FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF
Environmental Protection

Marjory Stoneman Douglas Building
3900 Commonwealth Boulevard
Tallahassee, FL 32399

MEMORANDUM

TO: Alexis A. Lambert, Secretary

FROM: Candie M. Fuller, Inspector General Candie M. Fuller Digitally signed by Candie M. Fuller Date: 2026.03.17 11:11:17 -04'00'

SUBJECT: Audit Follow-up for Auditor General Report 2026-026

DATE: March 17, 2026

In accordance with Section 20.055 (6) (h), Florida Statutes, the attached document represents the six-month status of the findings and recommendations included in the Auditor General's Report No. 2026-026, *Department of Environmental Protection Environmental Crimes Unit and Prior Audit Follow-Up,* dated September 2025.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Enclosure

cc: Mara Gambineri, Chief of Staff
Melinda M. Miguel, Chief Inspector General
Joint Legislative Auditing Committee

Department of Environmental Protection
Six-Month Status Report for Auditor General Report No. 2026-026
Department of Environmental Protection Environmental Crimes Unit and Prior Audit Follow-Up (September 2025)

Environmental Crimes Unit

Finding 1: ECU Sworn Officer Training

Finding: Department records did not always evidence that ECU sworn law enforcement officers had timely completed required dart-firing stun gun training or demonstrated, prior to performing duties, proficiency in the use of assigned firearms in accordance with State law, Department of Law Enforcement rules, and Department policies and procedures.

Recommendation: We recommend that Division management enhance ECU sworn law enforcement officer training controls to ensure that Division records evidence the date that all weapons are assigned to sworn officers and the timely completion of required dart-firing stun gun and firearm training in accordance with State law, DLE rules, and Department policies and procedures.

Agency Response and Corrective Action Plan: The Department agrees and will ensure officer training controls are adequate to ensure that DLE evidence the date that all weapons are assigned to sworn officers and the timely completion of required dart-firing stun gun and firearm training in accordance with State law, DLE rules, and Department policies and procedures.

Six-Month Follow-Up Response: Division Management has enhanced multiple internal division policies to strengthen training controls and ensure required training is completed in a timely manner in compliance with state law and Department policies and procedures.

Finding 2: ECU Property Management

Finding: Division property management controls need enhancement to ensure proper accountability over Division weapons and ammunition and to demonstrate compliance with applicable Department of Financial Services rules.

Recommendation: We recommend that Division management strengthen property management controls to ensure that:

• A time frame for recording property acquisitions to Department property records is established in applicable policies and procedures.

• All applicable Division property items are timely added to Department property records with all required information and included in annual physical inventories.

• Property custodians do not inventory items for which they are responsible.

• The movement of ECU weapons, ammunition, and other equipment stored in Division safes and lock boxes is appropriately documented and tracked to readily identify each item's location and to prevent or timely detect theft or loss, should it occur.

Agency Response and Corrective Action Plan: The Department agrees and will enhance property management controls to ensure timely recording of property acquisitions to Department records; property custodians do not inventory items for which they are responsible; and ensure proper tracking of property when equipment is moved from region to region to prevent and detect theft or loss.

Six-Month Follow-Up Response: The Division has enhanced internal controls by implementing firearm check-in/check-out logs, assigned equipment employee forms, updated division policies, and other measures to ensure equipment is properly documented and tracked in order to detect potential theft or loss.

Selected Administrative Activities (Follow-Up)

Finding 3: Mobile Device Message Controls

Finding: Department controls over the retention of text messages and Apple device iMessages in accordance with State law continue to need improvement.

Recommendation: We recommend that Department management enhance mobile device controls to:

• Enforce policy prohibitions on text messaging and iMessage use on Department mobile devices.

• Make or obtain independent and periodic assessments of the effectiveness of the service organization's relevant internal controls for ensuring that text messages are retained in accordance with State law.

• Ensure that, should text messages or iMessages be sent or received by Department mobile devices, such messages are retained in accordance with State law and the records retention schedule.

Agency Response and Corrective Action Plan: The Department has enhanced the controls for managing text messages on Department issued mobile devices to include monthly review of provider invoices to ensure vendors have captured appropriate feature restrictions for devices as it relates to text messaging. The Department has reprocured a per device software solution for capturing and retaining text messages in accordance with State law and the records retention schedule. This agreement also requires the submittal of the independent system and organizations internal controls report. The Department has implemented Microsoft Intune, which is a cloud-based end point management solution which will block the use of iMessages on corporate Apple devices and is actively working to reset phones to enroll into solution.

Six-Month Follow-Up Response: The Office of Technology and Information Services (OTIS), in partnership with the Division of Administrative Services, is developing standardized processes to address mobile device messaging retention requirements. This effort includes the development of a RACI matrix and a documented process workflow to clearly define responsibilities and procedures related to mobile device management and message retention.

OTIS and the Division of Administrative Services have also engaged with the Department's messaging archiving vendor, Smarsh, to review best practices. Smarsh will ensure the retention of mobile text messages in accordance with State law and the Department's records retention schedule.

Additionally, the Division of Administrative Services is implementing a project to factory reset Department mobile devices and re-enroll them under centralized mobile device management for the applicable platform, including Samsung Knox, Apple Business Manager, and Microsoft Intune. This effort will allow the Department to enforce mobile device policies and ensure devices are properly configured for monitoring and message capture.

During this implementation, OTIS is also working to finalize the configuration of the Smarsh solution to support automatic device enrollment and message capture, which will enable the Department to retain text messages sent or received on Department mobile devices in compliance with State law and applicable records retention requirements.