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# CERP Guidance Memorandum

*South Florida Water Management District – Jacksonville District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers*

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**CGM NUMBER-REVISION:** 66.00

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** 07 Mar 2018

**CATEGORY:** Design, Construction,  
OMRR&R

**SUBJECT: RECOVER Assistance to Projects During Implementation**

**PURPOSE:**

The purpose of this Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP) Guidance Memorandum (CGM) is to define the process for the interaction between the project teams and REStoration, COordination and VERification (RECOVER) for the implementation phases (design, construction, operation and maintenance) and replacement/rehabilitation phases of CERP projects and to identify the value of that interaction. This process will also enable RECOVER to determine what project interactions are likely to take place over the next 5–10 years based on the South Florida Ecosystem Restoration (SFER) Integrated Delivery Schedule (IDS).

**DESCRIPTION:**

Establishing a process for incorporating new science and information into the design and operations of CERP projects is vital for Everglades restoration because new science and monitoring data is continuously evolving, and there are often substantial time gaps between planning and design phases for a project. The new science is the knowledge gained from the monitoring and evaluation that RECOVER principal investigators have gathered and analyzed since CERP was authorized, as well as all relevant science being produced by the larger South Florida scientific community.

A process is needed where RECOVER can interact with project teams and provide new science and system-wide monitoring data to the teams as they move forward with design and construction. RECOVER, with input from the project delivery teams (PDTs),

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This document provides working level guidance to assist Project Delivery Teams in the implementation of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP) program executed between the South Florida Water Management District and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The guidance does not constitute policy for either agency nor does it create authority beyond that granted to any agency member carrying out their duties. Guidance reflecting agency policy on subjects listed in the guidance memoranda section of the programmatic regulations for CERP will be issued when the final programmatic regulations are adopted, using the process stated in the regulations.

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developed a generalized process for the interaction of RECOVER with the PDTs during the implementation phases<sup>1</sup>.

There is guidance for CERP on how RECOVER interacts with the project teams during the project planning phase in their review of performance measures, alternatives, and the project-level monitoring plan (Figure 1). However, there is no guidance on RECOVER's role once the project is authorized and goes into the subsequent implementation and replacement/rehabilitation phases.

The tasks below will help SFER program and project managers know where and how RECOVER will provide information to the design, construction, and operation phases of CERP projects. Specifying roles of RECOVER in these project phases will provide value to CERP by ensuring that new science is incorporated into project design, construction and operations, thus providing the adaptive management (AM) feedback loop and helping the project teams implement AM strategies. RECOVER will review and provide input to project-level monitoring plans, AM plans, and operation plans; obtain project-level data to include in the RECOVER System Status Reports (SSR); and also help the project teams update and identify AM opportunities in the design and operation of their project.

### **Summary of Tasks:**

Below is a summary of the tasks for RECOVER's role in each CERP project during implementation:

- RECOVER team designates a point of contact (POC) for each project that is a RECOVER agency member within the RECOVER region of the project.
- RECOVER POC determines project-specific interactions based on the current project schedule (e.g. review of the project-level monitoring plans, AM plans, and operation plans to ensure coordination of project-level and system-wide monitoring to project-level monitoring plans; obtain project-level data to include in the RECOVER SSR; identify AM opportunities in the design and operation of the project).
- The RECOVER POC coordinates between the project and RECOVER members, as needed, at specific interaction points.
- The RECOVER POC will use the project-specific RECOVER interaction points to determine the RECOVER schedule for the next five years and to populate yearly work plans.
- The RECOVER POC will implement and track the RECOVER interactions with projects.

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<sup>1</sup> PDTs consist of members from the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD), other Federal and State agencies, tribes and stakeholders

**RECOVER Role during Project Planning**

During CERP project formulation and development of the project implementation report process, RECOVER has defined where in the process they can provide information and assistance to the PDTs. This work on defining RECOVER's roles during project planning was completed in 2005. Figure 1 shows where in the plan formulation process RECOVER engages and what RECOVER provides at each of those points in the process.

