ORANGE COUNTY FLORIDA

Environmental Protection Commission
Work Session

Proposed Amendments to Chapter 8
Boats and Water Safety Ordinance

July 29, 2026

AGENDA

- Background
- Phase II
- Engagement
- Timeline
- Summary
- Questions and Comments



BACKGROUND

- 1983 - Board of County Commissioners (Board) adopted Chapter 8 Boats and Water Safety Ordinance
- 1985 - County Amendment
  - Required children under 6 years to wear personal flotation device
- 1987 - County Amendment
  - Allowed barefoot skiers to wear specially designed flotation wetsuits



BACKGROUND

- 1995 - County Amendments:
  - Expanded ordinance limits to countywide
  - Various requirements for personal floatation devices
  - No wake zone requirements
  - Addition of boating distance language
  - Requirement for swimmers and divers to use safety identification
  - Prohibited trespassing to docks and damage to public and private property



BACKGROUND

- 2009 - Amendment to Florida Statute Chapter 327.46
  - Pre-empted local regulations regarding boating safety
  - Required Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) adoption of local ordinances for establishing boating restricted areas on Florida waterbodies
- Orange County maintained grandfathered status of Chapter 8 Ordinance



BACKGROUND

- August 2020 - District 1 Commissioner expressed concerns of public safety and ongoing natural resources and wildlife impacts to a popular public recreation area within Lake Butler, located at Egret (Bird) Island
- September 2020 - Board directed staff to identify a Swim Area & Vessel Exclusion Zone (SAVE) adjacent to Egret (Bird) Island
  - FWC required the County to adopt an ordinance for the establishment & enforcement of the SAVE



BACKGROUND

- FWC authorized the County to proceed with amending the Chapter 8 Ordinance in two phases:
  - Phase I: designate a SAVE at Egret (Bird) Island
  - Phase II: bring the current Chapter 8 Ordinance into compliance with State Statutes for existing and proposed boating safety zones on our County lakes, update the Ordinance language for enforceability of boating safety regulations

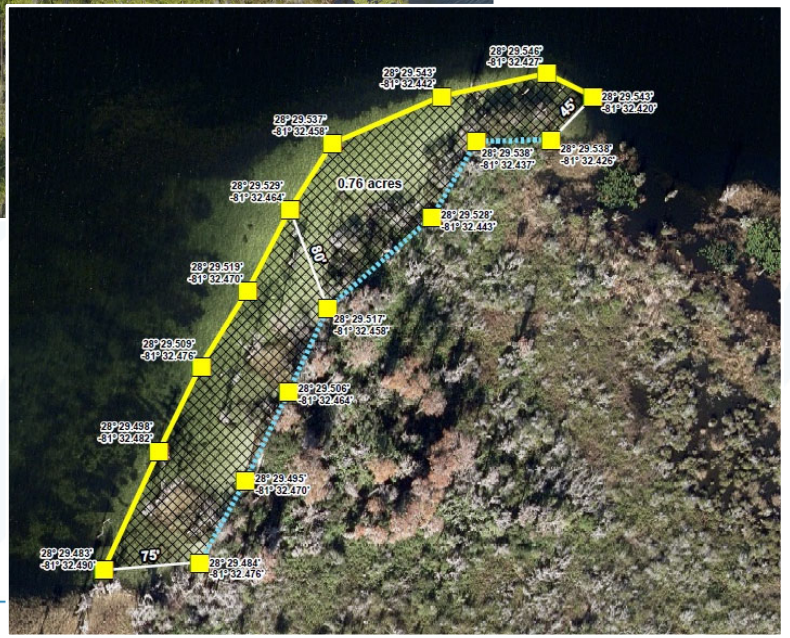


BACKGROUND

Phase I:

- Swim Area & Vessel Exclusion zone designation at Egret (Bird) Island
- Project completed August 25, 2023
- Ongoing discussions with permitting agencies for Phase II updates





ORANGE COUNTY
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AGENDA

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PHASE II

- Phase II:
  - Between 2023 to 2026, EPD continued with the iterative permitting application process with FWC;
    - Amending code language to reflect State Statute requirements for existing FWC Uniform Waterway Marker Permit program
    - Reviewing existing Boating Restricted Areas (BRA) on Big Sand Lake, Butler Chain of Lakes, Conway Chain of Lakes, and Lake Jessamine (40)
    - Establishing 13 additional BRAs on Big Sand Lake, Butler Chain of Lakes, Conway Chain of Lakes, Lake Jessamine, Johns Lake, Lake Pickett, Lake Mary Jane, and Lake Hart
  - April 21, 2026: FWC concurrence of Chapter 8 Ordinance final draft; language and locations.

PHASE II

- Removal of language preempted by Chapter 327.46, Florida Statutes:
  - Exemption of boats, motorboats or skiers performing in or used in shows, exhibitions or tournaments operated by and at a theme park or other amusement park.
  - Exemption of wearing a personal floatation device for performer engaged in a professional exhibition or a person preparing to participate or participating in an official regatta, boat race, marine parade, tournament, or exhibition.
  - Exemption of life saving device, oars, fire extinguisher, and other safety equipment on personal watercrafts or vessels of certain sizes.
  - Boating distance of vessels between operations of towed water sports, ski jumps, and anchored vessels for fishing.
  - Prohibition of bow riding and gunwale riding.
  - Vessel wakes within a certain distance from shoreline.

PHASE II

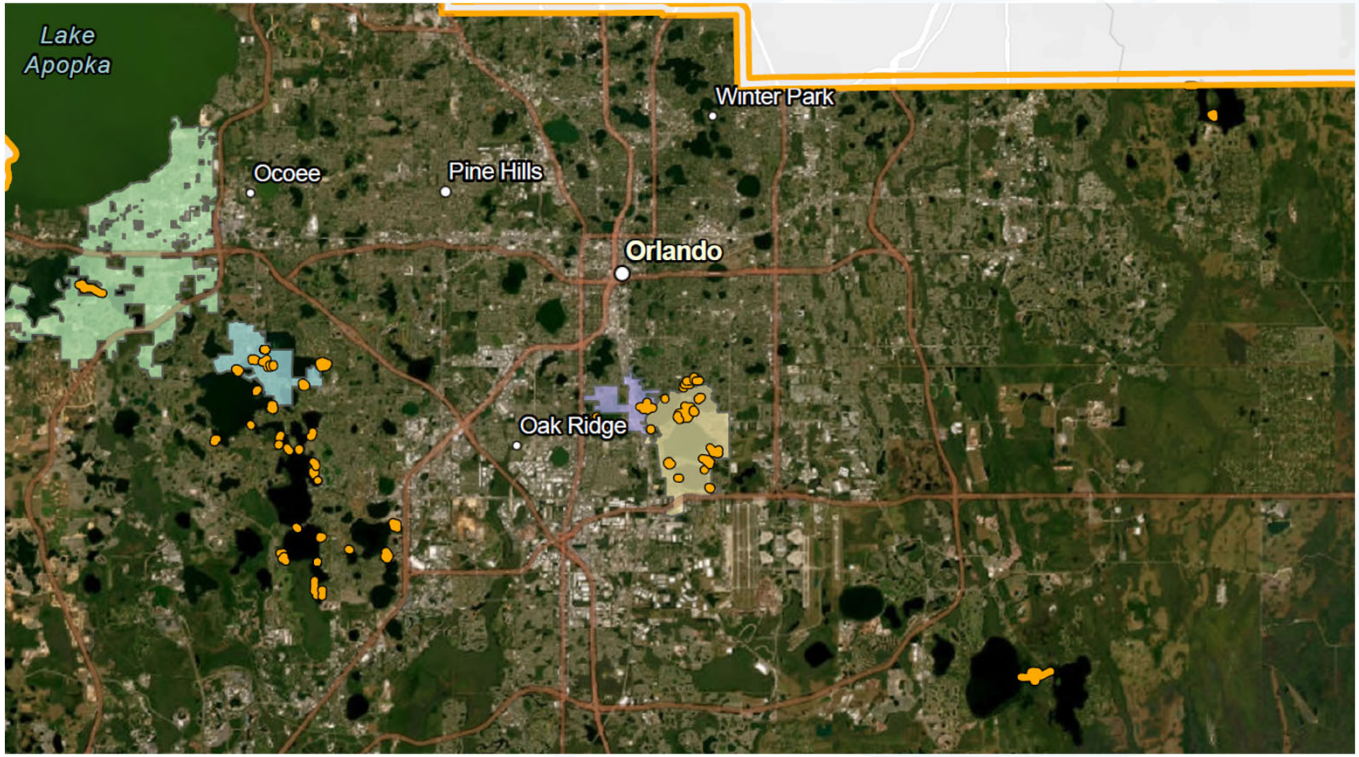
- Removal of language preempted by Chapter 327.46, Florida Statutes:
  - Counterclockwise operations of towed water sports.
  - Established speed limit on waterway.





