

# **MICCOSUKEE WATER QUALITY IMPROVEMENT CESI**

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## **FINAL PROJECT SUMMARY**

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The Miccosukee Tribe is committed to preserving the quality of water on its land in the Everglades and ensuring that all water entering these areas meets the Tribe's water quality standards. Thus both water originating from outside Tribal boundaries and that from sources within are important to the Tribe's goal of ensuring water quality commensurate with restoring and preserving its part of the Everglades. This is the final report for the CESI funded Water Quality Improvement Project.

- 1) Automated Water Quality Monitoring System (AWQMS): The automated system is completely installed and the last samples were collected and analyzed prior to turning the system over to the Water Resources Department for continued operation. SERC/FIU will continue to provide technical and analytical support to the Tribe for future operation of the system.
- 2) Laboratory Information Management System (LIMS): The LIMS system is completely functional and currently all samples are logged and analyzed under the protocols derived for LIMS operation. This system has greatly increased efficiency, QA/QC and meets or exceeds all requirements of the state and federal NELAP.
- 3) Collection and Analysis of Compliance Monitoring Samples: Samples were collected and analyzed for the 2002 water year and a final report is

being prepared for the Tribe. In the future this monitoring will be conducted by the Water Resources Department and the samples will be analyzed by the SERC laboratory.

- 4) Periphyton Stormwater Treatment Area (PSTA): After receiving a estimate from the Tribal consultants providing an estimate of \$22 million for the construction of an STA with PSTA on Tribal land, the Tribe requested that we evaluate alternative water quality improvement methods. Although we did not agree with the consultants hired by the Water Resources Department, we agreed that given the limited usage of the land for grazing, alternative systems should be evaluated. For this reason we met with Oppenheimer Remediation Services, Inc. and developed a BMP water retention and treatment system that could be implemented for approximately \$20,000. In addition the Tribe supported our PSTA development work in the C-51 and C-111 basins. PSTA work continues in these basins under separate contracts.
- 5) Miccosukee Reserve Area Water Quality Monitoring Plan: A plan was formulated, submitted to the Tribe and is now under the implementation Phase.
- 6) Miccosukee Liaison Office (MLO): The office was established in OE-148C, and is currently staffed by Dr. Terry Rice.