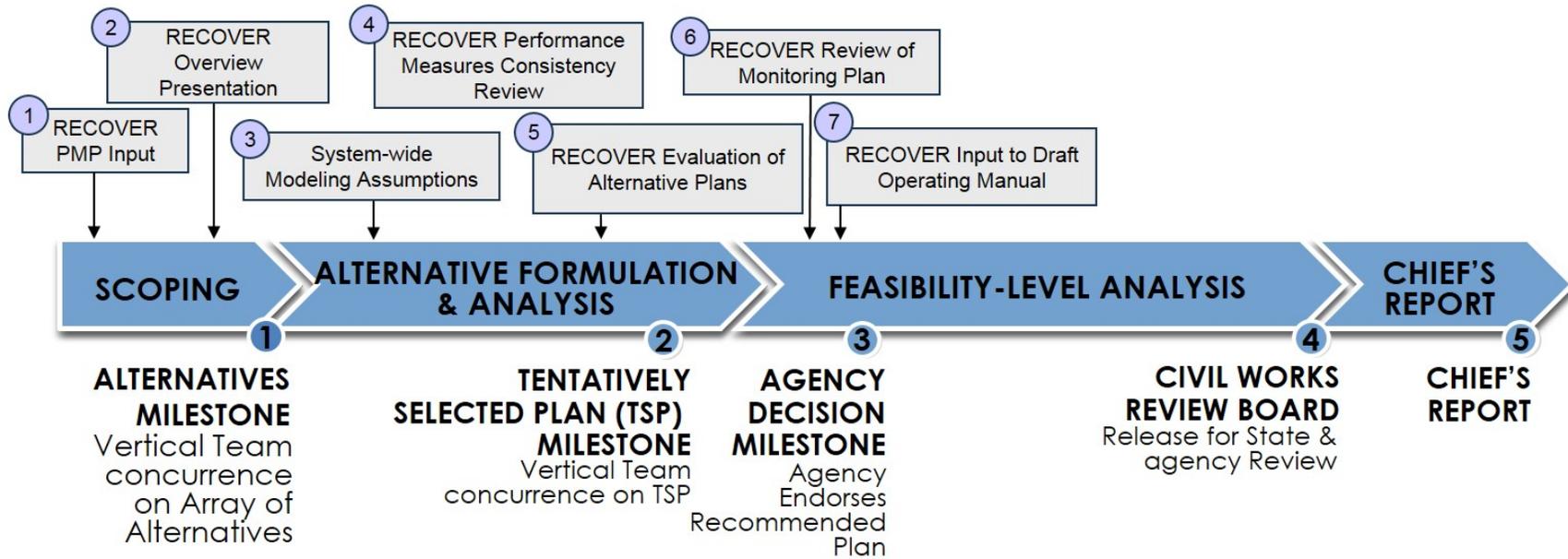


Figure 1. RECOVER-PDT interactions during plan formulation.

## RECOVER Roles during Project Implementation

This process defines how and when RECOVER interacts with PDTs during project implementation. The process ensures new science is incorporated into project design, construction, and operations; provides the AM feedback loop; and helps PDTs implement AM strategies. RECOVER also needs to coordinate with the PDT to ensure that project-level data are included in the RECOVER SSRs and that the pertinent system-wide data are provided to the project teams to be included in their reporting efforts.

RECOVER, along with PDT members, developed the process for this interaction between the PDTs and RECOVER for the implementation phases of the project (Figure 2). The process was developed by examining existing guidance and discussing the value added and what is needed and practical. This new process has been vetted by RECOVER, PDTs, and USACE and SFWMD leadership. The process depicted in Figure 2 and outlined below is a generalized process for CERP projects; each project may be different based on the type of project and timeline of where it is in the implementation phase. This process will be applied to each CERP project, but specific points of interaction will be determined for each individual project.

Once the CERP project is authorized by Congress, this is the trigger for RECOVER to begin coordination with the PDT for the project implementation phase. In most CERP projects, PDTs have been dissolved after the planning phase and the project team consists of Corps and District engineers. The original PDTs included representatives from many agencies (FWS, NOAA, NPS, tribes, etc.) of various disciplines. RECOVER would like to see the original PDTs reestablished to be involved in the implementation phase to ensure various agencies and disciplines are involved. RECOVER will assign a RECOVER POC for the authorized project and have them contact the project manager. If SFWMD moves forward with design and construction of certain phases of a CERP project before it is authorized by Congress, RECOVER will initiate coordination with SFWMD when design begins.

RECOVER will interact with the PDTs at 8 points during project implementation (Figure 2). Steps 1, 3, 4, 6, 7, and 8 will be required RECOVER inputs, while Steps 2 and 5 will be optional depending on the scope of the project. This process ensures continuity and communication between the project and RECOVER as the project is implemented. This process may be repeated during implementation of each major project component or project phase depending on the implementation schedule.