PHASE II

- Big Sand Lake
- Butler Chain of Lakes
- Conway Chain of Lakes
- Lake Hart
- Lake Mary Jane
- Lake Jessamine
- Johns Lake
- Lake Pickett



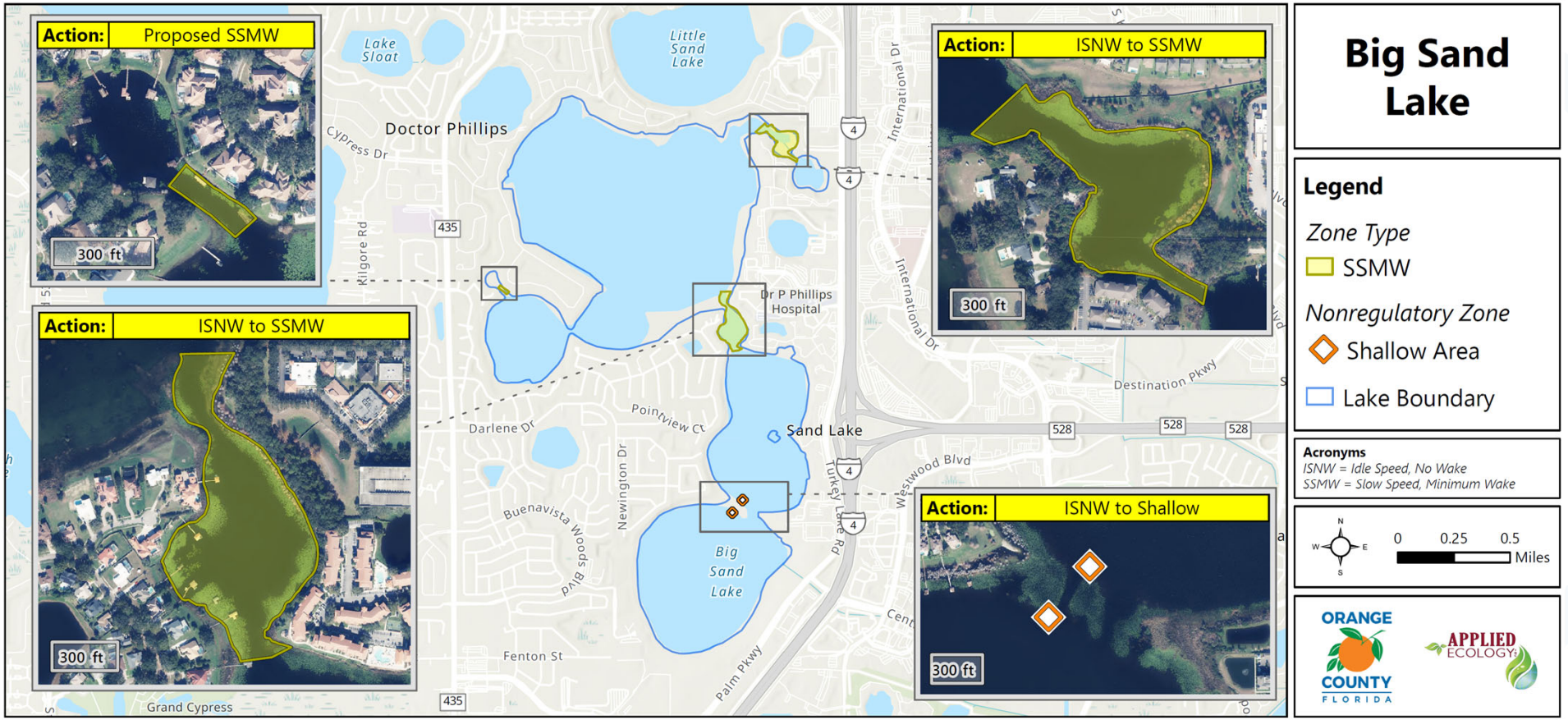
PHASE II

- Florida Statute Chapter 327.46 Designation of Boating Restricted Areas
- Idle Speed, No Wake (ISNW)
  - 500 ft of a boat ramp, hoist, marine railway, or other launching or landing facility for use by the general boating public
  - 500 ft of fuel pumps or dispensers at any marine fueling facility that sells motor fuel to the general boating public
  - 300 ft of a confluence of waterbodies presenting a blind corner, a bend in a narrow channel or fairway, or such other area if an intervening obstruction to visibility may obscure other vessels or users of the waterway

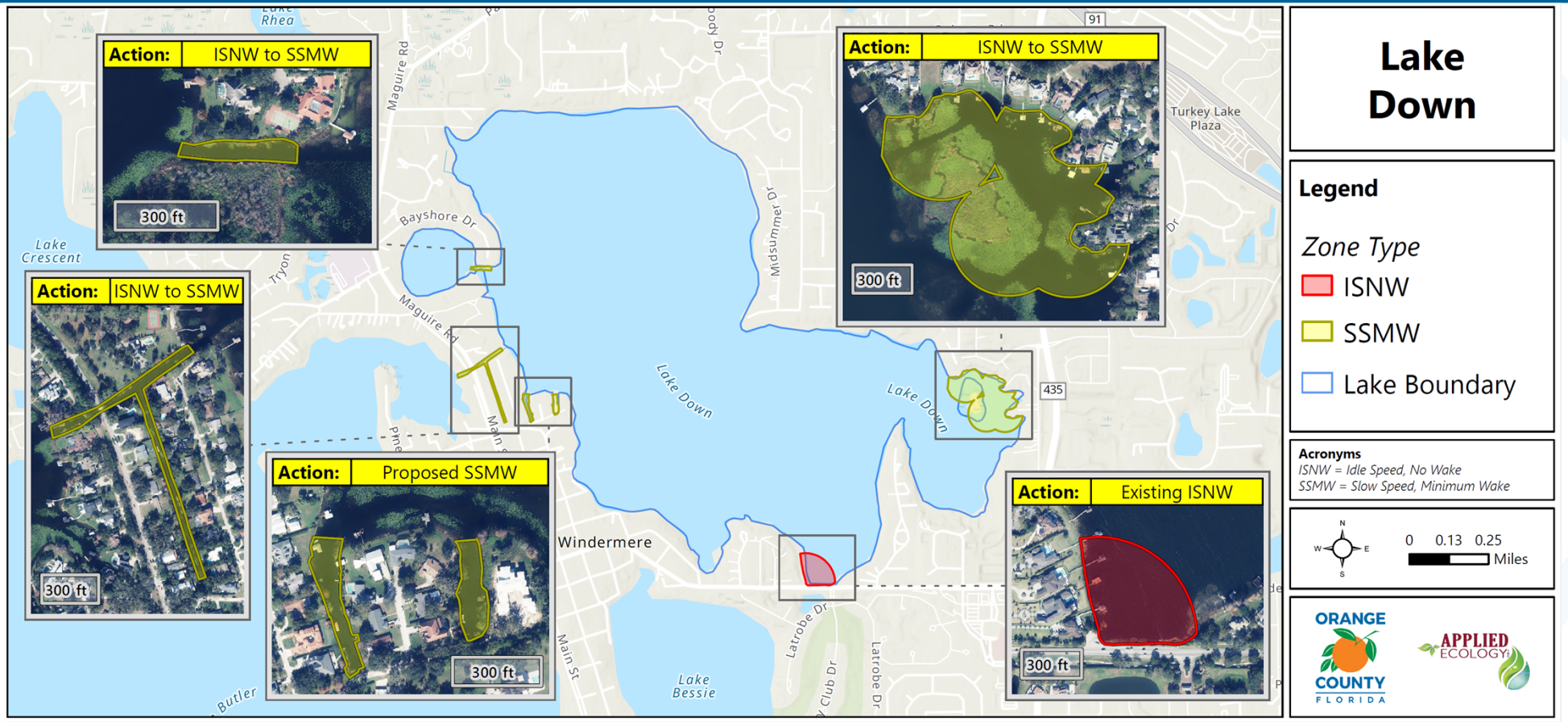
PHASE II

- Florida Statute Chapter 327.46 Designation of Boating Restricted Areas
- Slow Speed, Minimum Wake (SSMW)
  - 300 ft of any bridge fender system
  - 300 ft of any bridge span presenting a vertical clearance of less than 25 ft or a horizontal clearance of less than 100 ft
  - On a creek, stream, canal, or similar linear waterway if less than 75 ft in width from shoreline to shoreline
  - 300 ft of a confluence of waterbodies presenting a blind corner
  - Subject to unsafe levels of vessel traffic congestion
  - Subject to hazardous water levels or currents
  - An area where accident reports, uniform boating citations, or vessel traffic studies demonstrate a significant risk of collision or significant threat to boating safety

