



Estero Bay Utility Crossing Mitigation Plan (2012 – Current)

SERVICES PROVIDED

- SUBMERGED RESOURCE SURVEYS
- PROTECTED SPECIES SURVEYS
- MITIGATION PLANNING
- ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCE PERMITTING
- GIS MAPPING
- ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE MONITORING
- PROJECT MANAGEMENT



EAI provides environmental services for the replacement of an existing subaqueous 25 kV distribution line in Estero Bay. The cable corridor begins on the mainland portion of unincorporated Lee County within Estero Bay Preserve State Park and terminates on Estero Island, for a total length of approximately four miles.

EAI conducted multiple site surveys to identify and map protected resources along the project corridor. Surveys for nesting wading birds, gopher tortoises, and benthic resources were performed prior to construction. EAI developed a mitigation strategy to offset unavoidable impacts to submerged resources such as seagrasses and oyster reefs.

Mitigation for anticipated project impacts was calculated using the Unified Mitigation Analysis Methodology (UMAM). An Individual Environmental Resource Permit application was prepared along with a mitigation plan, which included seagrass and oyster restoration methods. The mitigation plan was developed after evaluating potential restoration sites and in consultation with regulatory agency staff. The plan included recommendations for monitoring impact, restoration, and unaffected reference sites following project construction.

Subsequently, EAI was contracted to implement the mitigation plan and conduct the associated monitoring for five years post-construction.