# East-Central Florida Transient Expanded (ECFTX) V2.0 Model Report





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### **ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS**

- APhpz Avon Park high permeability zone
- APPZ Avon Park permeable zone
- APT aquifer performance test
- cfs cubic feet per second
- CFWI Central Florida Water Initiative
- CUP consumptive use permit
- DRN Drain package
- DRT Drain Return package
- DWRM Districtwide Regulatory Model
  - dy-1 ft per day per ft
- ECFT East-Central Florida Transient model
- ECFTX East-Central Florida Transient Expanded Model
  - EFH equivalent freshwater head
    - ET evapotranspiration
  - FAS Floridan aquifer system
  - ft/d feet per day
  - ft<sup>2</sup>/d Feet squared per day
  - GHB General Head Boundary package
  - gpd gallons per day
  - HAT Hydrologic Analysis Team
  - IAS intermediate aquifer system
  - ICU intermediate confining unit
    - K hydraulic conductivity
  - Kh horizontal hydraulic conductivity
  - Kv vertical hydraulic conductivity
  - LFA Lower Floridan aquifer
- LFA-upper First subdivision of the LFA upper permeable zone
  - LF-basal Lower Floridan aquifer basal permeable zone
    - MAE mean absolute error
    - MCU middle confining unit
    - MCU\_I first component of the MCU
    - MCU\_II second component of the MCU
      - ME mean error
      - mg/I Milligrams per liter
      - MGD million gallons per day

#### MODFLOW-

2005 USGS Modular Groundwater Flow Model 2005

MSR	mean-square	residual
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NAVD88 North American Vertical Datum of 1988

NGVD29 National Geodetic Vertical Datum of 1929

NS Nash-Sutcliffe coefficient

OCAPIpz Ocala-Avon Park low-permeability zone

OMR overall mean residual

PZ Permeable zone

R<sup>2</sup> coefficient of determination

RMS root mean square

RMSR root-mean-square-residual

RWSP Regional Water Supply Plan

SAS Surficial aquifer system

SFWMD South Florida Water Management District

SJRWMD St. Johns River Water Management District

SWFWMD Southwest Florida Water Management District

UFA Upper Floridan aquifer

UFA-upper Uppermost permeable zone of FAS

UPW Upstream weighting

USGS United States Geological Survey

USGS-ECFT

model USGS version of the ECFT model

Districts water management districts

WUP water use permit

### East-Central Florida Transient Expanded (ECFTX) V2.0 Model Report

### **CHAPTER 1 – INTRODUCTION**

#### 1.1 Background

The East Central Florida Transient Expanded (ECFTX) model was developed in 2020 to support central Florida regional water supply planning and used as a primary tool to estimate groundwater availability and assess water supply and management strategies in the Central Florida Water Initiative (CFWI) planning region (CFWI, 2020). The ECFTX model domain covers about a 23,800-square-mile area of central Florida, including the entire CFWI area and extends from central Volusia County (to the north) to the Charlotte-Desoto County line (to the south) and from the Atlantic Ocean (to the east) to the Gulf of Mexico (to the west) (Figure 1.1). The model has 603 rows and 740 columns with a uniform grid spacing of 1,250 feet (CFWI HAT, 2020).



Figure 1.1. ECFTX Model Domain

The ECFTX model is a fully three-dimensional groundwater flow model using the MODFLOW NWT (Niswonger, et al., 2011) computer code. All elevation data for the model are in a vertical datum of NAVD 88. In general, for those areas of the model where chloride concentrations exceed 5,000 mg/l (or 10,000 mg/l total dissolved solids), the layers were inactivated, and general head

boundaries were set along the edge of the active areas (CFWI HAT, 2020). The model consists of 11 hydrostratigraphic layers — layer 1 is the Surficial aquifer (SA), layer 2 is the Intermediate Aquifer System/Confining Unit (IAS/ICU), layers 3–5 are the Upper Floridan aquifer (UFA), layers 6–8 are Middle Confining Unit (MCU I and II), and layers 9–11 are the Lower Floridan aquifer (LFA) (Figure 1.2).



#### Model Layer Hydrostratigraphic Conceptualization

Figure 1.2. ECFTX Model layers (CFWI HAT, 2020).

The ECFTX is a transient model simulating monthly groundwater flows and levels from 2004 through 2014 with an average 2003 steady-state condition serving as the initial conditions. It was calibrated to match observed flows and levels in 2003 (annual averages) and 2004 through 2012 (monthly averages). The years 2013–2014 were used as the verification period.

#### **1.2 Objectives**

The main purpose of the ECFTX model was to support water supply planning decisions. To make the model a more suitable tool for regulatory decisions and improve the model performance in the areas where critical minimum flows and levels (MFL) water bodies are located, a groundwater modeling team from three districts (SJRWMD, SWFWMD and SFWMD) reviewed the model and identified an area within the CFWI portion of the domain where the original calibration could be improved. This area primarily included the Wekiva River springs groundwater contributing basin and Seminole County, shown in Figure 1.3 as circled areas.



Figure 1.3 Areas of concern

As a result of more thorough review of the local-scale data in these areas, the team also identified opportunities for refinements to the following:

- Spring pool elevations
- Wekiva River stages
- Groundwater level targets near Wekiwa Springs
- Layering of pumping wells

To facilitate the recalibration effort, a local groundwater basin (focus area) was delineated using the Wekiva River groundwater contributing basin and the USGS May/July 2010 UFA potentiometric surface (Figure 1.4). The recalibration effort was conducted only in the focus area with a goal to improve the model's ability to better match observed water levels and spring flows. In addition, the horizonal hydraulic conductivity (Kh) for the IAS/ICU (layer 2) in the Southern Water Use Caution Area (SWUCA) of SWFWMD outside the focus area was modified to improve accuracy of the model conceptualization, model convergence, and run time (Appendix A).

This report describes the model updates, recalibration approach and results, and a sensitivity analysis to better understand the influence of recharge on model calibration. The original and recalibrated models are referred as ECFTX v1.0 and ECFTX v2.0, respectively, in this document.



Figure 1.4 Focus Area

### CHAPTER 2 – MODEL UPDATES

ECFTX model updates, generally limited to the focus area as shown in Figure 1.4, included modifications to spring pool elevations, river stages, and groundwater level targets. Minor adjustments were also made to recharge, maximum saturated evapotranspiration (MSET), and groundwater withdrawals. Changes to the model outside of the focus area included updates to layer 2 horizontal hydraulic conductivity (Kh) in the region where the Intermediate aquifer system (IAS) is present.

#### 2.1 Spring pool elevations

A review of the springs in the model indicated the pool elevations assigned to several springs within or near the focus area needed to be modified due to an older vertical elevation datum, feet NGVD29, previously used. Therefore, pool elevations were updated to reflect the appropriate vertical datum, feet NAVD88, for the model simulation period of 2003 to 2014. Figure 2.1 shows the locations of the 12 springs where the pool elevations were revised in the model and Table 2.1 includes the change in updated 2003 to 2014 average pool elevation at each spring. Of the springs with revised pool elevations, Alexander Spring was the only spring categorized as a magnitude 1 spring (with a discharge at or greater than 100 cfs). The remaining revised springs were of magnitudes 2 or 3 and were mostly within the Wekiva River springshed, apart from Gemini Springs and Green Spring, which were outside of the springshed but within the focus area (Figure 2.1).

			ECFTX V1.0	ECFTX V2.0	
Name	П	Magnitude	2003 to 2014 Average	2003 to 2014 Average	
- Tuanto		Magintado	Pool Elevation	Pool Elevation	
			(Feet, NAVD88)	(Feet, NAVD88)	
Sanlando Springs	1736	2	26.20	25.59	
Palm Springs	1456	3	22.47	21.43	
Starbuck Spring	1916	2	21.02	19.97	
Miami Spring	4109	3	15.21	14.20	
Wekiwa Spring	2353	2	13.29	12.17	
Holiday Spring	841	3	65.03	67.03	
Bugg Spring	256	2	60.51	61.67	
Rock Springs	1624	2	26.26	25.16	
Green Spring	730	3	11.34	10.40	
Gemini Springs #2	4163	2	2.61	1.68	
Gemini Springs #1	4161	2	2.61	1.23	
Alexander Spring	16	1	2.95	9.41	

#### Table 2.1. The revised springs



Figure 2.1. Spring locations with revised pool elevations

#### 2.2 Wekiva River stages

A comparison of modeled Wekiva River stages with the observed data, where available, indicated the modeled stages needed to be modified at several locations in the river, likely due to data error or the use of an old vertical elevation datum. The simulated stages from the Wekiva River HEC-RAS model (SJRWMD, 2019) were used to update river stages at cell locations representing the Wekiva River in the model for the period of 2003 through 2014. Linear interpolation was used to estimate the stages in between locations where HEC-RAS model data were available. At river boundary cells where the stages were adjusted, the river bottom elevations were also adjusted to maintain the depth assigned to each cell in ECFTX V1.0. Figure 2.2 shows the river boundary cells representing the portion of the Wekiva River where stage was adjusted.