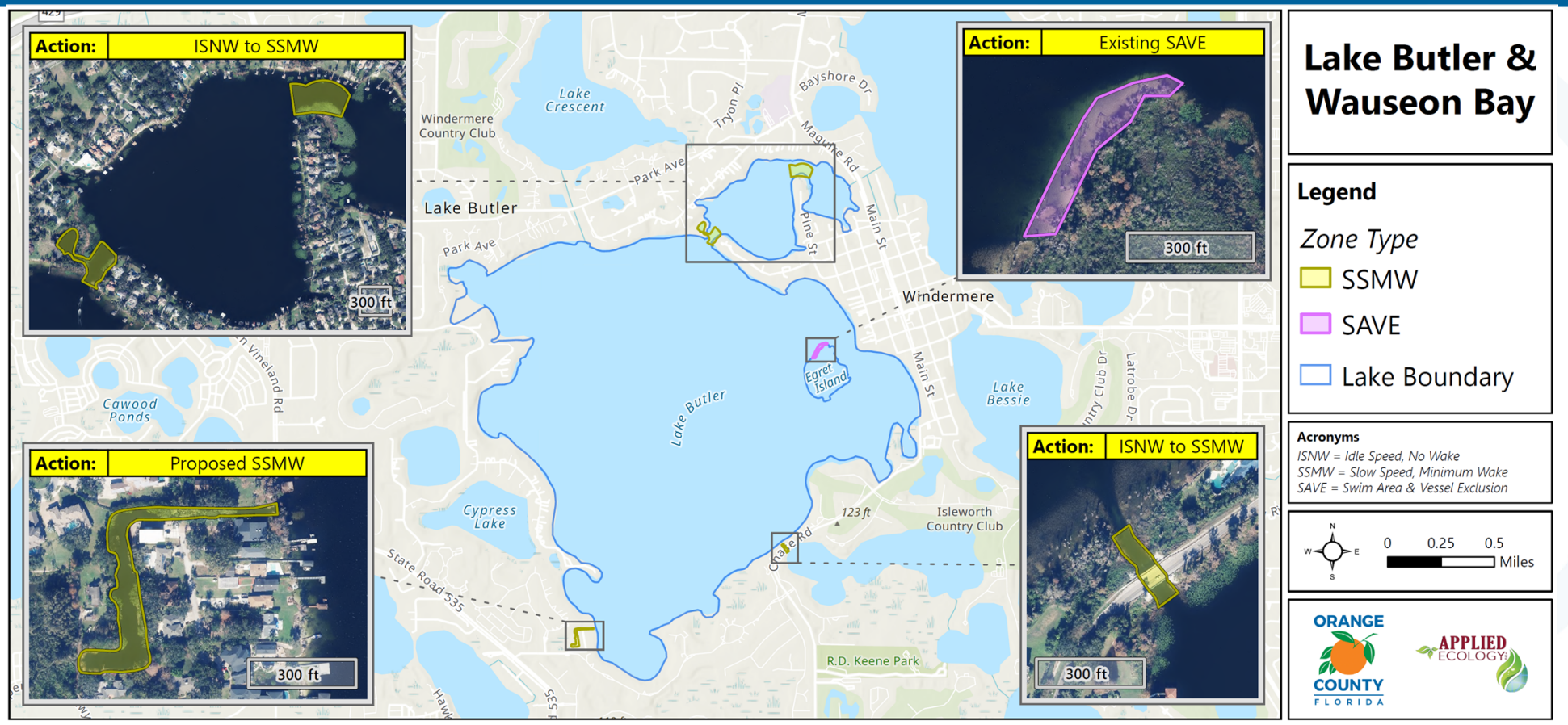
PHASE II


Action: Proposed SSMW
300 ft
Action: ISNW to SSMW
300 ft
Action: ISNW to SSMW
300 ft
Action: ISNW to Shallow
300 ft
Big Sand Lake
Legend
Zone Type
SSMW
Nonregulatory Zone
Shallow Area
Lake Boundary
Acronyms
ISNW = Idle Speed, No Wake
SSMW = Slow Speed, Minimum Wake
0 0.25 0.5
Miles
Lake Sloat
Little Sand Lake
Doctor Phillips
Cypress Dr
Kilgore Rd
435
Dr P Phillips Hospital
International Dr
Destination Pkwy
Darlene Dr
Pointview Ct
Sand Lake
528
Westwood Blvd
Turkey Lake Rd
Buenavista Woods Blvd
Newington Dr
Big Sand Lake
Fenton St
Palm Pkwy
Grand Cypress
ORANGE COUNTY FLORIDA
APPLIED ECOLOGY

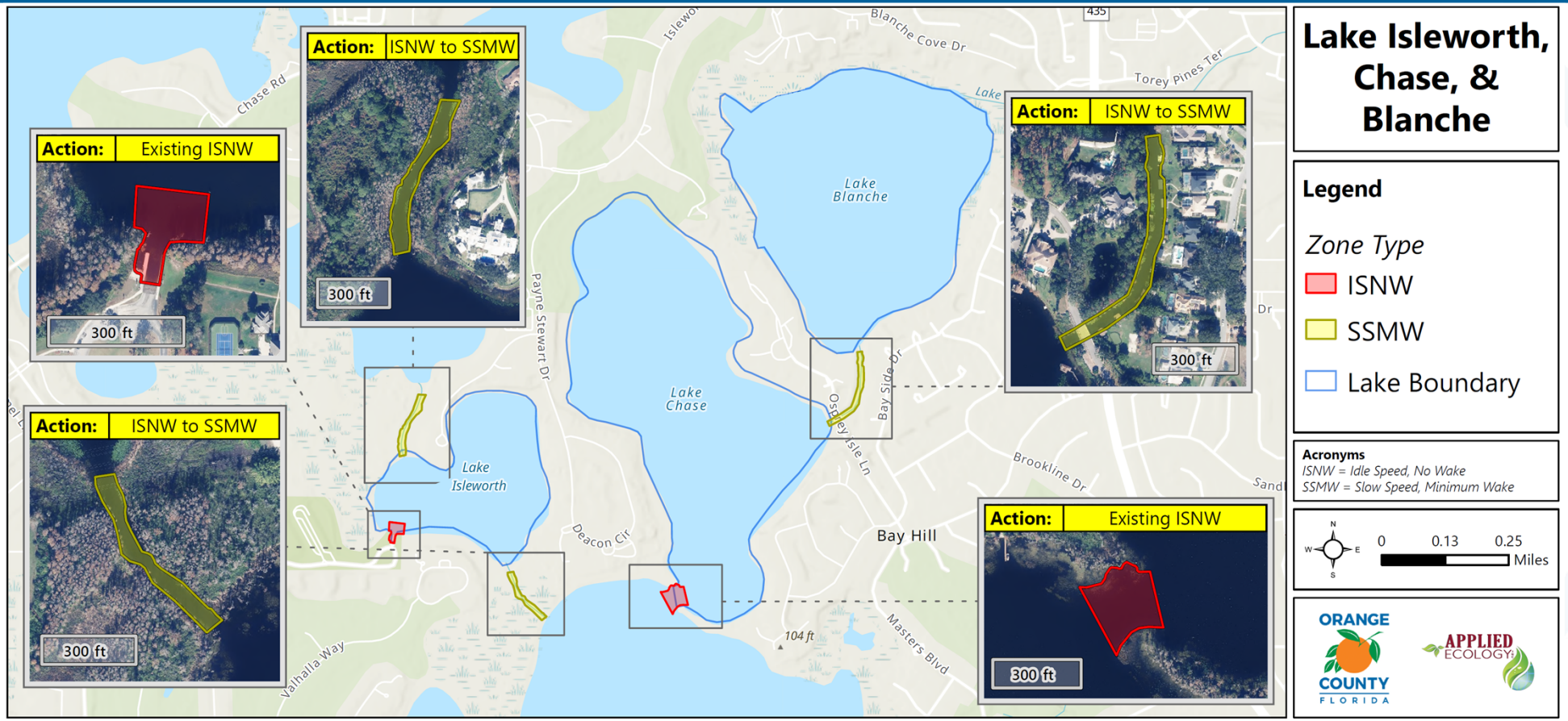
PHASE II


Action: ISNW to SSMW
300 ft
Action: ISNW to SSMW
300 ft
Action: ISNW to SSMW
300 ft
Action: Proposed SSMW
300 ft
Action: Existing ISNW
300 ft
Lake Down
Legend
Zone Type
ISNW
SSMW
Lake Boundary
Acronyms
ISNW = Idle Speed, No Wake
SSMW = Slow Speed, Minimum Wake
0 0.13 0.25
Miles
Windermere
Lake Down
Lake Bessie
Lake Crescent
Lake Rhea
Bayshore Dr
Maguire Rd
Tryon
Midsummer Dr
Turkey Lake Plaza
Latrobe Dr
Main St
Butler
435
91

PHASE II


Action: ISNW to SSMW
300 ft
Action: Existing SAVE
300 ft
Action: Proposed SSMW
300 ft
Action: ISNW to SSMW
300 ft
Lake Butler & Wauseon Bay
Legend
Zone Type
SSMW
SAVE
Lake Boundary
Acronyms
ISNW = Idle Speed, No Wake
SSMW = Slow Speed, Minimum Wake
SAVE = Swim Area & Vessel Exclusion
0 0.25 0.5 Miles
Windermere Country Club
Lake Crescent
Lake Butler
Park Ave
Windermere
Egret Island
Lake Bessie
Cawood Ponds
Cypress Lake
State Road 535
Isleworth Country Club
R.D. Keene Park
123 ft
Bayshore Dr
Magnolia Rd
Main St
Pine St
Tryon Pl
Vineland Rd
Crystal Rd
ORANGE COUNTY FLORIDA
APPLIED ECOLOGY

PHASE II


Lake Isleworth, Chase, & Blanche
Legend
Zone Type
ISNW
SSMW
Lake Boundary
Acronyms
ISNW = Idle Speed, No Wake
SSMW = Slow Speed, Minimum Wake
0 0.13 0.25 Miles
Action: Existing ISNW
300 ft
Action: ISNW to SSMW
300 ft
Action: ISNW to SSMW
300 ft
Action: ISNW to SSMW
300 ft
Action: Existing ISNW
300 ft
Lake Blanche
Lake Chase
Lake Isleworth
Bay Hill
Chase Rd
Blanche Cove Dr
Torey Pines Ter
Payne Stewart Dr
Bay Side Dr
Osprey Isle Ln
Brookline Dr
Deacon Cir
Valhalla Way
Masters Blvd
104 ft
435

