

5.E WATER RESOURCES

The Federal Water Pollution Control Act, known as the Clean Water Act (CWA), is the principal law governing pollution of the nation's surface waters. The primary objective of the CWA is to restore and maintain the integrity of the nation's waters through two fundamental goals: to achieve water quality levels that are fishable and swimmable, and to eliminate discharge of pollutants into the nation's waters. This section discloses the water resources (i.e. water quality, wetlands, and coastal resources) in the area of Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport (FLL).

WATER QUALITY

The CWA provides the authority to establish water quality standards, control discharges, develop waste treatment management plans and practices, prevent or minimize the loss of wetlands, and regulate other issues concerning water quality. The Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act also applies if a proposed Federal action would impound an area greater than ten acres, or divert, drain, control, or otherwise modify the waters of any stream or other body of water. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) must be consulted if there is the potential for contamination of an aquifer designated as a sole or principal drinking water resource for the area, as required by Section 1424(e) of the Safe Drinking Water Act, as amended.

WETLANDS

Executive Order 11990, *Protection of Wetlands*; Department of Transportation (DOT) Order 5660.1A, *Preservation of the Nation's Wetlands*; the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899; and the CWA address activities in wetlands. Executive Order 11990 requires Federal agencies to ensure their actions minimize the destruction, loss, or degradation of wetlands and also assures the protection, preservation, and enhancement of the nation's wetlands to the fullest extent practicable during the planning, construction, funding, and operation of transportation facilities and projects. DOT Order 5660.1A sets forth DOT policy that transportation facilities should be planned, constructed, and operated to assure protection and enhancement of wetlands.

COASTAL RESOURCES

Federal activities involving or affecting coastal resources are governed by the Coastal Barriers Resources Act (CBRA), the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA), and Executive Order 13089, *Coral Reef Protection*. The CBRA prohibits, with some exceptions, Federal financial assistance for development within the Coastal Barrier Resources System that contains undeveloped coastal barriers along the Atlantic and Gulf coasts and Great Lakes. The CZMA and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration implementing regulations (15 CFR Part 930) provide procedures for ensuring that a proposed action is consistent with approved coastal zone management programs. Executive Order 13089 requires Federal agencies to ensure that any actions that they authorize, fund, or carry out will not degrade the conditions of coral reef ecosystems.

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