Figure 2.2. Wekiva River cell locations where the river stage and bottom elevation were updated in the model. The 2003 to 2014 revised stage in ECFTX V2.0 is shown on the left while the stage in ECFTX V1.0 is shown on the right for comparison.

#### 2.3 Groundwater level targets

Groundwater level targets in the focus area were reviewed for location accuracy and observation values. Monitoring wells OR0547 and OR0548 are near Wekiwa Springs (Figure 2.3). OR0548 is open to the shallow part of the UFA (model layer 3) and OR0547 is open to MCU\_1 (model layer 6). The vertical head difference between these wells exceeds 20 feet. Our review of the head observation (HOB) package indicated OR0548 was not utilized in the ECFTX v1.0 model calibration and OR0547 well was assigned to the wrong model layer, layer 5. The HOB package was modified by assigning OR0547 well to layer 6 and OR0548 well to layer 3. Additionally, the model grid cell assigned to surficial aquifer monitoring well OR0894 near Prevatt Lake (Figure 2.3) was shifted 1 grid cell east (row 118 and column 382) to avoid the OR0894 grid cell intersecting with a river boundary cell in the model (row 118 and column 381). This prevented the simulated groundwater levels at the OR0894 grid cell from being strongly influenced by the specified stage in the river cell.



Figure 2.3. Locations of revised groundwater level calibration targets in the model.

#### 2.4 Groundwater withdrawals

A review of groundwater withdrawals in the ECFTX model revealed several consumptive use permits (CUPs) in SJRWMD required updated layer assignments due to inaccurate well construction information used to assign the model layer in the MODFLOW well package. Thus, the model layers in the well package were adjusted based on the updated well construction data for the following CUPs: City of Casselberry (CUP 8284), City of Altamonte Springs (CUP 8372) and the City of Eustis (CUP 84879). Review of well construction information at well SJ\_8284\_15422 indicated that this well was constructed deeper than originally modelled and was open to layers 5 through 9. Therefore, fluxes previously assigned to layers 3 and 4 at this well in ECFTX v1.0 were redistributed to layers 5-9. Review of well construction information at wells SJ\_8284\_15427, SJ\_8284\_15428, SJ\_8372\_15672, SJ\_8372\_19978 and SJ\_8372\_19979 indicated that fluxes previously assigned to layers 3-5 in ECFTX v1.0 needed to be redistributed to layers 7–9. Review of well construction at SJ\_84879\_34862 indicated that this well is open to the basal UFA (layer 5) and not the LFA as modeled in ECFTX v1.0; therefore, the model layer was adjusted.

#### 2.5 Recharge and Maximum Saturated ET rates

Recharge and maximum saturated ET rates were set to zero at the grid cells representing the Wekiva River in layer 1 of the model, shown in Figure 2.4, because the specified river stages in

the model already accounted for the influences of actual recharge and ET on water levels. The Wekiva River Basin was the primary focus for recalibration; therefore, this change was only applied at the grid cells representing the Wekiva River. Recharge and ET in the model domain outside of the Wekiva River remained at rates assigned to ECFTX V1.0 (CFWI HAT, 2020). It should also be noted that this adjustment was made for more accurately calculating baseflows within the Wekiva River Basin and had little or no effect on model results since river stages were specified in the model.



Figure 2.4. Locations where the recharge and ET rate in the model were assigned a value of 0 feet per day for all stress periods.

#### 2.6 Outside Focus Area updates

The Hawthorn aguifer system (HAS) (also more generally referred to as the intermediate aguifer system) exists within an approximate 5,000-square-mile area of DeSoto, Sarasota, Hardee, Manatee, and parts of Charlotte, Hillsborough, Highlands counties, and in the southwest portion of Polk County within the CFWI region. Two main water-producing aquifers exist within the HAS: the Upper Arcadia aquifer and Lower Arcadia aquifer. The ECFTX v1.0 treated the HAS as a confining unit and did not simulate the individual aquifers within the HAS. As a result, assignment of low hydraulic conductivity values to the areas where the HAS existed has resulted in convergence issues in the model due to the presence of pumping wells in these aquifers. Although the convergence issue has not affected the results significantly (see Appendix A), it has considerably increased model run time. Therefore, as part of this update, the horizonal hydraulic conductivity (Kh) for layer 2 was increased so that the model becomes more conceptually accurate by simulating horizontal flow within the intermediate aquifer system and consequently improving model convergence and run time. Vertical hydraulic conductivity values were unchanged in layer 2 and overall vertical leakage from the surficial aguifer to the UFA through layer 2 largely remained the same as ECFTX v.1.0. Appendix A presents details of this update.

# **CHAPTER 3 – MODEL RECALIBRATION**

#### 3.1 Calibration Approach

After the model was updated, model parameters were recalibrated to improve the model performance within the focus area. No changes were made to the parameters outside the focus area as part of recalibration. Because the focus area was identified as a local groundwater basin with limited flow exchange across the lateral boundary, the modifications to the model parameters within the focus area were assumed to minimally affect the groundwater levels and flows outside the focus area. Model testing after recalibration generally confirmed this understanding.

As recommended by peer reviewers of ECFTX 1.0 (Andersen, et al. 2020), the automated parameter estimation tool (PEST) by Dougherty (2014) was used for recalibration. The following parameters were adjusted using PEST:

- Hydraulic conductivities of all layers
- Spring conductances
- River conductances along Wekiva River

Initial parameter values were obtained from the ECFTX v1.0 model. The upper and lower bounds of the pilot points, utilized for adjustment of hydraulic conductivities, were set so that the UFA and LFA transmissivities and ICU and MCU leakance values were maintained within the values consistent with the known hydrogeology of the area. All observations utilized for PEST calibration were located within the focus area. The following observations were employed for PEST calibration:

- Groundwater levels for all layers
- Groundwater level differences between UFA and SA and between LFA and UFA
- Spring flows
- Baseflows within Wekiva River Basin

The model was recalibrated using a four-step approach as follows:

- 1. PEST optimization was first conducted on a steady-state model representing the average 2003-2014 condition.
- 2. Once a steady-state calibration was satisfactory, a transient model was run with the updated parameters.
- 3. Storage coefficients were adjusted as needed.
- 4. Steps 1 through 3 were repeated until a satisfactory transient calibration was achieved.

The calibration criteria set for ECFTX v1.0 were used to evaluate model performance. The recalibration was performed to ensure that the modeled groundwater levels and spring flows matched observed ones closely within the focus area and the modeled baseflows were within the range of estimated baseflows at critical gages in Wekiva River basin. The remaining simulated baseflows within the focus area were reviewed qualitatively to ensure that the ECFTX v2.0 performed in a similar manner as ECFTX v1.0. Simulated groundwater level contours were

compared with potentiometric surface maps to further assess the model's ability to adequately match the configuration of the UFA flow field and groundwater flow direction. Aquifer performance test (APT) and literature data were utilized qualitatively to evaluate the reasonableness of the aquifer parameters.

In addition to PEST calibration, the GHB conductances were manually adjusted along the eastern boundary to ensure the fluxes across that boundary were similar to the ECFTX v1.0 fluxes. No recharge adjustment was made. However, a recharge sensitivity analysis, described in detail later in this report, was performed to better understand the effect of recharge on model parameterization. Upon review and testing, storage coefficients were left unchanged from the original ECFTX v1.0 values. After the recalibration was finalized, model-wide calibration statistics were also reviewed to ensure there was no degradation in model performance outside the focus area.