PHASE II



Lake Tibet

Legend

Zone Type

- ISNW
- SSMW
- Lake Boundary

Acronyms

ISNW = Idle Speed, No Wake
SSMW = Slow Speed, Minimum Wake

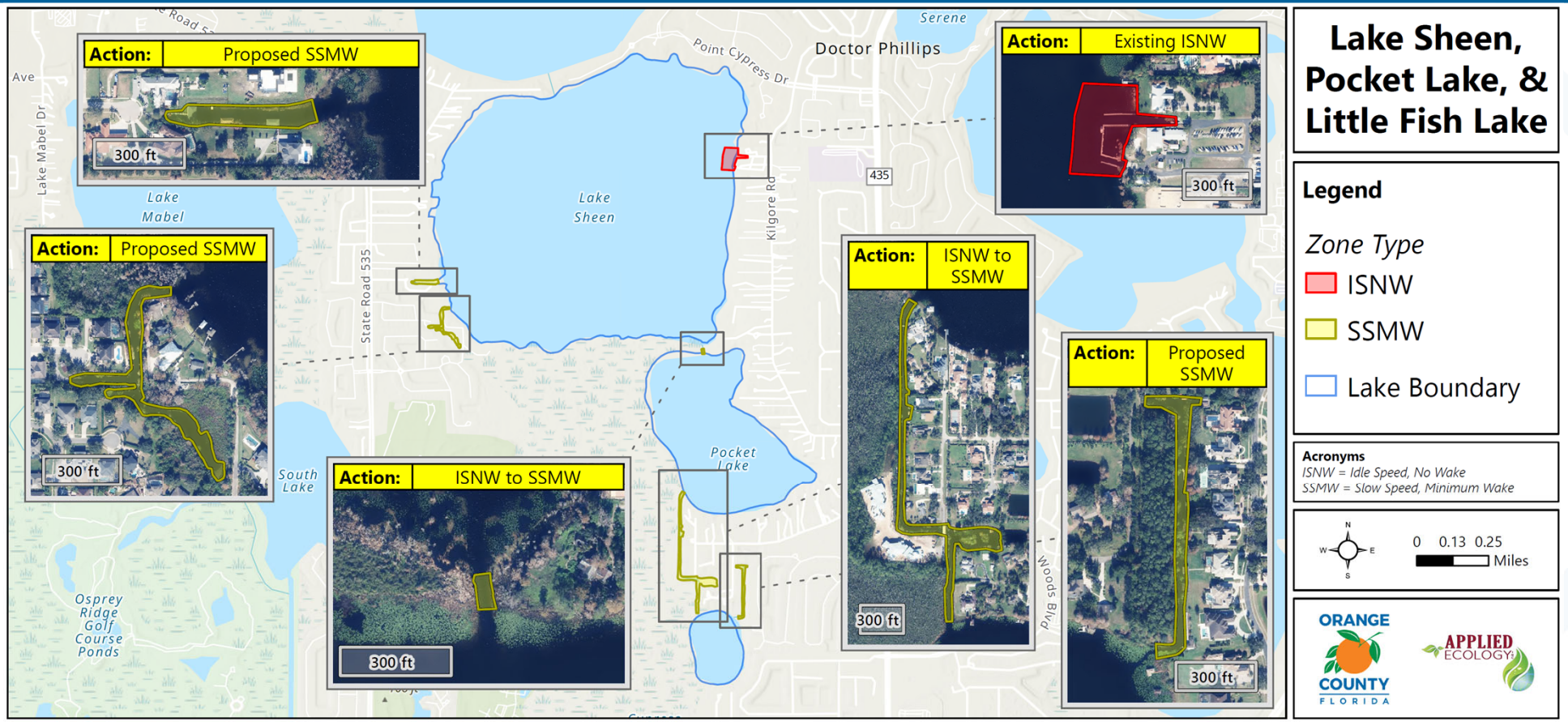
N W E S

0 0.13 0.25 Miles

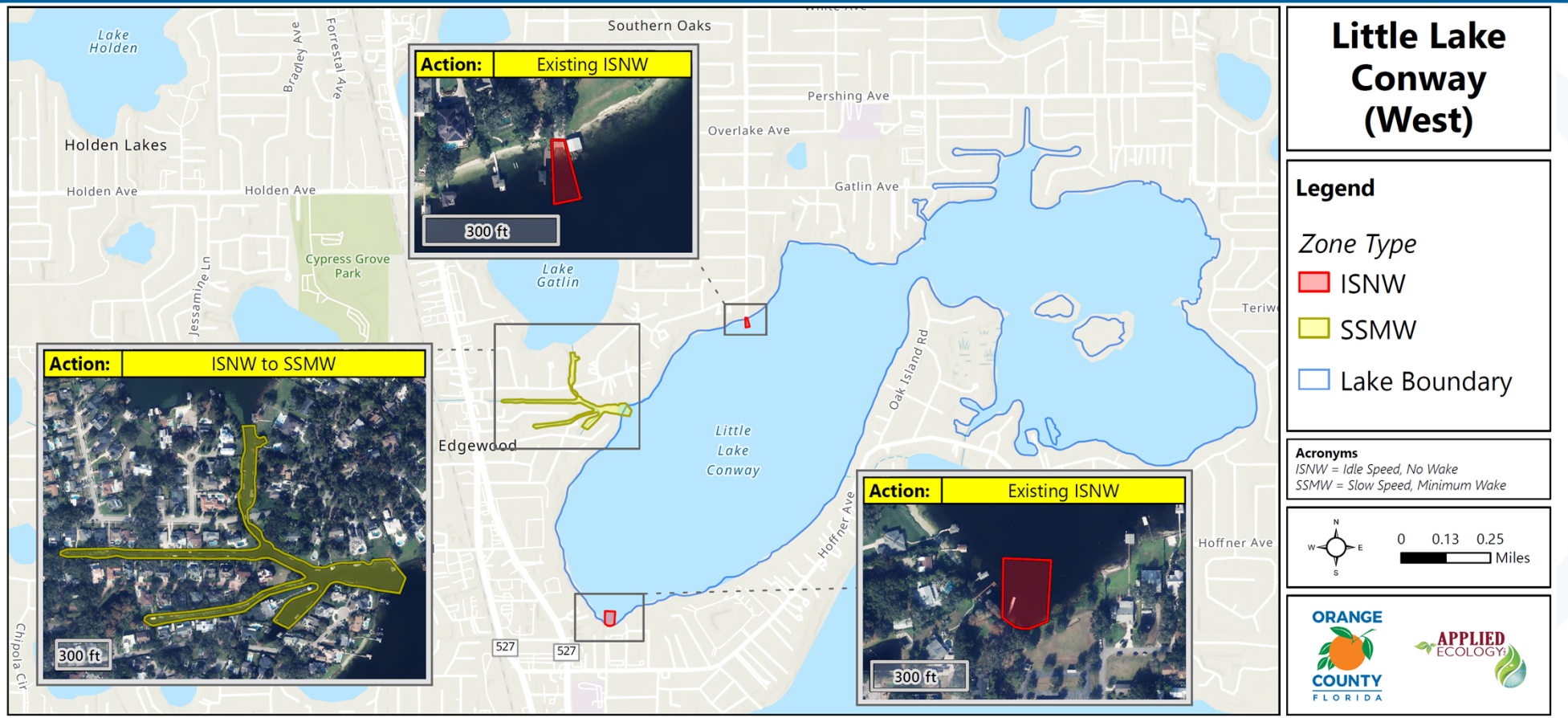
ORANGE COUNTY FLORIDA

APPLIED ECOLOGY

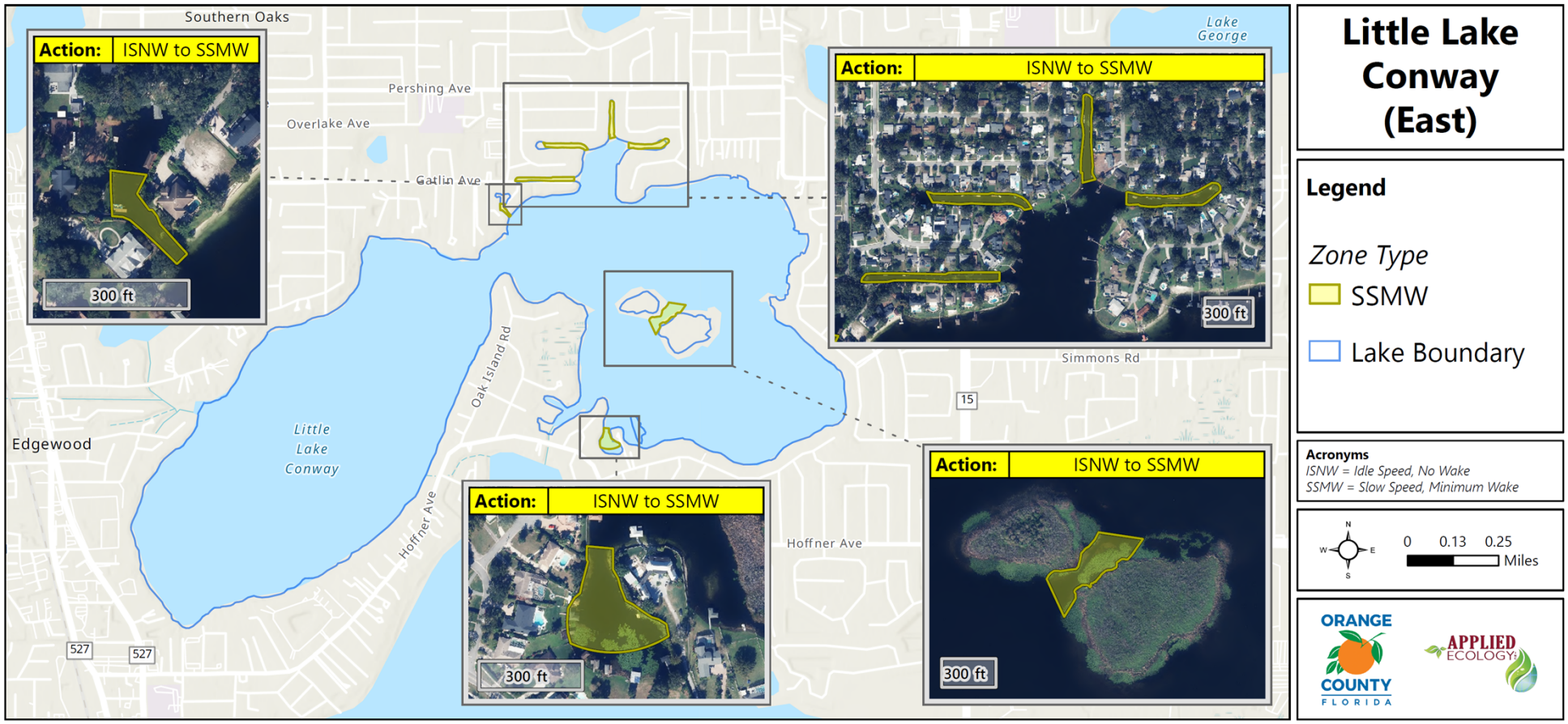
PHASE II


Action: Proposed SSMW
300 ft
Action: Existing ISNW
300 ft
Action: Proposed SSMW
300 ft
Action: ISNW to SSMW
300 ft
Action: ISNW to SSMW
300 ft
Action: Proposed SSMW
300 ft
Lake Sheen, Pocket Lake, & Little Fish Lake
Legend
Zone Type
ISNW
SSMW
Lake Boundary
Acronyms
ISNW = Idle Speed, No Wake
SSMW = Slow Speed, Minimum Wake
0 0.13 0.25
Miles
Lake Mabel
Lake Sheen
Pocket Lake
South Lake
Doctor Phillips
Point Cypress Dr
Kilgore Rd
State Road 535
Lake Mabel Dr
Woods Blvd
Osprey Ridge Golf Course Ponds
435

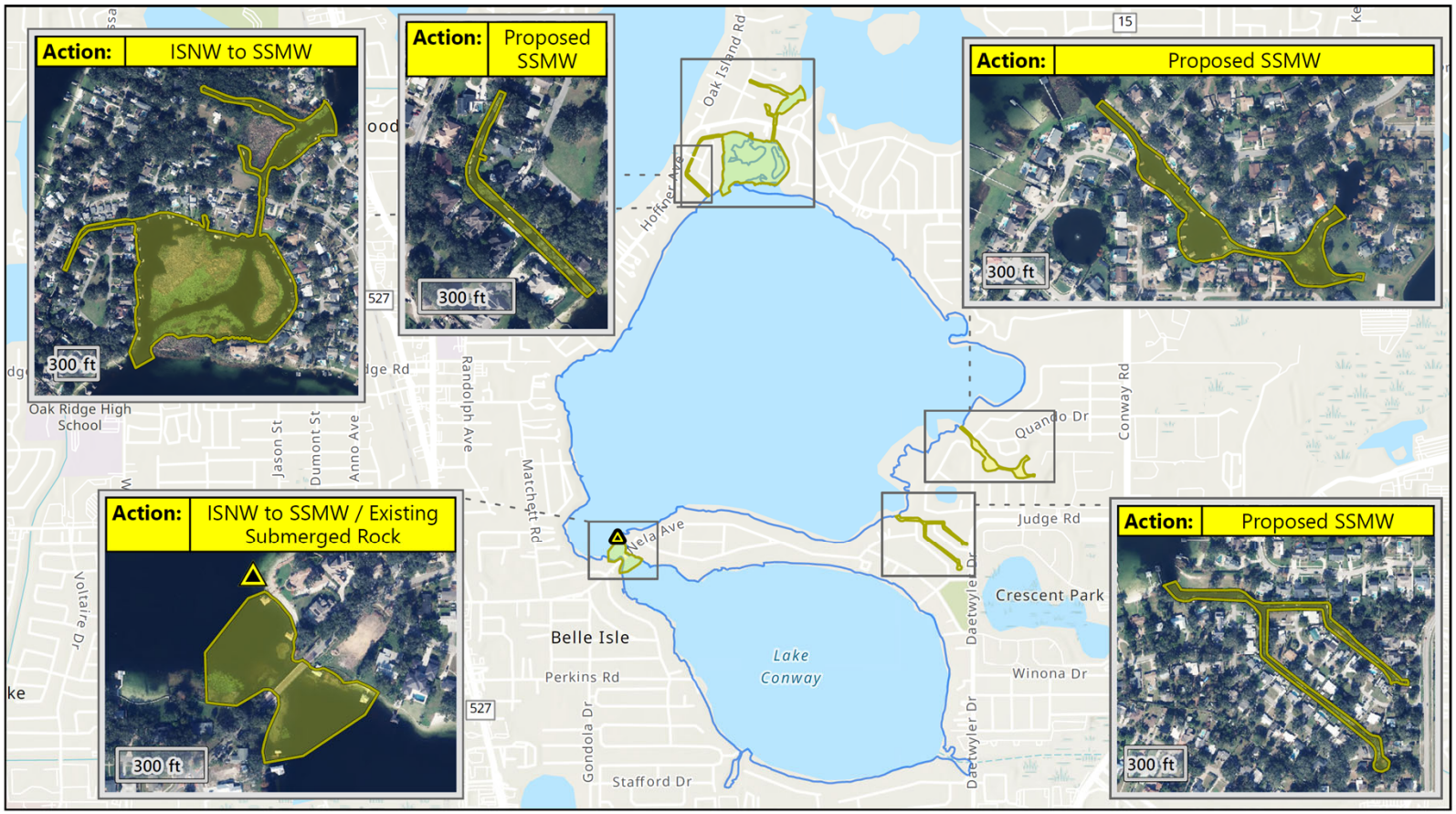
PHASE II


Lake Holden
Bradley Ave
Forrestal Ave
Southern Oaks
Action: Existing ISNW
