

REASONABLE ASSURANCE PLAN (RAP) FOR THE BISCAYNE BAY WATERSHED

A Reasonable Assurance Plan (RAP) is a restoration plan that is developed and implemented to improve the water quality of a waterbody, including those waterbodies identified as impaired (or trending to be) by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP). RAPs are similar to Basin Management Action Plans (BMAPs), in that they both require the same level of technical analysis and assurances that the impaired waterbody will attain applicable water quality standards. The difference between the two plan types is that BMAPs implement Total Maximum Daily Loads and are developed by FDEP. Conversely RAPs are developed locally, by stakeholders. Once adopted by the State, both BMAPs and RAPs become subject to agency enforcement action.



CURRENT SITUATION

According to the Biscayne Bay Task Force Report, improving Biscayne Bay's water quality will require significant reductions in the levels of pollutants within its watershed. In addition, significant improvements must be made to contributing waters to the Bay and canals through outfalls and sheetflow. Recommended actions include:

- Establish pollutant load reduction goals
- Leverage the County's role as a local authority
- Increase monitoring to measure progress against those goals
- Implement of pollution reduction activities and projects



Miami-Dade County has committed to improving water quality in the watershed by starting to implement the Biscayne Bay Task Force recommendations. The Board of County Commissioners recently approved the development of a RAP for the Biscayne Bay watershed. The RAP will be developed in a phased approach that will eventually cover the entire Biscayne Bay watershed.

DEVELOPMENT OF RAP - NORTHERN BISCAYNE BAY PHASE 1

The County has identified the geographic area for Northern Biscayne Bay Phase 1 to be developed in the C-7 and C-8 canal drainage basins. The goal of the plan development process is to attain water quality standards and submit the plan to the FDEP Secretary for adoption through Secretarial Order by September 2022.

The County's development of for Northern Biscayne Bay Phase 1 will require participation and agreement from all stakeholders within the designated canal drainage basins. Including the cities of North Miami, North Miami Beach, Biscayne Park, Miami Shores, North Bay Village, Village of El Portal, and City of Miami. Along with participation from FDEP, South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD), Biscayne Bay Aquatic Preserves, Biscayne Bay Watershed Management Advisory Board (BBWMAB), Biscayne Bay Commission and others.

The RAP process will provide more local control over the development and implementation of prevention and restoration activities. The Biscayne Bay RAP will make grant funding available from FDEP's wastewater grant program, Biscayne Bay water quality grant program, and others.



REASONABLE ASSURANCE PLAN: NORTHERN BISCAYNE BAY PHASE 1

CITIES WITHIN PHASE 1 BOUNDARY

- North Miami
- North Miami Beach
- Biscayne Park
- Miami Shores
- North Bay Village
- Village of El Portal
- City of Miami
- Unincorporated Miami-Dade

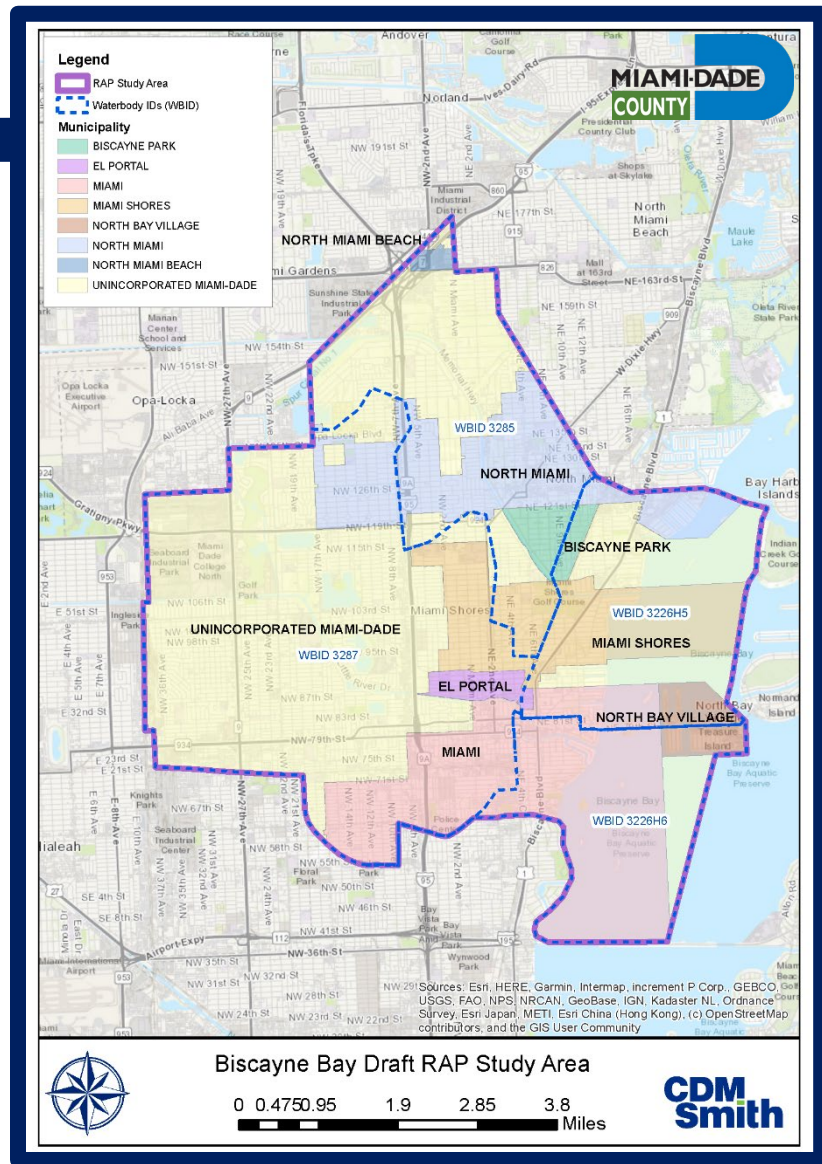
CDM Smith Inc. has been retained to provide expertise and experience to Miami-Dade County with support in the study and working with FDEP staff toward the approval of the RAP, documentation of the plan itself, and technical support in the development and consideration of the benefits and costs of remedial actions and activities.

COMMUNITY IMPACT AND BENEFITS

This project will determine measures that can be taken to help Biscayne Bay's northern watershed recover by lowering nutrient levels, so this waterbody will attain applicable water quality standards, as well as help prevent future fish kills and algal blooms.

PROJECT CREDITING

For projects to receive credit towards the RAP they must focus on current loading and/or directly address water quality improvements in the watershed.



IT'S OUR BAY...IT'S OUR RAP



Establish a RAP framework within which stakeholders will participate



Establish appropriate indicators, endpoints, goals, and targets



Assess the current water quality and biological conditions



Determine the appropriate prevention or restoration measures needed



Develop a plan for adoption



Monitor and measure the prevention or restoration