



Lake Jesup Tributary Storm Event Sampling Project

What? Seminole County is submitting the “*Lake Jesup Tributary Storm Event Sampling Project*” to the State for funding. The County is eligible for \$71,874 through the federal “Coastal Impact Assistance Program.”

Why? This project will initiate stormwater sampling on Gee Creek and extend sampling on Six-mile Creek, Soldiers Creek, Howell Creek, and Solary Canal. The information will help measure the water quality improvements from several stormwater retrofit projects currently being designed and assist with Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) development for Lake Jesup.

When? The current stormwater monitoring effort for Lake Jesup tributaries ends in June 2001. This project will add an additional monitoring station on Gee Creek and extend the project another 18 to 24 months. Seminole County will submit this project for funding consideration by May 31, 2001.

Who? The Seminole County Stormwater Division will manage the project. The sample collection and laboratory analysis will be conducted by a County contractor. Contact Kim Ornberg, Water Quality Engineer, at 407-665-5738 with questions or comments.

Where? A map of Lake Jesup and its tributaries is provided below.
(Insert map here, if available.)

What is the source of this funding? Last year, Congress mandated that taxes from the Outer Continental Shelf oil leases be distributed to the states for environmental improvements, called “Coastal Impact Assistance Funding.” Florida’s share of this funding is \$19.2 million. Congress designated the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) as the funding administrator. Governor Bush named the Florida Department of Environmental Protection as the state’s administrator for the funds. In Florida, each of the 67 counties is eligible for a portion of the funding. The amounts are computed with a formula based on the County population, miles of shoreline, and distance from off-shore oil lease tracts. Seminole County’s allocation, based on this formula, is \$71,874. No County matching funds are required. Federal funding for future years will require additional action by Congress.

Project Description:

The “*Lake Jesup Tributary Storm Event Sampling Project*” will provide data on stormwater discharge into Lake Jesup to monitor and, ultimately, reduce polluted runoff. These data are needed for total maximum daily load (TMDL) development and to

measure the effectiveness of the upstream water quality retrofit projects currently in the design phase.

Lake Jesup, the fifth largest lake in Florida, is centrally located in Seminole County and is directly connected to the St. Johns River. The St. Johns River, including the watershed of Lake Jesup, has received several special designations including being named an American Heritage River and a SWIM waterbody. Lake Jesup is listed as an “impaired” waterbody in the Florida Department of Environmental Protection’s 305(b) report for the following parameters: Nutrients, unionized ammonia, and dissolved oxygen.

This project will provide an additional equipment, data collection, and analysis of water quality immediately following storm events on the main tributaries of Lake Jesup. Seminole County currently has four (4) autosamplers collecting data to calibrate the St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD) nutrient budget model for Lake Jesup. Funding for this effort, which will be complete in June 2001, was provided by the State through the SJRWMD and the Friends of Lake Jesup.

With assistance from Coastal Impact Assistance Program (CIAP) funding, Seminole County plans to continue the storm event sampling and to add an additional monitoring station. This information will assist with TMDL development and measure the effectiveness of several upstream stormwater retrofit projects that will be constructed within the next two years.

The existing four autosamplers are located on the following tributaries: Six-mile Creek (conveys runoff from the urbanized watershed north of the lake, including Sanford); Soldiers Creek (conveys runoff from the urbanized watershed west of the lake, including Lake Mary and Longwood); Howell Creek, which conveys runoff from the urbanized areas south and east of the lake, including Casselberry, Winter Springs, Orange County, Winter Park, and Maitland); and Solary Canal (conveys runoff from the southeastern watershed, including Oviedo).

The new autosampler will be placed on Gee Creek, which is the only remaining urbanized tributary not being monitored. Gee Creek is considered an impaired water body on the State’s 303(d) list.

The CIAP funding will provide continued monitoring of the major urbanized tributaries of Lake Jesup. The overall estimated project cost is \$101,000 for 18 to 24 months of monitoring, based on the cost of the original project ending in June 2001. CIAP funding will be used for analytical laboratory analysis of the storm event samples and contract services to install, collect, and maintain the samplers throughout the duration of the project, as well as preparation of a final report summarizing the water quality findings. Seminole County is seeking additional funding for the costs not covered by CIAP funds and to provide additional monitoring beyond the scheduled 18 to 24 month project.

Questions/Comments? Contact Kim Ornberg, Water Quality Engineer, at 407-665-5738.