300 ft
Pershing Ave
Overlake Ave
Holden Lakes
Holden Ave
Holden Ave
Gatlin Ave
Cypress Grove Park
Jessamine Ln
Lake Gatlin
Action: ISNW to SSMW
300 ft
Edgewood
Little Lake Conway
Oak Island Rd
Hoffner Ave
Hoffner Ave
Action: Existing ISNW
300 ft
Chipola Cir
527
527
Little Lake Conway (West)
Legend
Zone Type
ISNW
SSMW
Lake Boundary
Acronyms
ISNW = Idle Speed, No Wake
SSMW = Slow Speed, Minimum Wake
N
W
E
S
0 0.13 0.25
Miles
ORANGE COUNTY FLORIDA
APPLIED ECOLOGY

PHASE II


Southern Oaks
Lake George
Action: ISNW to SSMW
300 ft
Pershing Ave
Overlake Ave
Gatlin Ave
Action: ISNW to SSMW
300 ft
Simmons Rd
15
Oak Island Rd
Little Lake Conway
Edgewood
Hoffner Ave
Hoffner Ave
Action: ISNW to SSMW
300 ft
Action: ISNW to SSMW
300 ft
527
527
Little Lake Conway (East)
Legend
Zone Type
SSMW
Lake Boundary
Acronyms
ISNW = Idle Speed, No Wake
SSMW = Slow Speed, Minimum Wake
N
W
E
S
0 0.13 0.25
Miles
ORANGE COUNTY FLORIDA
APPLIED ECOLOGY

PHASE II



Lake Conway (North)