#### 3.2 Transient Calibration Model Results

Monthly average aquifer water levels, springflow and baseflow estimates, developed for the calibration of ECFTX V1.0, were utilized in this recalibration effort as calibration targets to assess model calibration metrics. These included average monthly water levels from observation wells from the SA (layer 1), UFA (layers 3–5), and the LFA (layers 9–11). Additional information regarding the observation data utilized to calibrate the model can be found in Chapter 5 of the ECFTX V1.0 documentation (CFWI HAT, 2020). In addition, vertical head differences (VHDs) between the SA and the UFA and between the UFA and the LFA were introduced as new quantitative targets.

The ECFTX v1.0 calibration criteria were also used in this recalibration effort and included: 1) a mean error for SA, UFA, and LFA aquifer heads from all wells of less than one foot, 2) a root mean squared error of less than 5 feet from all wells within each aquifer, and a mean absolute error within 5% of the total head elevation range for each aquifer. Total modeled spring flows had to be within 10% of the estimated/measured flows. Mean simulated discharge at each magnitude 1 and 2 spring with observed records also individually had to be within 10% of the observed flows. Specific to the CFWI area, 50% of the mean absolute simulated head residuals for all wells in the SA, UFA, and LFA had to be within 2.5 feet of observed and 80% of the mean absolute simulated head residuals for all wells in the SA, UFA, and LFA were required to be within 5 feet of observed values (CFWI HAT, 2020).

Model statistics for observation wells are presented in this section for three geographic areas: 1) ECFTX model domain, 2) CFWI area and 3) focus area, shown in Figures 1.1 and 1.4. For assessing improvement in model prediction performance, model statistics for all calibration target groups were compared to ECFTX v1.0.

#### 3.2.1 Groundwater levels

Transient model calibration statistics were computed for the target wells in the SA, UFA and LFA within the focus area (Table 3.1), CFWI area (Table 3.2) and ECFTX model domain (Table 3.3). The spatial distributions of mean error, expressed as the simulated minus observed water level, for the target wells for the SA, UFA, and LFA in the focus area are shown in Figures 3.1 through

3.3. The calibration period mean simulated versus observed water levels for the SA, UFA, and LFA targets in the focus area are compared between version 1.0 and 2.0 of the models in Figures 3.4 through 3.6. Figures 3.8 through 3.13 show individual simulated versus observed water level hydrographs at selected wells within the focus area (Figure 3.7). Figure 3.14 shows the location of 50 vertical head difference targets located in the focus area that were used to calibrate the model. The calibration period mean simulated versus observed vertical head differences in the recalibration focus area are compared between version 1.0 and 2.0 of the models in Figure 3.15. The 2003 to 2014 average flooded depth in layer 1 is compared in Figure 3.16. Appendix B includes graphs of simulated versus observed water levels for the calibration period at each target well grouped by major aquifer within the focus area.

	Focus Area – V1.0			F	a – V2.0	
	SA	UFA	LFA	SA	UFA	LFA
Residual Mean	-0.72	0.42	1.96	-0.10	-0.25	-0.02
Error Standard Dev	5.04	4.44	1.51	2.19	1.85	0.42
5% Observation Range	6.86	5.73	2.5	6.86	5.73	2.50
Absolute Residual Mean	3.68	3.39	2.11	1.90	1.60	0.82
Error sum of squares	1789	1670	65	331	293	2
RMS Error	5.05	4.43	2.43	2.17	1.86	0.4
Minimum Residual	-13.12	-9.63	-0.12	-7.71	-8.00	-1.1
Maximum Residual	18.47	22.07	4.54	9.37	5.11	0.47
# Observations	70	85	11	70	85	11
% MAE < 2.5 ft	57%	48%	64%	87%	89%	100%
% MAE < 5.0 ft	74%	82%	100%	94%	96%	100%
R <sup>2</sup> > 0.4	81%	94%	100%	84%	94%	100%

Table 3.1. Transient model calibration period statistics of the target monitoring wells in the focus area.

All values in feet except as noted. Calibration period is 2004 to 2012. Mean error is expressed as simulated minus observed.

	CFWI Area – V1.0			CFWI Area – V2.0			
	SA	UFA	LFA	SA	UFA	LFA	
Residual Mean	-0.64	0.34	1.23	-0.42	-0.06	-0.16	
Error Standard Dev	3.47	3.75	2.68	2.86	3.18	2.46	
5% Observation Range	8.6	6.2	2.62	8.60	6.20	2.62	
Absolute Residual Mean	2.61	3.24	2.48	2.23	2.64	1.80	
Error sum of squares	3442	2729	202	2299	1956	140	
RMS Error	3.53	3.75	2.9	2.88	3.18	2.42	
Minimum Residual	-16.51	-11.93	-5.46	-16.52	-11.98	-7.16	
Maximum Residual	13.29	10.11	5.73	13.28	10.03	4.82	
# Observations	277	194	24	277	194	24	
% MAE < 2.5 ft	71%	52%	58%	77%	67%	83%	
% MAE < 5.0 ft	87%	85%	88%	92%	89%	92%	
R <sup>2</sup> > 0.4	78%	96%	92%	79%	96%	92%	

Table 3.2. Transient model calibration period statistics of the target monitoring wells in the CFWI area.

All values in feet except as noted. Calibration period is 2004 to 2012. Mean error is expressed as simulated minus observed.

Table 3.3. Transient model calibration period statistics	of the target monitoring wells in the
ECFTX model domain.	

	ECFTX	Model Do	main – V1.0	ECFTX Model Domain – V2.0			
	SA	UFA	LFA	SA	UFA	LFA	
Residual Mean	-0.46	0.46	0.46	-0.43	0.39	-0.65	
Error Standard Dev	4.24	4.7	3.33	4.09	4.58	2.96	
5% Observation Range	8.97	7.59	2.79	8.97	7.59	2.79	
Absolute Residual Mean	2.83	3.78	2.65	2.72	3.62	2.11	
Error sum of squares	18156	20666	329	16878	19599	266	
RMS Error	4.27	4.72	3.31	4.11	4.60	2.98	
Minimum Residual	-31.65	-22.1	-10.19	-31.69	-22.10	-10.15	
Maximum Residual	21.15	19.14	5.73	21.15	19.14	4.82	
# Observations	997	928	30	997	928	30	
% MAE < 2.5 ft	68%	48%	60%	70%	53%	80%	
% MAE < 5.0 ft	88%	76%	87%	89%	77%	90%	
R <sup>2</sup> > 0.4	78%	93%	93%	78%	93%	93%	

All values in feet except as noted. Calibration period is 2004 to 2012. Mean error is expressed as simulated minus observed.

#### 3.2.2 Spring flow

Simulation period model statistics for 17 magnitude 1 and 2 springs are included in Table 3.4. The observed and simulated flux in Table 3.4 is computed as the average for the 2003 to 2014 simulation period. The spatial distribution of the mean error for the 17 simulated springs is shown

in Figure 3.17 and a regression plot of simulated versus observed mean spring flow is shown in Figure 3.18. Simulated versus observed monthly flow hydrographs for Wekiwa and Rock springs are shown in Figure 3.19. For the calibration period from 2004 to 2012, mean simulated springflow in the model from all 158 springs was 2,104 cfs, while observed (estimated and measured) was 2,159 cfs, resulting in a mean error of 2.5%. Appendix C contains graphs of simulated versus observed springflow where it was continuously measured.

	Observed	ECFTX	V1.0	ECFTX	/2.0
Spring Name	Flux (cfs)	Simulated flux (cfs)	% error	Simulated flux (cfs)	% error
Lithia Spring Major	34.7	33.2	-4.4%	33.1	-4.5%
Buckhorn Main Spring	12.2	12.1	-0.9%	12.1	-1.0%
Sulphur Spring	34.7	35.4	2.0%	35.4	2.0%
Crystal Main Spring	45.5	46.4	2.0%	46.3	1.9%
Weeki Wachee Spring	160.4	167.3	4.4%	167.3	4.4%
Chassahowitzka Spring	59.6	59.3	-0.6%	59.3	-0.6%
Homosassa Spring	83.5	84.5	1.1%	84.5	1.2%
Gum Spring	63.8	64.8	1.5%	64.8	1.5%
Rainbow Spring*	71.3*	73.3	2.0%	73.3	2.0%
Apopka Spring	24.9	24.8	-0.1%	24.9	0.0%
Sanlando Springs	18.8	19.9	5.4%	18.9	0.1%
Starbuck Spring	12.1	12.6	3.9%	12.0	-0.5%
Wekiwa Spring	61.0	64.6	5.8%	61.3	0.4%
Bugg Spring	10.6	9.7	-8.2%	10.0	-5.2%
Rock Springs	54.9	51.6	-6.1%	54.7	-0.5%
Volusia Blue Spring	143.6	132.4	-7.9%	144.3	0.5%
Alexander Spring	100.1	98.9	-1.2%	99.8	-0.3%

Table 3.4. Model simulation period statistics of the magnitude 1 and 2 target springs simulated in the ECFTX model.

