



Florida Stormwater Association Educational Foundation

## **MS4 Assessment Project III**

### Summary Information

FDEP has engaged the FSA Educational Foundation (FSAEF) and University of Florida in a new Research Project that builds upon work previously completed by UF for FSAEF in 2007 and 2011. That research quantified the nutrient load reduction values of common MS4 maintenance activities.

The results of the 2011 project are now used to give credits to MS4s based on the nutrient content of materials removed from the stormwater system during common maintenance activities. You can see information on the 2011 research by going to the FSAEF research webpage at <http://www.florida-stormwater.org/research> and also at the FDEP website at [http://www.dep.state.fl.us/water/stormwater/npdes/ms4\\_1.htm](http://www.dep.state.fl.us/water/stormwater/npdes/ms4_1.htm).

### ***Why Undertake Another Project?***

The 2008-11 research project examined samples that were taken from different types of BMPs in different land uses dispersed around different areas of 14 MS4s. All of those samples were taken in areas not served by reclaimed water. However, a sub-task of that research project took a second set of samples in reclaimed water service areas by three of the participating jurisdictions. Although those samples indicated a higher nutrient content, they were not statistically significant; statewide projections could not be made that would allow FDEP to provide MS4s with a higher level of credits for materials removed from reclaimed water service areas.

FSA has always hoped to broaden and refine the findings of the 2008-11 research and improve the resulting tools and credits used by MS4s. The 2016 research project is intended to do that.

Participants in the 2016 research project will take two sets of samples: One set inside a reclaimed water service area and the other outside of the area. The project's goal is to improve the usefulness of the FSA Load Reduction Tool used by local governments and FDEP in the MS4 permitting program, primarily in two ways:

1. To compare and refine the load reduction values of samples taken from the non-reclaimed areas in 2016 with the results from 2011.
2. To compare the load reduction values of samples taken from non-reclaimed water service areas with those taken from reclaimed areas.

### ***What/Where/When?***

The project will be completed in 24 months. 12 to 15 MS4s distributed throughout the state are being invited to participate in the project. We are first inviting those cities/counties that participated in the 2008-11 project (and that have reclaimed water service areas) to participate in the 2016 project.

Participants will collect samples from 9 to 12 locations in reclaimed water services areas and the same number of samples in non-reclaimed service areas in each city or county. As was done in 2008-11, three types land use areas will be used for sampling. Within those areas, at least three hydrologic functional units or BMPs will be sampled.

***About the FSA Educational Foundation***

FSA Educational Foundation is a parallel organization to the Florida Stormwater Association. FSAEF is a non-profit, charitable Florida corporation organized under subsection 501(c)(3) of the IRS Code, and provides stormwater research and scholarship services.

**QUESTIONS?** Contact FSAEF at 888-221-3124 or [info@florida-stormwater.org](mailto:info@florida-stormwater.org).