Legend

Zone Type

SSMW

Nonregulatory Zone

Submerged Rock

Lake Boundary

Acronyms

ISNW = Idle Speed, No Wake

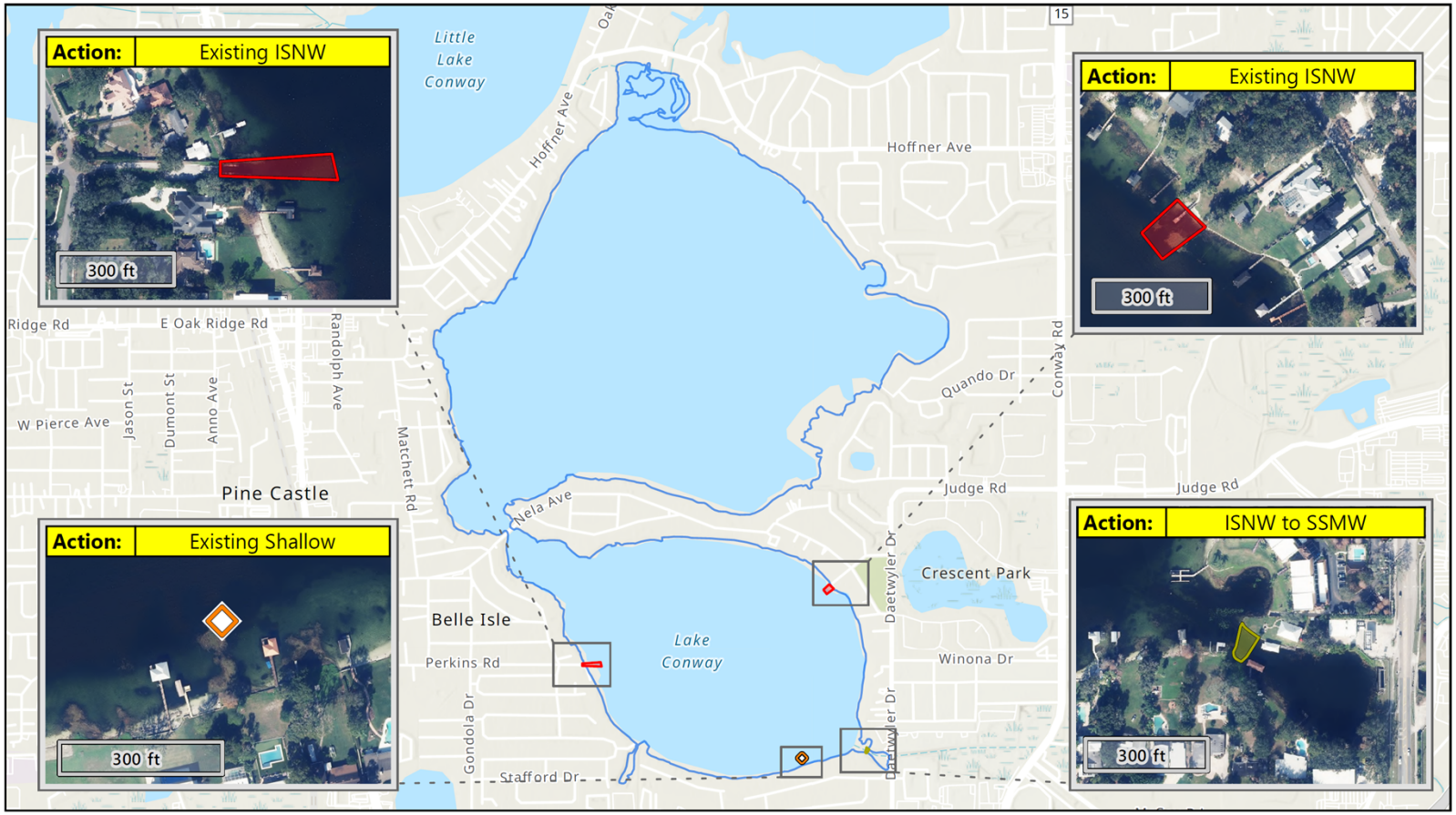
SSMW = Slow Speed, Minimum Wake

0 0.13 0.25 Miles

ORANGE COUNTY FLORIDA

APPLIED ECOLOGY

PHASE II



Lake Conway (South)