\*Observed flow reduced by 88% since only 12% of rainbow springshed included in active domain.

#### 3.2.3 Baseflow

Calibration criterion for simulated baseflows was within an order of magnitude due to the variability of estimation methods for this more uncertain flow statistic. Information about the baseflow estimation methods used for the ECFTX model can be found in Chapter 4 of the ECFTX V1.0 report (CFWI HAT, 2020). A total of 18 USGS gages where baseflows were estimated are included in Table 3.5, alongside the minimum and maximum estimated baseflows. Gauge 02238000, Haynes Creek at Lisbon, was removed from the list because its flows have been regulated with multiple control structures. Wekiva River at Sanford gauge 02235000 was added to the list because it was one of the gauges used to set minimum flows and levels at Wekiva River. For the calibration period, from 2004 to 2012, mean simulated baseflow in the model from all 18 USGS gauges was 5,557 cfs, while the range of estimated flows varied between 2,391 and

9,998 cfs. A total of 15 out of 18 USGS gauges were within the range of estimated baseflows by baseflow separation methods (Figure 3.20).

Corro	Station	Min (ofc)	Max (afa)	Simulated (cfs)		
Gage	Station		Wax (CIS)	V1.0	V2.0	
02232400	St. Johns River nr Cocoa FL	221	928	293	293	
02232500	St. Johns River nr Christmas FL	282	1085	384	383	
02234000	St. Johns River above Lake Harney nr Geneva FL	441	1473	856	860	
02236000	St. Johns River Near DeLand FL	389	3186	1768	1946	
02235000	Wekiva River nr Sanford	184	254	278	247	
02294650	Peace River at Bartow	21	125	77	78	
02294898	Peace River at Fort Meade	19	144	129	129	
02295637	Peace River at Zolfo Springs	80	350	331	334	
02296750	Peace River at Arcadia	118	596	533	537	
02298830	Myakka River nr Sarasota	14	150	50	50	
02300500	Little Manatee River nr Wimauma	23	88	70	70	
02301500	Alafia River at Lithia	53	189	110	111	
02303000	Hillsborough River nr Zephyrhills	65	145	102	102	
02310000	Anclote River nr Elfers	4	38	11	11	
02312000	Withlacoochee River at Trilby	28	153	165	164	
02312500	Withlacoochee River at Croom	56	211	190	195	
02312762	Withlacoochee River nr Inverness	156	378	36	46	
02313000	Withlacoochee River nr Holder	237	505	-8	1	

Table 3.5. Simulated mean baseflow from 2004 to 2012 compared to estimated ranges using the USF method and USGS Groundwater Toolbox methods at 18 stations.

#### 3.2.4 Water budget

The simulated water budget including boundary condition inflows (Table 3.6) and outflows (Table 3.7) from the ECFTX v2.0 model by layer were prepared for the calibration period. The total flux (IN-OUT) balances to within less than 0.05 inches/year. Net fluxes for each major component of the water budget during the calibration period included recharge of 8.7 in/yr, GHB lateral flux of 0.9 in/yr into the model with constant head, well, river, springs, and drains having net outflow components of 2.3, 2.0, 0.8, 1.3, and 3.5 inches per year, respectively. A total net storage change of +0.4 in/yr occurred over the 2004–2012 period based on the model results. Net fluxes for each major component in ECFTX v1.0 included recharge of 8.7 in/yr, GHB lateral flux of 0.7 in/yr into the model with constant head, well, river, springs, and drains having net outflow components of 2.3, 2.0, 0.9, 1.3, and 3.4 inches per year, respectively. A total net storage change of +0.4 in/yr occurred over the 2004–2012 period based on the model results components of 2.3, 2.0, 0.9, 1.3, and 3.4 inches per year, respectively. A total net storage change of +0.4 in/yr occurred over the 2004–2012 period based on the model results, which is unchanged from v2.0.

Table 3.3.6. Annual average boundary condition influx	in the ECFTX transient model during the
calibration period (2004-2012). Note units are in inches	per year.

Layer	Constant Head in/yr	GHB in/yr	Well in/yr	River in/yr	Recharge in/yr	ÉT in/yr	Spring in/yr	Drain return in/yr	Drain in/yr	Storage in/yr
1	0.22	0.04	0.08	3.23	21.83	-	-	-	-	0.38

Layer	Constant Head in/yr	GHB in/yr	Well in/yr	River in/yr	Recharge in/yr	ET in/yr	Spring in/yr	Drain return in/yr	Drain in/yr	Storage in/yr
2	-	0.26	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.01
3	-	0.48	-	-	-	-	-	0.07	-	-
4	-	0.23	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5	-	0.57	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
6	-	0.10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
7	-	0.08	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
8	-	0.06	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
9	-	0.21	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
11	-	0.16	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	0.22	2.19	0.08	3.23	21.83	0.00	-	0.07	-	0.39

Table 3.3.7. Annual average boundary condition outflux in the ECFTX transient model during	g
the calibration period (2004-2012). Note: units are in inches per year.	

Layer	Constant Head in/yr	GHB in/yr	Well in/yr	River in/yr	Recharge in/yr	ET in/yr	Spring in/yr	Drain return in/yr	Drain in/yr	Storage in/yr
1	-2.56	-0.02	-0.17	-4.03	-	-13.13	-	-	-3.61	-
2	-	-0.03	-0.02	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
3	-	-0.45	-0.64	-	-	-	-1.29	-	-	-
4	-	-0.11	-0.30	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5	-	-0.06	-0.59	-	-	-	-0.01	-	-	-
6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
9	-	-0.12	-0.31	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
11	-	-0.51	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	-2.56	-1.30	-2.03	-4.03	-	-13.13	-1.30	-	-3.61	-

#### 3.2.5 Aquifer and Confining Unit Properties

Hydraulic properties within the ECFTX model include hydraulic conductivity (both vertical and horizontal) and specific storage properties. During the calibration process, the initial estimates of hydraulic conductivity were adjusted within reasonable limits to improve the agreement between simulated and observed conditions while maintaining parameterization consistent with the conceptual model of the system. After testing different values of storage properties, the V1.0 model assigned values were left unchanged. The horizontal hydraulic conductivity distribution in model layer 1 is shown in Figure 3.21 and hydraulic conductivity maps for all model layers are included in Appendix D. Transmissivity, the product of the aquifer K and the saturated thickness expressed in feet squared per day (ft²/d), was computed for the UFA (layer 3 through 5) and the LFA (layer 9 through 11). UFA transmissivity is compared with APT results (Figure 3.22) and the September 2010 UFA potentiometric surface map (Figure 3.23). The potentiometric surface maps provide evidence of higher or lower transmissivity based on whether the gradient is flat or steep and was used as a qualitative guide to calibration. LFA transmissivity is compared with APT

results in Figure 3.24. The leakance coefficient, computed as the vertical hydraulic conductivity divided by the confining unit thickness and expressed in units of ft/d/ft (d<sup>-1</sup>) was computed for layers 2, 6, 8 and layer 10 (Appendix D).

#### 3.3 Recharge Sensitivity Analysis

Recharge was not adjusted during the recalibration of the model because it was originally estimated using a water-balance model and generally seemed to work well for ECFTX v1.0. The results presented above show that the model was able to be successfully recalibrated by adjusting aquifer parameters without modifying the recharge in the model. However, recharge, being a large water budget component, is one of the largest sources of uncertainty in the model due to lack of measured data. Therefore, a full PEST recalibration was also performed with a recharge rate reduction of 20% within the focus area to test the sensitivity of the model performance to recharge.

