and the District's focus is now on maintenance and restoration of such systems. Mitigation banking has resulted in a net gain in viable wetlands. Well managed public lands further advance protection of ecosystems. Many are connected to each other, and to population centers, by greenways that serve as conduits for human and wildlife access. Overall, an

effective balancing of the District's resource-based responsibilities has been achieved. State, regional and local governments have worked closely with the District to define and realize sustainable limits based on the carrying capacity of southwest Florida's natural resources.

Vision – The Agency

The concept for the SWFWMD of the future can be stated in a phrase: positive action on behalf of water resources. The District has become the recognized agency for information on the environment. Monitoring networks have been completed, a continuing emphasis on research and funding for water management solutions has evolved and viable incentives for resource protection are in place. The District is less regulatory and more that of a facilitator and technical expert, allowing the agency to exert global influence in water management. We make use of advanced, interactive technologies, including real-time telemonitoring of all systems. Water resources education continues to play an important role in shaping attitudes, including a strong conservation ethic and support of a "design with nature" approach to water resources. The District has achieved outstanding coordination with local governments, including a solid linkage between land and water planning. With "safe yield" established and implemented, the District serves as a mediator in water use between local governments, agriculture and others. The District has also proved to be a powerful force in consensus building, including interactions with other water management districts, State agencies and the legislature. The District is recognized as an innovator in public management. Its positive public image is a result of cost-effective services and public awareness of its role and accomplishments. Its commitment to excellence is reflected in a diverse, highly skilled work force that receives regular training aimed at their continuous development. The net result for west-central Florida is an enhanced quality of life.

Mission Statement

The Governing Board of the Southwest Florida Water Management District has adopted a formal Mission Statement, as follows:

The mission of the Southwest Florida Water Management District (District) is to manage water and related natural resources to ensure their continued availability while maximizing environmental, economic and recreational benefits. Central to the mission is maintaining the balance between the water needs of current and future users while protecting and maintaining water and related natural resources which provide the District with its existing and future water supply.

The Governing Board of the District assumes its responsibilities as authorized in Chapter 373 and other chapters of the Florida Statutes by directing a wide-range of programs, initiatives, and actions. These include, but are not limited to, flood protection, water use, well construction and environmental resource permitting, water conservation, education,

land acquisition, water resource and supply development and supportive data collection and analysis efforts.

## B. Goals

Water Supply – Ensure an adequate supply of the water resource for all existing and future reasonable and beneficial uses, while protecting and maintaining water resources and related natural systems.

Flood Protection – Minimize flood damage by optimizing and maintaining storage and conveyance in natural and built systems, and by encouraging appropriate locations and design standards for growth.

Water Quality – Protect water quality by preventing further degradation of the water resource and enhancing water quality where practical.

Natural Systems – Preserve, protect and restore natural systems in order to support their natural hydrologic and ecologic functions.

Management Services –Seek continuous improvement while effectively and efficiently providing the resources and assistance necessary to achieve the District's mission to manage and protect water and related natural resources.

## C. Water Management Performance Measures

Ultimately, the success of the District's resource management efforts comes down to how well the District has performed in improving the condition of water and related natural resources. Historically, it has been difficult to measure performance in environmental management for a variety of reasons. Most importantly, it is difficult to isolate the results of a given action by the District when there are many other forces at work, from land use decisions to climatic changes. Similarly, the use of differing measures (e.g., biologic measures versus chemical measures for water quality) can yield conflicting results.

Whatever the challenges, the water management districts in conjunction with DEP and the EOG have developed a set of "core" performance measures that are used to assess the districts' performance relative to their annual budgets. These measures are listed here to illustrate just one of the accountability devices intended to verify success and guide needed adjustments. During FY 2004, the measures noted below were assessed and revised by the districts and DEP to better reflect data availability and eliminate redundancy.

The District may add to the core list below any other measures appropriate for its own programs and needs. It is recognized that the new Florida Forever Act and other developments will necessitate further changes and refinements in these measures.

C.1. Measures Common to All Four Areas of Responsibility

a. Acres of land acquired through fee simple, and less than fee simple, respectively, on an annual and cumulative basis.

b. Number and percent of land management plan activities being implemented according to plan schedules.

C.2. Water Supply Measures

Objective 1: Increase available water supplies and maximize overall water-use efficiency to meet identified existing and future needs.

a. Percentage of domestic wastewater reuse.

b. Gross per capita water use (Public Supply) by district and water supply planning regions.

c. Within each water supply planning region: (1) the estimated amount of water supply to be made available through the water resource development component of the regional water supply plan; (2) percent of estimated amount under development; and (3) percent of estimated amount of water actually made available.

d. Within each water supply planning region, the estimated additional quantities of water supply made available through district water supply development assistance.

Objective 2: Prevent contamination of water supply sources.

a. Percentage of surface water supply sources for which water quality fully attains the designated use.

C.3. Flood Protection and Floodplain Management Measures

Objective 1: Minimize damage from flooding

a. Percentage of district works maintained on schedule.

Objective 2: Promote non-structural approaches to achieve flood protection and to protect and restore the natural features and functions of the 100-year floodplain.

a. Number of acres identified for acquisition to minimize damage from flooding and the percentage of those acres acquired.

C.4. Water Quality Measures

Objective 1: Protect and improve surface water quality.

a. Percentage of water bodies that attain or potentially do not attain designated uses under the TMDL program.

b. Percentage of total stream miles and lake and estuary area in the District assessed for ambient water quality.

Objective 2: Protect and improve groundwater quality.

a. Improving, degrading and stable trends in groundwater quality.

b. Improving, degrading and stable trends in nitrate concentrations in springs.

C.5. Natural Systems Measures

Objective 1: Maintain the integrity and functions of water resources and related natural systems.

a. Number of Minimum Flows and Levels (MFLs), by water body type, established annually and cumulatively.

b. Percentage of MFLs established in accordance with previous year's schedule.

c. For the previous fiscal year, the total acres of wetlands or other surface waters authorized by environmental resource permit to be impacted and the number of acres required to be created, enhanced, restored and preserved.

Objective 2: Restore degraded water resources and related natural systems to a naturally functioning condition.

a. Acres of invasive nonnative aquatic plants in inventoried public waters.

b. Acres of District-managed lands infested with invasive nonnative upland plants.

c. Acres of District-owned land identified in land management plans as needing restoration; acres undergoing restoration; and acres with restoration activities completed.