Legend

Zone Type
- ISNW
- SSMW

Nonregulatory Zone
- Shallow Area
- Lake Boundary

Acronyms
ISNW = Idle Speed, No Wake
SSMW = Slow Speed, Minimum Wake

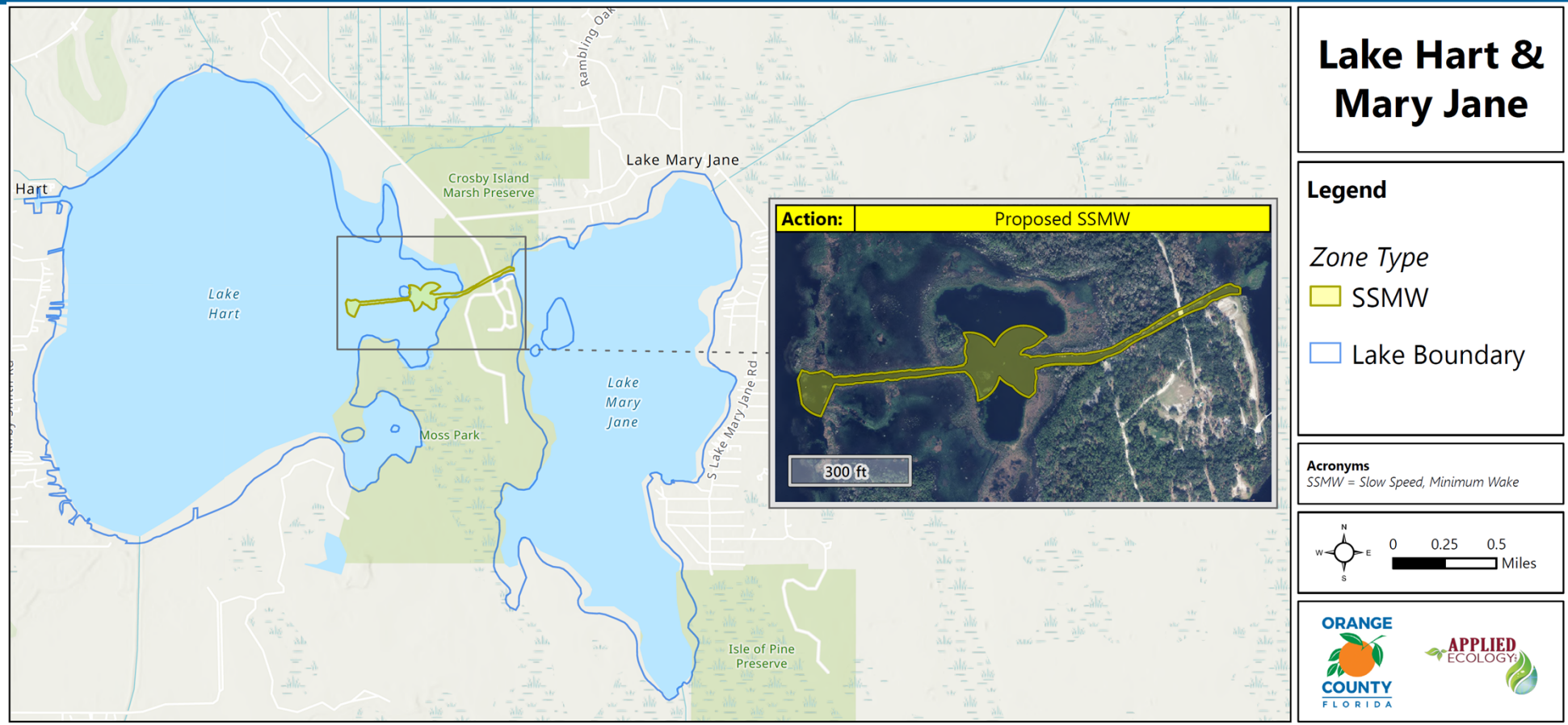
N W E S

0 0.13 0.25 Miles

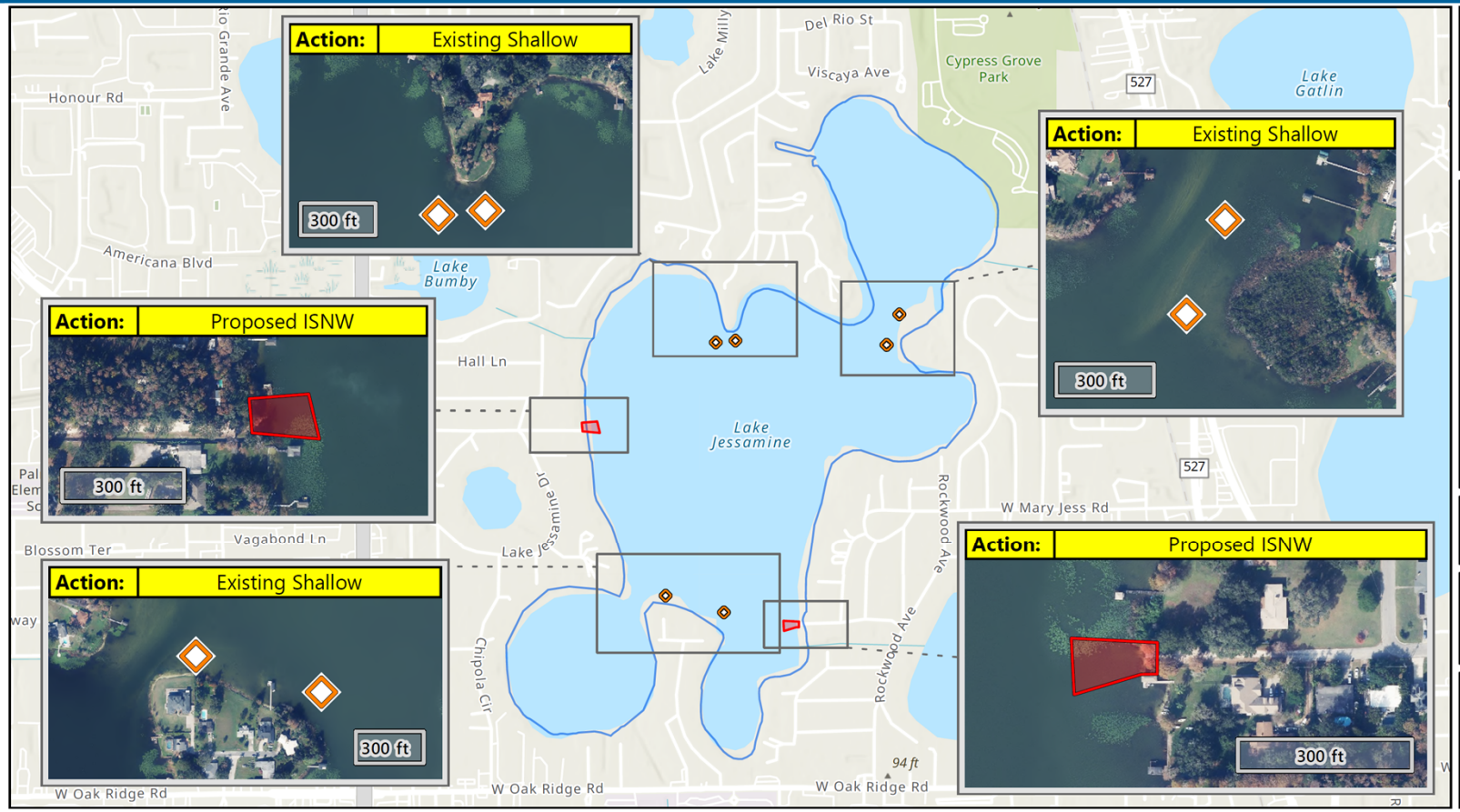
ORANGE COUNTY FLORIDA

APPLIED ECOLOGY

PHASE II


Lake Hart & Mary Jane
Hart
Lake Mary Jane
Crosby Island Marsh Preserve
Lake Hart
Lake Mary Jane
Moss Park
S Lake Mary Jane Rd
Isle of Pine Preserve
Action:
Proposed SSMW
300 ft
Legend
Zone Type
SSMW
Lake Boundary
Acronyms
SSMW = Slow Speed, Minimum Wake
N
W
E
S
0
0.25
0.5
Miles
ORANGE COUNTY FLORIDA
APPLIED ECOLOGY

PHASE II



Lake Jessamine

Legend

Zone Type

ISNW

Nonregulatory Zone

Shallow Area

Lake Boundary

Acronyms

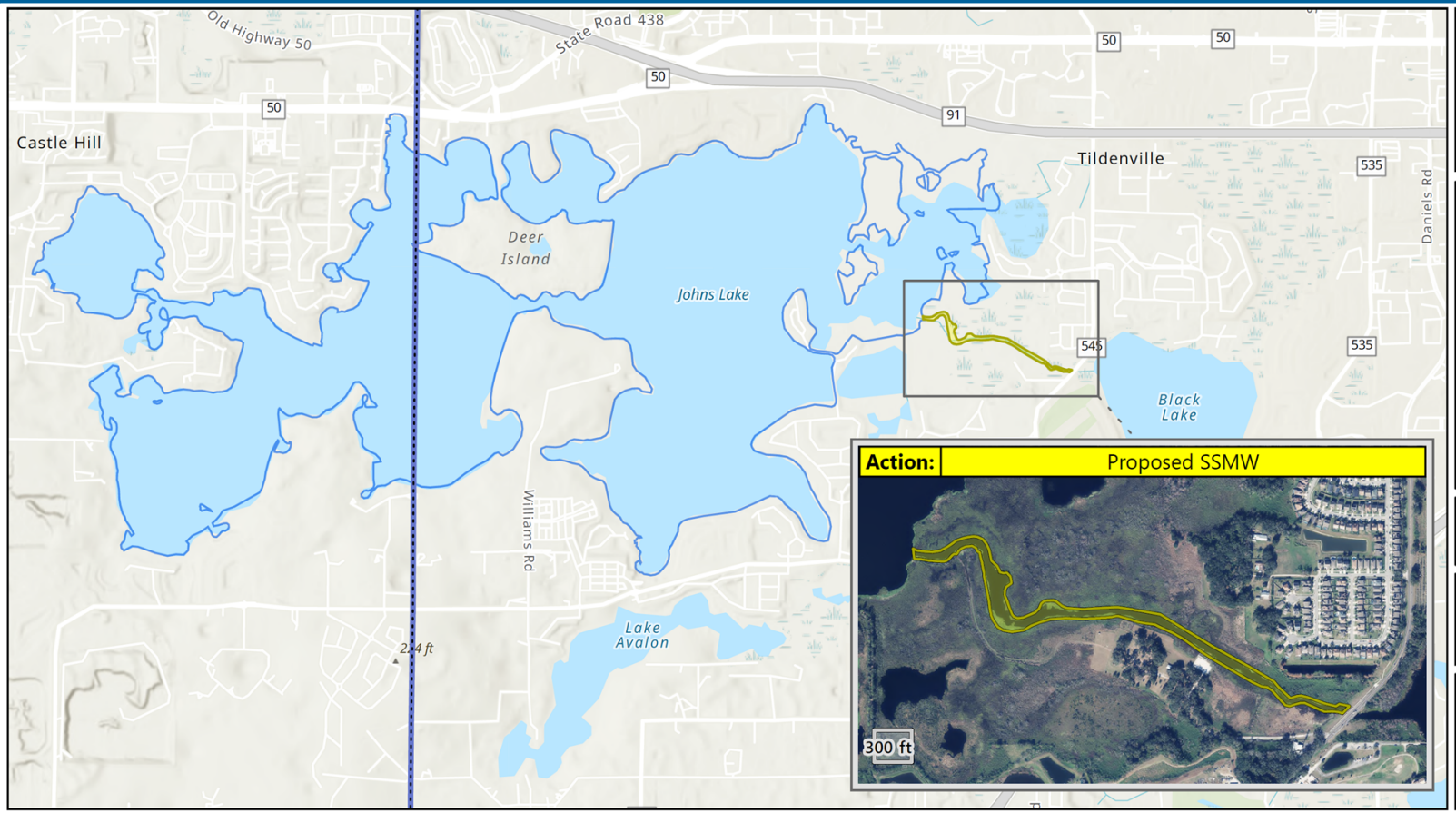
ISNW = Idle Speed, No Wake

0 0.13 0.25 Miles

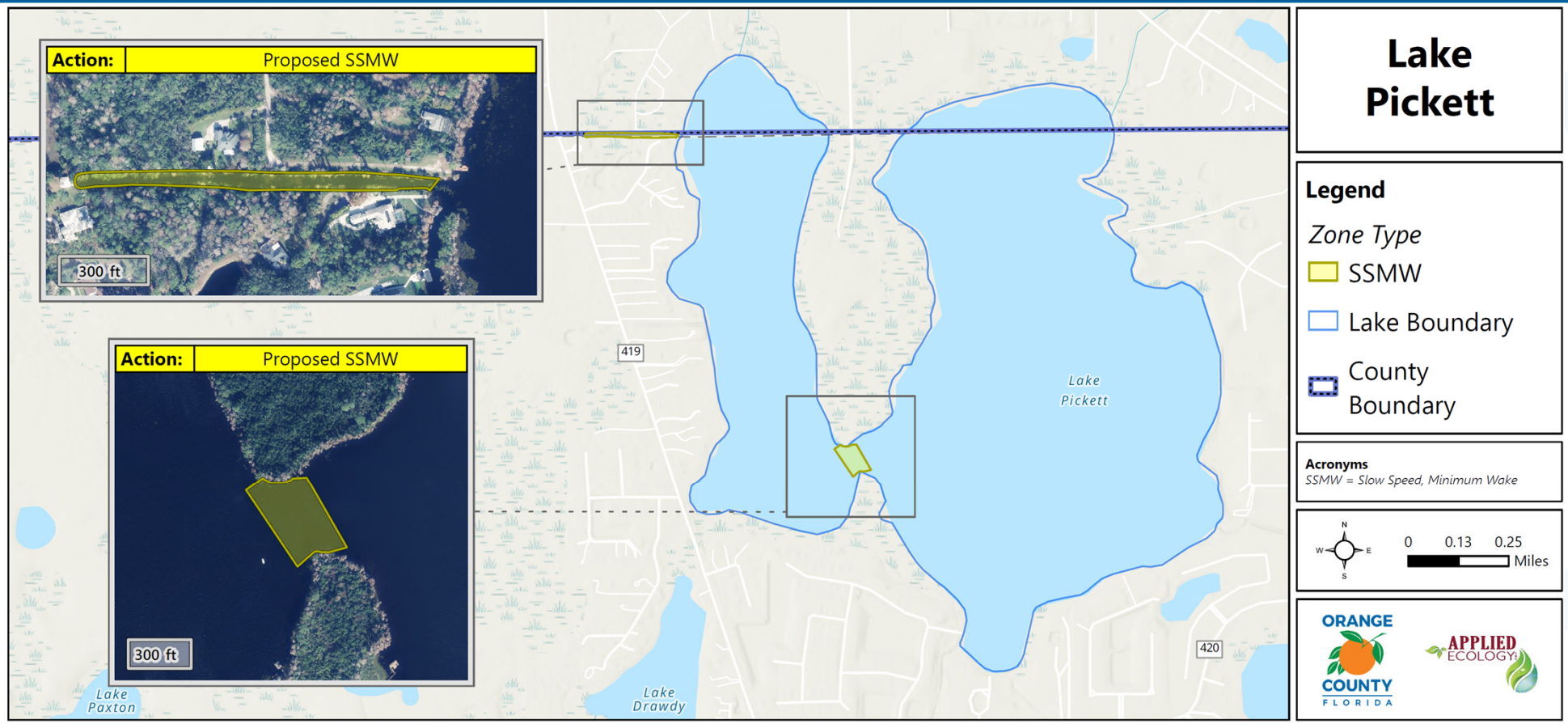
ORANGE COUNTY FLORIDA

APPLIED ECOLOGY

PHASE II


Old Highway 50
State Road 438
50
91
Castle Hill
Tildenville
535
Daniels Rd
Deer Island
Johns Lake
545
Black Lake
Williams Rd
Lake Avalon
2.4 ft
Action:
Proposed SSMW
300 ft
Johns Lake
Legend
Zone Type
SSMW
Lake Boundary
County Boundary
Acronyms
SSMW = Slow Speed, Minimum Wake
N
W
E
S
0
0.25
0.5
Miles
ORANGE COUNTY FLORIDA
APPLIED ECOLOGY