#### 3.3.2 Methods

As described in Chapter 3.1 Calibration Approach, an initial steady-state model was developed for automated calibration representing the average (2003 to 2014) ECFTX V1.0 model. Within the initial model, recharge rates were not adjusted from ECFTX v1.0, apart from not assigning a value (0 feet per day) to grid cells representing the Wekiva River (Figure 2.4). As a sensitivity test, another model was developed in which the initial model recharge rates were reduced by 20% within the focus area. Except for recharge rates, both models were identical and were assigned the same initial parameter values and bounds in PEST. For each model, PEST was independently run. The same calibration approach described in section 3.1 was implemented.

#### 3.3.3 Groundwater levels

Transient model calibration statistics were computed for the target monitoring wells in the SA, UFA, and LFA within the focus area (Table 3.8). The spatial distribution of mean error, expressed as the simulated minus observed water level, and observed versus simulated water levels for the target wells in the SA, UFA, and LFA in the recalibration focus area are compared in Appendix E.

		Focus Are	ea	Focus Area				
	No re	No recharge adjustment			Recharge reduced by 20%			
	SA	UFA	LFA	SA	UFA	LFA		
Residual Mean	-0.10	-0.25	-0.02	-0.41	-0.3	-0.18		
Error Standard Dev	2.19	1.85	0.42	2.36	1.82	1.01		
5% Observation Range	6.86	5.73	2.50	6.86	5.73	2.5		
Absolute Residual Mean	1.90	1.60	0.82	1.93	1.52	0.91		
Error sum of squares	331	293	2	398	287	11		
RMS Error	2.17	1.86	0.4	2.38	1.84	0.98		
Minimum Residual	-7.71	-8.00	-1.1	-9.7	-7.37	-2.92		
Maximum Residual	9.37	5.11	0.47	8.21	4.67	1.03		
# Observations	70	85	11	70	85	11		
% MAE < 2.5 ft	87%	89%	100%	83%	88%	91%		
% MAE < 5.0 ft	94%	96%	100%	94%	98%	100%		
R <sup>2</sup> > 0.4	84%	94%	100%	87%	96%	100%		

Table 3.8. Transient model calibration period statistics of the target monitoring wells in the recalibration focus area with and without the recharge rate adjustment.

All values in feet except as noted. Calibration period is 2004 to 2012. Mean error is expressed as simulated minus observed.

#### 3.3.4 Spring flow

Simulation period model statistics for 17 magnitude 1 and 2 springs are included in Table 3.9. The observed and simulated flux in Table 3.9 is computed as the average for the 2003 to 2014 simulation period. A regression plot of simulated versus observed mean spring flow for the magnitude 1 and 2 springs is included in Appendix E.

Table 3.9. Transient model calibration statistics of the magnitude 1 and 2 target springs simulated in the ECFTX model.

Spring Name	Observed	Focus A No rech adjustr	Area arge nent	Focus Area Recharge reduced by 20%		
		Simulated flux (cfs)	% error	Simulated flux (cfs)	% error	
Lithia Spring Major	34.7	33.1	-4.5%	33.2	-4.4%	
Buckhorn Main Spring	12.2	12.1	-1.0%	12.1	-1.0%	
Sulphur Spring	33.7	35.4	2.0%	35.4	2.0%	
Crystal Main Spring	45.5	46.3	1.9%	46.3	1.9%	
Weeki Wachee Spring	160.4	167.3	4.4%	167.3	4.4%	
Chassahowitzka Main Spring	59.6	59.3	-0.6%	59.3	-0.6%	
Homosassa No. 1 Spring	83.5	84.5	1.2%	84.5	1.2%	
Gum Spring Group	63.8	64.8	1.5%	64.8	1.5%	
Rainbow Spring*	71.3*	73.3	2.0%	73.3	2.0%	

Spring Name	Observed	Focus / No rech adjustr	Area arge nent	Focus Recharge re 20 <sup>4</sup>	Area educed by %
		Simulated flux (cfs)	% error	Simulated flux (cfs)	% error
Apopka Spring	24.9	24.9	0.0%	24.7	-0.8%
Sanlando Springs	18.8	18.9	0.1%	18.5	-1.7%
Starbuck Spring	12.1	12.0	-0.5%	11.9	-1.9%
Wekiwa Spring	61.0	61.3	0.4%	61.1	0.1%
Bugg Spring	10.6	10.0	-5.2%	9.9	-7.0%
Rock Springs	54.9	54.7	-0.5%	53.1	-3.4%
Volusia Blue Spring	143.6	144.3	0.5%	144.4	0.6%
Alexander Spring	100.1	99.8	-0.3%	99.8	-0.3%

\*Observed flow reduced by 88% since only 12% of springshed area represented in active domain

#### 3.3.5 Baseflow

A total of 18 USGS gauges where baseflow was estimated are included in Table 3.10, alongside the minimum and maximum estimated baseflow. For both runs, with and without the recharge adjustment, a total of 15 out of 18 USGS gauges where baseflow was estimated were within the range of flows estimated baseflow.

Table 3.10. Simulated mean baseflow from 2004 to 2012 compared to estimated ranges using the USF method and USGS Groundwater Toolbox methods at 18 stations.

				Simulated (cfs)		
Gage Station		Min (cfs)	Max (cfs)	No recharge adjustment	Recharge reduced by 20%	
02232400	St. Johns River nr Cocoa FL	221	928	293	293	
02232500	St. Johns River nr Christmas FL	282	1085	383	383	
02234000	St. Johns River above Lake Harney nr Geneva FL	441	1473	860	784	
02236000	St. Johns River Near DeLand FL	389	3186	1946	1730	
02235000	Wekiva River nr Sanford	184	254	247	223	
02294650	Peace River at Bartow	21	125	78	77	
02294898	Peace River at Fort Meade	19	144	129	129	
02295637	Peace River at Zolfo Springs	80	350	334	331	
02296750	Peace River at Arcadia	118	596	537	532	
02298830	Myakka River nr Sarasota	14	150	50	50	
02300500	Little Manatee River nr Wimauma	23	88	70	70	
02301500	Alafia River at Lithia	53	189	111	110	
02303000	Hillsborough River nr Zephyrhills	65	145	102	102	
02310000	Anclote River nr Elfers	4	38	11	11	
02312000	Withlacoochee River at Trilby	28	153	164	164	
02312500	Withlacoochee River at Croom	56	211	195	194	

				Simulated (cfs)		
Gage Station		Min (cfs)	Max (cfs)	No recharge adjustment	Recharge reduced by 20%	
02312762	Withlacoochee River nr Inverness	156	378	46	42	
02313000	Withlacoochee River nr Holder	237	505	1	-2	

#### 3.3.6 Aquifer and Confining Unit Properties

Horizontal hydraulic conductivity maps for all layers, leakance coefficient maps for layers 2, 6, 8, and 10, and UFA and LFA transmissivity maps for the recharge sensitivity simulations are included in Appendix E.



Figure 3.1. Spatial distribution of mean error for the SA targets within the focus area in the ECFTX transient model calibration.



Figure 3.2. Spatial distribution of mean error for the UFA targets within the focus area in the ECFTX transient model calibration.



Figure 3.3. Spatial distribution of mean error for the LFA targets within the focus area in the ECFTX transient model calibration.



Figure 3.4. Mean simulated versus observed water levels for the SA within the focus area in the ECFTX transient model for V1.0 (left) and V2.0 (right). (Note: Solid line is 1:1 relation between simulated and observed water levels; dashed line is linear regression of simulated versus observed water levels from target wells)



Figure 3.5. Mean simulated versus observed water levels for the UFA within the focus area in the ECFTX transient model for V1.0 (left) and V2.0 (right). (Note: Solid line is 1:1 relation between simulated and observed water levels; dashed line is linear regression of simulated versus observed water levels from target wells)



Figure 3.6. Mean simulated versus observed water levels for the LFA within the focus area in the ECFTX transient model for V1.0 (left) and V2.0 (right). (Note: Solid line is 1:1 relation between simulated and observed water levels; dashed line is linear regression of simulated versus observed water levels from target wells)



Figure 3.7. Location of hydrographs of selected simulated versus observed water levels for the SA, UFA, and LFA within the focus area.



