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Lee Board of County Commissioners expands water quality monitoring efforts

Fort Myers, FL, June 19, 2018 – The Lee Board of County Commissioners today unanimously approved agreements with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and the U.S. Geological Survey that will expand water monitoring efforts in the Caloosahatchee watershed.

New monitoring sites will be located in the Orange River near Buckingham, Telegraph Creek and Popash Creek. The additional stations within the Caloosahatchee watershed will enhance the county's understanding of water flow and basin nutrient loads in fulfillment of achieving the state-required Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for the Caloosahatchee Estuary. The sites also will assist future flood response efforts by providing real-time flow information and calibration data for hydrologic/hydraulic modeling and analysis.

The U.S. Geological Survey is paying for the installation of the three new water monitoring sites at a cost of \$128,880. The Florida Department of Environmental Protection will reimburse Lee County for the operation and maintenance costs of two of the sites at a cost of \$57,400 annually and the county will pay for the operation and maintenance of the third site at an annual cost of \$28,700. Installation is expected to happen in late summer or early fall.

The expansion brings the total number of monitoring sites in the basin to 12.

For more information on Lee County Natural Resources' efforts to protect and improve water quality, log on to <http://www.leegov.com/naturalresources/WaterQuality>.