PHASE II


Action:
Proposed SSMW
300 ft
Action:
Proposed SSMW
300 ft
419
420
Lake Pickett
Lake Paxton
Lake Drawdy
Lake Pickett
Legend
Zone Type
SSMW
Lake Boundary
County Boundary
Acronyms
SSMW = Slow Speed, Minimum Wake
N
W
E
S
0
0.13
0.25
Miles
ORANGE COUNTY FLORIDA
APPLIED ECOLOGY

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ENGAGEMENT

Internal Collaboration

- Orange County Attorney's Office
- Orange County Risk Management
- Orange County Sheriff's Office
- Orange County Sheriff's Office Legal Counsel
- Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission Division of Law Enforcement
- Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission Boating and Waterways Section

ENGAGEMENT

External Collaboration

- Environmental Protection Commission
- Governmental agencies
- Lake Advisory Boards
- Audubon of Florida
- Residents within respective lake taxing districts
- Interested parties

ENGAGEMENT

- Frequent stakeholder email updates
- Dedicated Chapter 8 website
- Dedicated Engage Orange website
- Stakeholder feedback by general categories:
  - September 26, 2022, and February 21, 2023
    - Resident provided update on temporary SAVE buoys being relocated by the public
    - Request to provide easier public access to proposed ordinance and associated maps
    - Request for increased law enforcement presence to regulate speeding in established zones
    - Request for additional navigation marker signage in long canals
    - Request to not establish another Swim Area Vessel Exclusion Zone
    - Request for more visible navigation marker signage in existing zones
    - Agreement of aligning Chapter 8 Ordinance to support Florida Statute

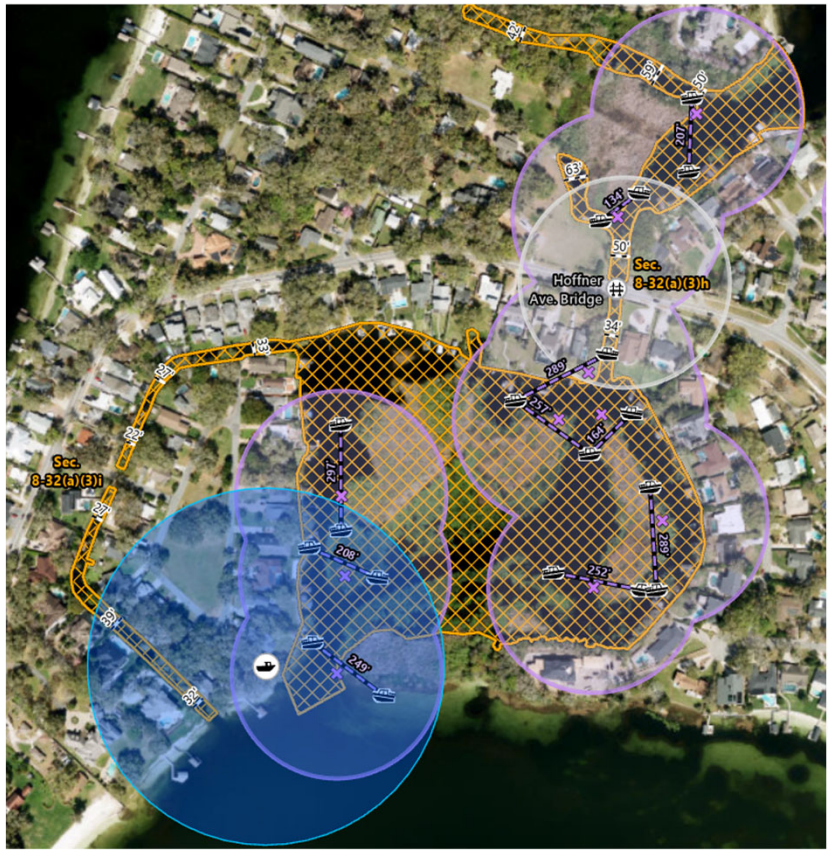
ENGAGEMENT

- Stakeholder feedback by general categories:
  - Environmental Protection Commission Public Hearing
    - March 29, 2023
    - Approved a motion of support for ordinance revisions
  - June 18, 2026
    - Vessel wakes within a certain distance from shoreline
    - Established speed limit on waterway
    - Concerns of personal watercraft operation at night
    - Clarification of specific language preempted by State Statute
    - Continued support for Swim Area Vessel Exclusion Zone at Egret Island
    - Request to evaluate an additional area on Johns Lake for a boating safety zone

ENGAGEMENT

- Stakeholder feedback by general categories:
  - City of Belle Isle, Florida, Council Meeting, July 21, 2026
    - Idle speed zones being converted to slow speed zones and concern for increased shoreline erosion
      - Orange County submitted all currently permitted zones to the state to remain ISNW. The state provided direction that these zones do not meet Florida Statute requirements for ISNW and must change to SSMW.
      - Per State rules, no boating restricted areas allowed for protection of shoreline or upland property from vessel wake or shoreline wash.
    - Lack of designation of an idle speed, no wake zone at the Venetian Canal boat ramp
      - Orange County is currently working with the State to determine the extent of an ISNW zone surrounding the boat ramp area to include in the Phase II ordinance revisions.
    - Lack of an idle speed, no wake zone within the Daetwyler Cove
      - Orange County submitted the entire cove area to remain as ISNW, but it did not meet Statute requirements. The short SSMW zone is the only area that can be permitted under current Statute.

PHASE II



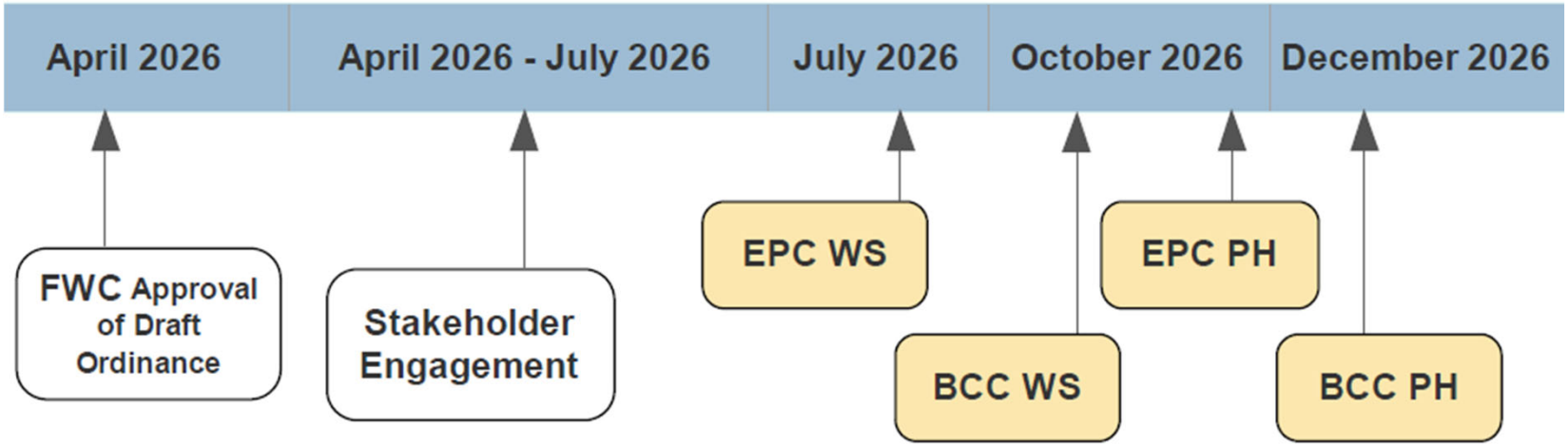
- Lake Conway Venetian Boat Ramp
- ISNW approved by FWC;
  - EPD updating maps and draft Code language

AGENDA

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TIMELINE


April 2026
April 2026 - July 2026
July 2026
October 2026
December 2026
FWC Approval of Draft Ordinance
Stakeholder Engagement
EPC WS
BCC WS
EPC PH
BCC PH

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SUMMARY

- Chapter 8 needs to be updated to:
  - Remove language not consistent with Chapter 327.46, Florida Statutes
  - Reflect current FWC waterway markers and permit requirements
  - Implement additional waterway markers recommended by the OCSO



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QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

- Lakes@ocfl.net
- http://orangecountyfl.net/Environment/StakeholderCommentForm.aspx
- https://www.orangecountyfl.net/Environment/BoatingCode.aspx