Figure 3.8. Simulated versus observed water levels for the SA monitor well OR0107 at Plymouth Tower.



Figure 3.9. Simulated versus observed water levels for the UFA well OR0548 at Wekiwa Springs State Park.


Figure 3.10. Simulated versus observed water levels for the UFA well S-1224 at Geneva Fire Station.



Figure 3.11. Simulated versus observed water levels for the UFA well OR-47 at Orlo Vista, FL.



Figure 3.12. Simulated versus observed water levels for the LFA well OF0794 at Plymouth Tower.



Figure 3.13. Simulated versus observed water levels for the LFA well S-1329 at Winter Springs at Casselberry.



Figure 3.14. Location of vertical head difference targets in the focus area.



ECFTX V1.0: Focus Area Vertical head Difference Targets







Observed Head Difference (ft NAVD88)

Figure 3.15. Mean simulated versus observed vertical head differences at targets within the focus area in the ECFTX transient model for V1.0 (top) and V2.0 (bottom). (Note: Solid line is 1:1 relation between simulated and observed head differences; dashed line is linear regression of simulated versus observed head differences).



Figure 3.16. Simulated average 2003 to 2014 layer 1 flooded depth for ECFTX v1.0 (left) and ECFTX v2.0 (right).



Figure 3.17. Spatial distribution of mean error for 17 magnitude 1 and 2 springs within the ECFTX model during calibration period. Blue indicates simulated flows higher than observed, red indicates simulated flows lower than observed.



Figure 3.18. Mean simulated versus observed flow for magnitude 1 and 2 springs within the ECFTX model domain. Note: solid line is 1:1 relation between simulated and observed flow; dashed line is linear regression of simulated versus observed flow from 17 springs.







Figure 3.19. Simulated versus observed flows at Wekiwa (top) and Rock springs (bottom) within the ECFTX model.



Figure 3.20. Spatial distribution of the USGS streamflow gages that were within or outside the baseflow estimation ranges within the ECFTX domain for the calibration period.



Figure 3.21. Hydraulic conductivity values in layer 1 in the focus area.



Figure 3.22. Transmissivity values for the UFA (layers 3–5) plotted with historical APT results.



Figure 3.23. Transmissivity values for the UFA (layers 3–5) plotted with the September 2010 UFA potentiometric surface.



Figure 3.24. Transmissivity values for the LFA (layers 9–11) plotted with historical APT results.

## CHAPTER 4 – DISCUSSION

The recalibration of the ECFTX model significantly improved the model performance in the focus area. Average RMS error in the focus area reduced from about 5.1 to 2.2 feet in the SA, from 4.4 feet to 1.9 feet in the UFA and from 2.4 to 0.4 feet in the LFA. In addition, the coefficient of determination (R-squared) values greater than 0.4 were generated by regressing all simulated versus observed water levels in ECFTX v2.0 and compared with those in ECFTX v1.0. These R-squared values were considered a measure of how well the model performed matching shorter-term transient response to dynamic stresses (CFWI HAT, 2020). Compared to ECFTX v1.0, ECFTX v2.0 had higher percentage of R-squared values greater than 0.4 for SA and the same for the UFA and LFA in the focus area. Although overall calibration has been improved significantly, water levels of a few target wells in CFWI were not matched as well as they were in ECFTX v1.0 but the difference was small (increase in MAE < 0.5 ft in the SA and <1.5 ft in the UFA). The maximum increase in MAE (approximately 1.3 ft) was noticed at a monitoring well in northeast Seminole County (SJRWMD ID: 30342858). It appears that the adjustment made to improve several wells near Wekiva River having very high MAEs in ECFTX v1.0 (Figure 3.2) degraded one well slightly.

The simulations of major springs were also improved as the average model error decreased from about 6% to less than 1% in Wekiwa and Rock springs. Moreover, VHDs between UFA and SA and between UFA and LFA were introduced as calibration targets which were not utilized quantitively in the ECFTX v1.0 calibration. The VHDs are one of the primary indicators of the degree of confinement between two aquifers and helped us improve the model's ability to simulate degree of confinement in the region. This is important for accurately predicting the propagation of impacts of groundwater pumping in the UFA and LFA to lakes, rivers, and wetlands. While the calibration improved in the focus area, no significant changes occurred outside it as a result. The improvement in model-wide calibration performance reflects the improvement in focus area calibration performance.

We assessed the reasonableness of the updated simulated hydraulic conductivities by reviewing the transmissivity values of UFA and LFA with APT/literature data, spring locations (karst-dominated geology) and potentiometric surface contour gradients. The leakance values of the ICU and MCU were better represented based on VHDs and literature information.

Figure 4.1 shows the updated UFA transmissivity values with September 2010 potentiometric surface contours, the available APTs, and spring locations. Figure 4.2 shows the updated LFA transmissivity values with the available APTs, and spring locations. Small and large spacings between two contours of potentiometric surface are usually indications of low or high aquifer transmissivities respectively. As shown in Figure 4.1, the recalibrated parameter distribution is generally consistent with the contour spacing as high transmissivity areas usually coincide with the contours with large spacing (flat gradients) whereas low transmissivity areas usually coincide with contours with tight spacing (steep gradients). In addition, very high transmissivity values were assigned to the areas of springs and their vicinities, which is consistent with the fact that aquifers are expected to be highly transmissive in the vicinity of springs due to presence of conduits and large fractures. Although the recalibrated transmissivity values are similar to the APT-derived

values in most of the focus area, the transmissivity values in the model are much higher than the APT-derived values in northern Orange County; however, the horizontal hydraulic conductivity values shown in Figures 60 and 61 of the USGS-ECFT model report, corresponding to layers 3 and 5 of the model, seem to be similar to the calibrated hydraulic conductivities in those areas (Sepulveda et al, 2012). Hydraulic conductivity maps of each layer in the model are included in Appendix D. It should also be noted that APT values should be cautiously used for comparing with model parameters. APT values are usually derived from field tests using analytical solutions with limitations. The quality of the field tests and collected data would significantly affect the transmissivity values derived from the APTs. In addition, the APTs (mostly lasting less than 72 hours) usually do not sufficiently stress the aquifer more than a few miles so the derived transmissivity values may not represent large areas. Moreover, some of the APTs are based on only one pumping well (with no monitoring well nearby) and can produce highly questionable transmissivity estimates due to pumping well frictional effect mixing with aquifer water level change due to pumping.



Figure 4.1. UFA Transmissivities with potentiometric surface, spring locations, and APTs.



Figure 4.2. LFA Transmissivities with APTs.

Figure 4.3 shows the recalibrated leakance values in the UFA with VHDs between the SA and UFA. As expected, low leakance values are in the areas of large VHDs and high leakance values are in the areas of small VHDs, indicating the reasonableness of the leakance values in the ICU. Similarly Figure 4.4 shows consistency between the VHDs and leakance values in MCU 1.



Figure 4.3. ICU Leakances with SA/UFA VHDs.



Figure 4.4. MCU\_I Leakance distribution with UFA/LFA VHDs.

During the recalibration effort, the recharge used in ECFTX v1.0 was retained. However, because of uncertainties in recharge estimation, a recharge sensitivity calibration simulation was conducted to better understand the effect of recharge on model calibration. A full recalibration was performed using PEST by reducing the recharge by 20%. The purpose was to see if a good calibration (i.e., calibration statistics were similar to the ECFTX v2.0 calibration) could be achieved when the recharge was 20% less and what the parameter distribution would be, compared to the updated parameters. The results indicated that the calibration statistics of ECFTX v2.0 were similar to or better than those of the recalibrated model with 20% recharge adjustment, although a reasonably good calibration was achieved under a reduced recharge condition. However, parameter distribution of the sensitivity run would still be like ECFTX v2.0, providing us more confidence that the final parameters in ECFTX v2.0 were reasonable.

GHB fluxes along the eastern seawater/freshwater interface boundary were a significant concern during calibration of ECFTXv1.0. Large influxes from this boundary would result in an artificial source of freshwater that would tend to artificially mitigate drawdown impacts from wellfield withdrawals. Care was taken during recalibration to adjust GHB conductance to ensure that GHB fluxes in ECFTX v2.0 were similar to those of ECFTXv1.0

# CHAPTER 5 – CONCLUSIONS

The ECFTX v2.0 model performance was considerably improved within the focus area including the Wekiva River springs groundwater contributing basin and Seminole County. Aquifer parameters were adjusted within a range consistent with the known hydrogeology in the region. Accordingly, the model-wide calibration performance was also improved as a result of the improvement in the focus area. Overall, this provides greater confidence that ECFTX v2.0 should be considered an appropriate tool for assisting regulatory decisions, minimum flows and minimum levels (MFL) evaluations, and future planning efforts.