1. **Project and RECOVER Communication Begins.** RECOVER will provide a POC to assist the PDT as the project features are refined during design. RECOVER will coordinate with the PDT to ensure new science is provided to inform the design and environmental permitting, and monitoring is in place to

capture preconstruction conditions for future benefit calculations and later revisions to the project monitoring plan.

2. **RECOVER Involvement in Preconstruction, Engineering and Design (PED) and/or the Value Engineering (VE) Study.** RECOVER will provide updated scientific information and lessons learned from prior project implementation or Monitoring and Assessment Plan (MAP) monitoring that may be applicable to design. RECOVER POC will be involved in the VE study to assist in identifying optimum project benefits in response to new information and AM options. RECOVER will make AM recommendations through a memo to the PDT. RECOVER will meet with the PDT to discuss the AM recommendations and present the AM recommendations at the Design Coordination Team (DCT) meeting to USACE and SFWMD leadership. The PDT will provide a memo to RECOVER to document if/how the PDT will address the recommendations.
3. **Crosswalk of the Project-level Monitoring Plans with the MAP.** RECOVER will conduct a review of the project-level monitoring plans and compare it with the current MAP to ensure coordination of project-level and system-wide monitoring. During this process, RECOVER will ensure that project monitoring needs are covered and restoration success is identified. RECOVER monitoring may be leveraged as baseline monitoring prior to project implementation (project design and construction schedule), and an AM plan can be implemented. The PDT will finalize monitoring plans to be included in the transfer agreement with the local sponsor.
4. **Interim Operating Manual.** During development of the project's interim operating manual, RECOVER will review the analysis of ecological monitoring conducted during the operational testing phase, if applicable
5. **Construction Monitoring.** During construction monitoring, communication between the Project Manager or Ecological Project Manager (e.g., Picayune Strand Restoration Project) and RECOVER will take place to ensure construction, ecological and ecosystem performance issues are addressed, as needed.
6. **Project-level Monitoring** – Incorporation of project monitoring into RECOVER assessments and reporting will be as follows:
  - a. RECOVER will review the project AM plan (including key uncertainties, management options matrices, etc.) and remain engaged in the review of the monitoring plan's implementation to ensure provision of project-level data and their application for project success.
  - b. RECOVER will evaluate project performance on a system-wide level to maximize restoration results through AM of operations and when and how to move forward with phases of project construction.

- c. If RECOVER has an AM recommendation based on monitoring results, RECOVER will send a memo to the project managers. RECOVER will meet with the PDT to discuss the AM recommendations and present the AM recommendations at the DCT for consideration. The PDT will provide a memorandum for the record (MFR) to RECOVER to document if/how the PDT will address the recommendations.
  - d. RECOVER will maintain close communication with the project biologist or appropriate project representative to be aware of anything unexpected or changes that could be addressed through AM.
  - e. RECOVER will coordinate with the project when drafting the SSR to incorporate project-level monitoring.
  - f. RECOVER will check in with the project a minimum of two times a year to look at AM actions.
  - g. Projects will manage project-specific monitoring data; RECOVER will manage MAP monitoring data.
  - h. Projects will report in the South Florida Environmental Report (SFER); RECOVER will report in the SSR.
  - i. Communication will be maintained between RECOVER and the project teams.
  - j. RECOVER will conduct a consistency review between the project-level monitoring plan and the MAP.
7. **Final Project Operating Manual.** RECOVER will coordinate with the project and provide inputs with results of the monitoring and assessments.
8. **OMRR&R.** Adaptive management of the system will occur over the life of the project. RECOVER will assist the project team with implementing AM strategies. RECOVER will make AM recommendations through a MFR to the project team. RECOVER will meet with the PDT to discuss the AM recommendations and present the AM recommendations at the Design Coordination Team meeting to Corps and SFWMD leadership. The PDT will provide a MFR to RECOVER to document if/how the PDT will address the recommendations.

Several CERP projects will be implemented in phases and as components within the phases. There may be several opportunities for interaction between RECOVER and the PDT during implementation of each major project component within a project or project phase, especially if the components are initiated at different times or in different subareas. The process described above may be repeated for each phase of the project implementation.

