

## **EPC - BASIS OF REVIEW INTENT AND HISTORY**

### **Intent and History:**

The Environmental Protection Commission of Hillsborough County (EPC) was created in 1967 by a special act of the Florida Legislature (Chapter 67-1504, Laws of Florida). The current enabling act, the Environmental Protection Act of Hillsborough County Chapter 84-446, Laws of Florida, as amended, authorizes the EPC to adopt appropriate rules and regulations reasonably necessary to provide for the effective and continuing control and regulation of water pollution in Hillsborough County. The EPC enabling act further defines water pollution in Section 3(15) as any contamination, destruction, or other alteration, or any activity which contributes to such contamination, destruction, or other alteration, of any physical, chemical, or biological feature or property of any waters of Hillsborough County. It is the purpose of this Basis of Review to provide guidelines and standards for the Executive Director's issuance or denial of an authorization to impact an area subject to jurisdiction under Section 1-11.04.

The EPC recognizes the environmental benefits provided by wetlands and other surface waters in Hillsborough County. Pursuant to the EPC Rule Section 1-11.05, development within wetlands and other waters of Hillsborough County which destroys, reduces or impairs the wetland or other waters or which contributes to the present or potential future destruction, reduction or impairment of the environmental benefits provided by the wetland or other waters, constitutes pollution as defined by Chapter 84-446, Laws of Florida, as amended, and is prohibited except to the extent as may be specifically authorized in writing by the Executive Director or authorized agent. Any activity interfering with the integrity of wetland or other surface water, such as clearing, excavating, draining or filling, without written authorization from the Executive Director of the EPC or authorized agent, pursuant to Sections 1-11.06 and 1-11.07, Rules of the EPC, would be a violation of Section 17 of the enabling act and Chapter 1-11, Rules of the EPC. Development is defined under Section 1-11.02(2)(b) as "any manmade change to real property, including but not limited to dredging, filling, grading, paving, excavating, clearing, timbering, ditching or draining."