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### Appendix A – East-Central Florida Transient Expanded (ECFTX) Model Horizontal Hydraulic Conductivity Modifications in Layer 2

#### TECHNICAL MEMORANDUM

TO: Central Florida Water Initiative (CFWI) Hydrologic Assessment Team (HAT)

- FROM: Hua Zang, P.G., Ph.D., Environmental Flows and Levels Section Jason G. Patterson, P.G., Environmental Flows and Levels Section
- DATE: November 10, 2021
- SUBJECT: East-Central Florida Transient Expanded (ECFTX) Model Horizontal Hydraulic Conductivity Modifications in Layer 2

The East Central Florida Transient Expanded (ECFTX) groundwater flow model and the subsequent model documentation report were completed by the Central Florida Water Initiative (CFWI) Hydrologic Assessment Team (HAT) in February 2020. During recent discussions, the Districts' members of HAT determined that it was necessary to modify the horizonal hydraulic conductivity (Kh) for layer 2, which represents the intermediate confining unit (ICU) within the ECFTX model. By increasing the layer 2 Kh, the model becomes more conceptually accurate by simulating horizontal flow within the Hawthorn aquifer system (HAS) (also more generally referred to as the intermediate aquifer system) and consequently improving model convergence and run time.

The HAS generally occurs as individual, thin, low permeability water bearing units within the intermediate confining unit, between the surficial aquifer (above) and the Upper Floridan aquifer system (below). The HAS exists within an approximate 5,000 square-mile area of DeSoto, Sarasota, Hardee, Manatee, and parts of Charlotte, Hillsborough, Highlands, and in the southwest portion of Polk County within the CFWI region. There are two main water producing aquifers within the HAS, the Upper Arcadia aquifer and Lower Arcadia aquifer. The lateral continuity and water-bearing potential of the zones within the HAS are highly variable due to a mixture of shell, sand, gravel, dolomite, and thin limestone beds that are interbedded within a clay matrix. This heterogeneous sequence often leads to low permeability of the water bearing zones and complicates mapping the lateral extent of each zone (Basso and Hood, 2005).

Combined groundwater withdrawals from both aquifers were approximately 58 million gallons per day (mgd) in 2006 with roughly 3 mgd occurring within the CFWI region. In 2018, there were groundwater withdrawals of 48 mgd from both aquifers with only about 3.2 mgd occurring within the CFWI region. Due to the unknown extent, water bearing limitations, limited water use, and minimal projected future demands for the HAS within the CFWI region, the HAT determined not to simulate individual aquifers within the HAS as part of the ECFTX model.

Initial Kh values for the intermediate confining unit (layer 2) were derived from vertical hydraulic conductivity (Kv) values calculated from aquifer performance tests (Figure 1). An anisotropy ratio was applied from the Kv value to the Kh (Kh:Kv) of 10:1. After further review, the HAT decided to pursue a more conceptually accurate Kh value to allow horizontal flow through the HAS while

maintaining the vertical head differences and fluxes between the surficial aquifer and Upper Floridan aquifer. The revised values of the horizontal hydraulic conductivity were modified from the District Wide Regulatory Model (DWRM3) model developed by Southwest Florida Water Management District (Environmental Simulations, Inc., 2014). The DWRM3 model simulates both aquifers and the confining units above and below the aquifers. Figure 2 shows the modified layer 2 hydraulic conductivity values.

The ECFTX model was re-run with the same transient calibration configuration except for the changes to layer 2 Kh. This modification resulted in very minor changes to the simulated heads of the overlying surficial aquifer and underlying Upper Floridan aquifer. Figures 3 and 4 show simulated head change with the increased layer Kh values in the surficial aquifer and Upper Floridan aquifer, respectively. The change of Layer 2 Kh did not cause significant change to the model calibration statistics of the target monitoring wells as given in Tables 1 and 2. There was a very minor change of -0.1% to simulated spring flow of Lithia Spring and essentially no change on other target springs (Table 3). The summary water budgets in Table 4 and 5 demonstrate that the HAS Kh modification did not cause significant changes to mass balance. A detailed breakdown of general head boundary (GHB) fluxes in Table 6 show that the boundary fluxes were essentially the same except very minor change to the layer 2 (HAS) of southern boundary. Additionally, the modified Layer 2 Kh values improved numerical convergence encountered in layer 2 and shortened model run times.

	Februa	ary 2020 cali	bration	HAS Kh change calibration			
	SA	UFA	LFA	SA	UFA	LFA	
Residual Mean	-0.46	0.46	0.46	-0.47	0.45	0.46	
Error Standard Dev	4.24	4.7	3.33	4.26	4.69	3.33	
5% of Observation Range	8.97	7.59	2.79	8.97	7.59	2.79	
Absolute Residual Mean	2.83	3.78	2.65	2.84	3.78	2.65	
Error Sum of Squares	18156	20666	329	18333	20620	329	
RMS Error	4.27	4.72	3.31	4.29	4.71	3.31	
Minimum Residual	-31.65	-22.1	-10.19	-31.69	-22.1	-10.19	
Maximum Residual	21.15	19.14	5.73	21.15	19.14	5.73	
Number of Observations	997	928	30	997	928	30	
Percentage with MAE < 2.5 ft	68%	48%	60%	68%	48%	60%	
Percentage with MAE < 5.0 ft	88%	76%	87%	88%	76%	87%	
Percentage with R2 > 0.4	78%	93%	93%	78%	93%	93%	

Table 1. Transient model calibration statistics of the target monitoring wells in the ECFTX Model domain comparing February 2020 calibration versus that with HAS Kh change.

All values in feet except as noted. Calibration period is 2004-2012. Mean error expressed as simulated minus observed

Table 2. Transient model calibration statistics of the target monitoring wells in the CFWI Area comparing February 2020 calibration versus HAS Kh change calibration.

	Februa	ary 2020 cali	bration	HAS Kh change calibration				
	SA	UFA	LFA	SA	UFA	LFA		
Residual Mean	-0.64	0.34	1.23	-0.65	0.32	1.23		
Error Standard Dev	3.47	3.75	2.68	3.48	3.74	2.68		
5% of Observation Range	8.6	6.2	2.62	8.6	6.2	2.62		
Absolute Residual Mean	2.61	3.24	2.48	2.62	3.24	2.49		
Error Sum of Squares	3442	2729	202	3465	2714	202		
RMS Error	3.53	3.75	2.9	3.54	3.74	2.9		
Minimum Residual	-16.51	-11.93	-5.46	-16.51	-11.93	-5.49		
Maximum Residual	13.29	10.11	5.73	13.28	10.08	5.73		
Number of Observations	277	194	24	277	194	24		
Percentage with MAE < 2.5 ft	71%	52%	58%	71%	52%	58%		
Percentage with MAE < 5.0 ft	87%	85%	88%	87%	85%	88%		
Percentage with R2 > 0.4	78%	96%	92%	78%	96%	92%		

All values in feet except as noted. Calibration period is 2004-2012. Mean error expressed as simulated minus observed

Spring Nome	<b>Observed Flux</b>	Simulated Flux (cfs)			
Spring Name	(cfs)	Original	Modified		
Lithia Spring Major	34.7	33.2	33.1		
Buckhorn Main Spring	12.2	12.1	12.1		
Sulphur Spring (Hillsborough)	34.7	35.4	35.4		
Crystal Main Spring (Pasco)	45.5	46.4	46.4		
Weeki Wachee Spring	160.4	167.3	167.3		
Chassahowitzka Spring Main	59.6	59.3	59.3		
Homosassa Spring #1	83.5	84.5	84.5		
Gum Spring Main	63.8	64.8	64.8		
Rainbow Spring #1	71.8	73.3	73.3		
Apopka Spring	24.9	24.8	24.8		
Sanlando Springs	18.8	19.9	19.9		
Starbuck Spring	12.1	12.6	12.6		
Wekiwa Spring (Orange)	61.0	64.6	64.6		
Bugg Spring (Lake)	10.6	9.7	9.7		
Rock Springs (Orange)	54.9	51.6	51.6		
Volusia Blue Spring	143.6	132.4	132.4		
Alexander Spring	100.1	98.9	98.9		