# RECOVER's Role in CERP Project Implementation

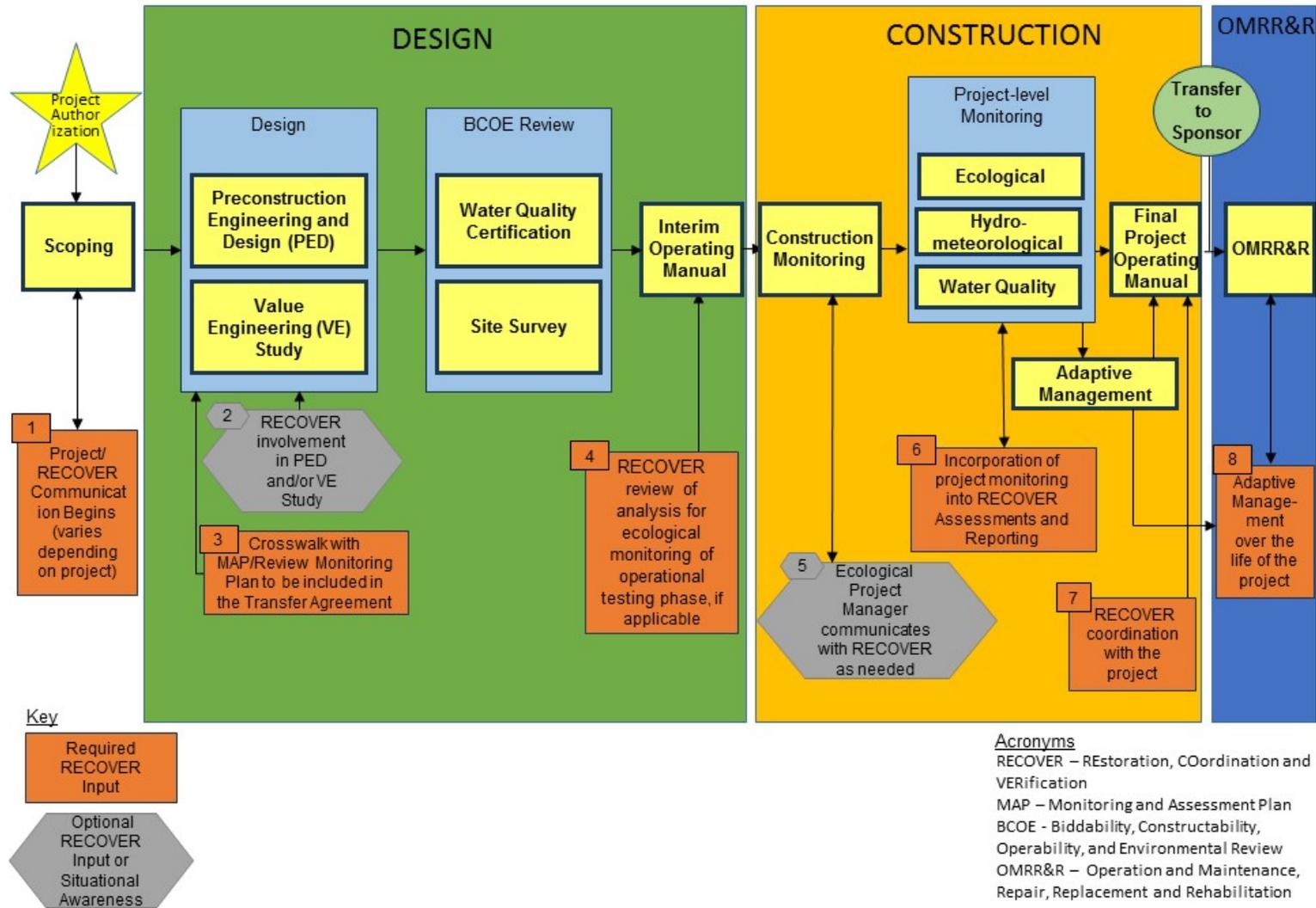


Figure 2. RECOVER–project team interactions during project implementation.

**References:**

USACE and SFWMD. 2000. *Master Program Management Plan Volume I – Management Processes*. United States Army Corps of Engineers, Jacksonville, FL, and South Florida Water Management District, West Palm Beach, FL. August 2000. Available online at [http://141.232.10.32/pm/program\\_docs/mpmp.aspx](http://141.232.10.32/pm/program_docs/mpmp.aspx).

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RECOVER. 2009. *CERP Monitoring and Assessment Plan*. Restoration Coordination and Verification, c/o United States Army Corps of Engineers, Jacksonville, FL, and South Florida Water Management District, West Palm Beach, FL. December 2009. Available online at [http://141.232.10.32/recover/recover\\_map\\_2009.aspx](http://141.232.10.32/recover/recover_map_2009.aspx).

**Application:**

Effective as of the date of this CERP Guidance Memorandum, the staffs of both agencies will implement this guidance in accordance with the information provided herein for coordination with RECOVER on project related science needs during implementation.

**APPROVALS:**



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