

PUBLIC RECREATIONAL FACILITY BOAT RAMP APPROVED FOR STORMWATER TREATMENT AREA 3/4

Harold A. Campbell Public Use Facility scheduled to open in April 2007

The South Florida Water Management District Governing Board approved a resolution on Wednesday authorizing a \$1.7 million contract with Construction Technology Inc. of West Palm Beach to build the Harold A. Campbell Public Use Facility at Stormwater Treatment Area 3/4. While the STA is open to other recreation uses such as bird-watching and seasonal duck hunting, this will be the first public access site into the 16,554-acre constructed wetland located in western Palm Beach County.

Named in memory of South Florida Water Management District employee and STA 3/4 construction inspector Harold A. Campbell, the facility will include a dual-lane boat ramp with access to over 23 miles of perimeter canals that are exterior to the treatment area, covered information kiosks, paved parking areas, concrete sidewalks, restrooms, landscape improvements and access road improvements. Also, a pedestrian bridge will provide access to hike or bike in the STA and see the different vegetation types in the treatment marsh.

“When completed in April 2007, recreational fishermen, boaters and families can take a little time away from the hustle and bustle of city life and enjoy a quiet day of fishing in the northern reaches of the Everglades,” said Michael Collins, District Governing Board member and chairman of the Water Resources Advisory Commission. “Establishing STAs with public access helps to meet the District’s mission and fulfill legislative mandates to make public lands available for recreational uses that do not adversely affect the restoration goals of the project.”

Stormwater treatment areas are large, constructed wetlands that contain aquatic plants that remove phosphorus from the water before it enters the Everglades. Too much phosphorus causes undesirable effects such as the uncontrolled growth of algae and invasive vegetation, which can be detrimental to the Everglades ecosystem. Over the last decade, 40,000 acres of treatment areas and improved farming practices combined have prevented 2,200 tons of phosphorus from entering the Everglades.

The Harold A. Campbell Public Use Facility at STA 3/4 will be located along the Palm Beach / Broward County line west of U.S. 27, approximately 14 miles north of Alligator Alley (SR 84) or 25 miles south of South Bay. Construction is scheduled to begin in October.