Table 3. Transient model calibration statistics of the target springs simulated in	the ECFTX model.
--	------------------

Layer	Constant Head	GHB	Well	River	Rech	ET	Spring	Drain Return	Drain	Storage		
	In/yr											
	February 2020 calibration (calib0)											
1	0.22	0.041	0.085	3.0	22.1	-	-	-	-	0.18		
2	-	0.25	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
3	-	0.47	4E-4	-	-	-	-	0.059	-	-		
4	-	0.23	2E-6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
5	-	0.56	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
6	-	0.096	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
7	-	0.080	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
8	-	0.060	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
9	-	0.22	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
11	-	0.11	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
	-		HA	S Kh chan	ge calibrat	ion (calibl	IAS)	-				
1	0.22	0.041	0.085	3.0	22.1	-	-	-	-	0.18		
2	-	0.25	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
3	-	0.47	4E-4	-	-	-	-	0.059	-	-		
4	-	0.23	2E-6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
5	-	0.56	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
6	-	0.096	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
7	-	0.080	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
8	-	0.060	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
9	-	0.22	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
11	-	0.11	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		

Table 4. Annual average boundary condition influx (in/yr) in the ECFTX transient model (2003-2014)

Layer	Constant Head	GHB	Well	River	Rech	ET	Spring	Drain Return	Drain	Storage
In/yr										
February 2020 calibration (calib0)										
1	-2.6	-0.022	-0.17	-3.9	-	-13.1	-	-	-3.5	-
2	-	-0.028	-0.021	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
3	-	-0.46	-0.62	-	-	-	-1.3	-	-	-
4	-	-0.11	-0.30	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5	-	-0.064	-0.58	-	-	-	-7E-3	-	-	-
6	-	-6E-5	-2E-4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
7	-	-8E-4	-1E-4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
8	-	-5E-5	-9E-4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
9	-	-0.18	-0.30	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
11	-	-0.57	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
			HA	S Kh chan	ge calibrat	ion (calibl	IAS)		•	
1	-2.6	-0.022	-0.17	-3.9	-	-13.1	-	-	-3.5	-
2	-	-0.028	-0.021	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
3	-	-0.46	-0.62	-	-	-	-1.3	-	-	-
4	-	-0.11	-0.30	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5	-	-0.064	-0.58	-	-	-	-7E-3	-	-	-
6	-	-6E-5	-2E-4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
7	-	-8E-4	-1E-4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
8	-	-5E-5	-9E-4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
9	-	-0.18	-0.30	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
11	-	-0.57	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Table 5. Annual average boundary condition outflux (in/yr) in ECFTX transient model (2003-2014)

	GHB	North	GHB South		GHB	GHB East		GHB West		Total	
Layer	influx	outflux	influx	outflux	influx	outflux	influx	outflux	influx	outflux	
					m	gd					
	February 2020 calibration (calib0)										
1	14	-3.0	21	-16	-	-	-	-	35	-19	
2	195	-29	0.12	-0.37	0.06	-1E-4	74	-0.19	268	-30	
3	439	-221	28	-54	16	-83	3.6	-125	486	-482	
4	126	-54	9.8	-21	9.8	-0.63	90	-37	236	-112	
5	98	-8.1	292	-1.4	84	-30	87	-24	561	-64	
6	1.3	-0.04	70	-7E-3	-	-	14	-	85	-0.05	
7	1.4	-0.63	11	-9E-5	37	-0.03	20	-	68	-0.67	
8	5E-3	-0.03	2.5	-	34	-6E-4	-	-	36	-0.03	
9	50	-5.5	-	-	41	-69	6.2	-6.7	97	-82	
10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
11	2.4	-1.1	-	-	25	-155	5.2	-17	33	-172	
	1	1	HA	S Kh chan	ge calibrat	ion (calibl	IAS)	1	n	1	
1	14	-3.0	21	-16	-	-	-	-	35	-19	
2	195	-29	0.08	-0.43	0.06	-1E-4	74	-0.19	268	-30	
3	439	-221	28	-54	16	-83	3.6	-125	486	-482	
4	126	-54	9.7	-21	10	-0.63	90	-37	236	-112	
5	98	-8.1	292	-1.5	84	-30	87	-24	561	-64	
6	1.3	-0.04	70	-7E-3	-	-	14	-	85	-0.05	
7	1.4	-0.63	11	-9E-5	37	-0.03	20	-	68	-0.67	
8	5E-3	-0.03	2.5	-	34	-6E-4	-	-	36	-0.03	
9	50	-5.5	-	-	41	-69	6.2	-6.7	97	-82	
10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
11	2.4	-1.1	-	-	25	-155	5.2	-17	33	-172	

Table 6. Annual average general head boundary (GHB) condition flux (mgd) in the ECFTX transient model (2003-2014).



Figure 1. ECFTX Initial Layer 2 Kx Array



Figure 2. ECFTX Modified Layer 2 Kx Array



Figure 3. ECFTX Modified Layer 2 Kx Array



Figure 4. ECFTX Modified Layer 2 K

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Appendix B – Simulated Versus Observed Water Level Hydrographs at Target Wells in Focus Area


































































































































































UFA: ORF-32 ME=0.295 MAE=0.806 nMAE=0.794 R2=0.849 NS=0.836



















## Appendix C – Simulated Versus Observed Flow Hydrographs for Continuously Measured Springs

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Figure 6. Simulated and observed flow at Apopka Spring for the model simulation period. APOPKA SPRING ME=-0.545 MAE=2.505 nMAE=2.374 R2=0.339 NS=-1.189



Figure 7. Simulated and observed flow at Buckhorn Main Spring for the model simulation period. BUCKHORN MAIN SPRING ME=-0.392 MAE=2.266 nMAE=2.392 R2=0.166 NS=0.154



Figure 8. Simulated and observed flow at Bugg Spring for the model simulation period. BUGG SPRING (LAKE) ME=-0.589 MAE=1.626 nMAE=1.626 R2=0.214 NS=-0.458



Figure 9. Simulated and observed flow at Chassahowitza Spring for the model simulation period. CHASSAHOWITZKA SPRING MAIN ME=-1.707 MAE=11.914 nMAE=11.692 R2=0.211 NS=-5.162



Figure 10. Simulated and observed flow at Crystal Main Spring for the model simulation period. CRYSTAL MAIN SPRING (PASCO) ME=2.016 MAE=5.678 nMAE=5.597 R2=0.03 NS=-0.181



Figure 11. Simulated and observed flow at Gum Spring for the model simulation period. GUM SPRING MAIN ME=0.532 MAE=17.25 nMAE=17.316 R2=0.543 NS=0.461







Figure 13. Simulated and observed flow at Lithia Spring for the model simulation period. LITHIA SPRING MAJOR ME=-0.716 MAE=7.165 nMAE=7.057 R2=0.324 NS=0.286



Figure 14. Simulated and observed flow at Rainbow Spring for the model simulation period. RAINBOW SPRING #1 ME=-0.31 MAE=13.342 nMAE=13.29 R2=0.904 NS=-2.253



Figure 15. Simulated and observed flow at Rock Springs for the model simulation period. ROCK SPRINGS (ORANGE) ME=-0.698 MAE=6.019 nMAE=6.004 R2=0.25 NS=-0.715



Figure 16. Simulated and observed flow at Sanlando Spring for the model simulation period. SANLANDO SPRINGS ME=-0.043 MAE=2.498 nMAE=2.492 R2=0.282 NS=0.17



Figure 17. Simulated and observed flow at Starbuck Spring for the model simulation period. STARBUCK SPRING ME=-0.16 MAE=1.133 nMAE=1.137 R2=0.245 NS=0.129



Figure 18. Simulated and observed flow at Sulphur Spring for the model simulation period. SULPHUR SPRING (HILLSBOROUGH) ME=1.424 MAE=7.068 nMAE=7.018 R2=0.327 NS=0.23



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Figure 33. Leakance coefficient for model layer 8 in the focus area.



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