Tampa Bay Water Morris Bridge Wellfield Environmental Monitoring

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Applied Ecology is responsible for ecological and hydrological monitoring of the 3,851 acre Morris Bridge Wellfield (MBRWF), one of 13 wellfields that make up Tampa Bay Water's Consolidated Water Use Permit (SWFWMD WUP No. 2011771.02). AEI monitors and analyzes the hydrological and ecological conditions of the project area and surrounding vicinity to assess environmental factors that occur naturally, such as climatic events and abiotic and biotic disturbances, as well as factors from human activity like wellfield production, regional development, and drainage. The wellfield monitoring program at the MBRWF includes evaluation of 34 wetland ecosites in accordance with Tampa Bay Water's approved Environmental Management Plan (EMP). This contract includes ecological monitoring of wetland vegetation and other environmental conditions such as water level, soil conditions and wildlife usage. Semi-annual impact summaries and annual ecosite condition reports are prepared based on field analyses and observations to assist Tampa Bay Water staff in the preparation of the permit-required annual report.

PROJECT DETAILS

PROJECT CLIENT:

Tampa Bay Water

PROJECT LOCATION:

Hillsborough County, FL

RELEVANT SERVICE AREAS:

- **Natural Resources**
- Environmental
- Planning and Geospatial

EXPERTISE:

- Water User Permit Compliance
- Field Monitoring
- Hydrological & Ecological Analysis
- Groundwater Hydrological & Water Quality
- Remote Sensing
- Land Use Impacts
- Compliance Reporting

OUTCOMES

The results of AEI's continued diligent monitoring and reporting for this project is used by Tampa Bay Water to provide annual evidence to the regulatory agency, the Southwest Florida Water Management District, that ongoing groundwater withdrawals is not having a significant ecological effect on nearby wetlands and surface waters. Consequently, Tampa Bay Water is able to continue to meet the drinking water needs of millions of customers in the Tampa Bay region.