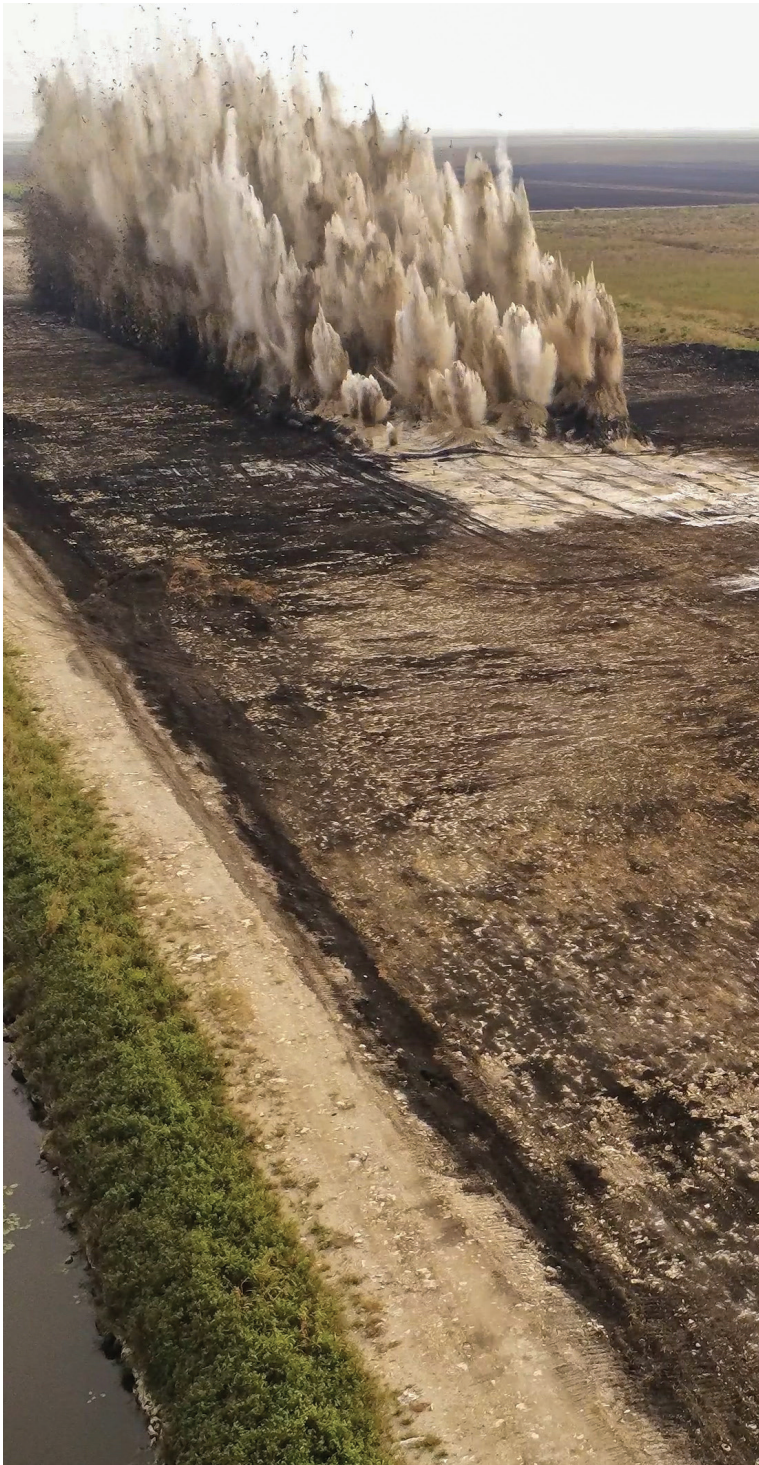




# Site Visit Project Details

June 24, 2022



Blasting for the EAA Reservoir Project (photo by SFWMD).

## EAA Reservoir Project – Momentum Continues to Send More Water South and Reduce Harmful Discharges

The South Florida Water Management District and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection are making significant progress on the Everglades Agricultural Area (EAA) Reservoir Project. The District began working on the project site in April 2020 for the 6,500-acre treatment wetland component, known as a stormwater treatment area (STA).

The EAA Reservoir Project is one of the most important Everglades restoration projects of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP). The project will provide ecological benefits, reduce harmful discharges to the St. Lucie and Caloosahatchee estuaries, and send more clean water south to the Everglades.

In April 2021, a Project Partnership Agreement was signed with the U.S. Army of Corps of Engineers (USACE) to allow the USACE to begin federal construction on the reservoir component of the EAA Reservoir Project.



EAA Project Partnership Agreement Signing with Governor Ron DeSantis. Top Row: SFWMD Governing Board Member Jay Steinle, Superintendent of Everglades and Dry Tortugas National Parks Pedro Ramos, SFWMD Governing Board Vice-Chair Scott Wagner, USACE Jacksonville District Lt. Col. Todd Polk, SFWMD Governing Board Member Jacqui Thurlow-Lippisch, FDEP Secretary Noah Valenstein, Former Senator Joe Negron. Bottom Row: Governor Ron DeSantis, SFWMD Governing Board Chairman Chauncey Goss.

## Kissimmee River Restoration Project – A Monumental Achievement

The Kissimmee River Restoration Project is the first successful large-scale active riverine ecosystem restoration project in the world. The world watched as the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) and the USACE set the standard and created the model for science-based ecosystem restoration projects worldwide. In July 2021, the SFWMD and the USACE hosted a ribbon cutting ceremony to celebrate the completion of construction for the Kissimmee River Restoration Project. The project restored more than 40 square miles of the river floodplain ecosystem, 20,000 acres of wetlands, and 44 miles of the historic river channel. The project's efforts resulted in the recovery of the invertebrate community, a crucial food resource for fish and birds. Additional monitoring will be conducted to measure the project's success, and additional projects and restoration efforts in the region will support continued restoration of Florida's iconic Kissimmee River. The Kissimmee River is a significant part of America's Everglades and this project is vital to restoring the greater Everglades ecosystem.



Wading birds along the Kissimmee River



Governor Ron DeSantis, along with state and local officials, breaks ground on embankments and canals to advance the Caloosahatchee (C-43) Reservoir.

## Major Components of the Caloosahatchee (C-43) Reservoir are Advancing

The Caloosahatchee (C-43) Reservoir is designed to store approximately 170,000 acre-feet of water, which is approximately 55 billion gallons of water. Significant progress is being made including the construction of new pump stations, the formation of embankments, and the improvement and reinforcement of the existing Townsend Canal. All of these components will come together to create a massive water storage reservoir, which will reduce harmful discharges from Lake Okeechobee to the Caloosahatchee Estuary during the wet season, and provide beneficial freshwater flows in the dry season. The Caloosahatchee (C-43) Reservoir is expected to be complete and fully operational in a few years.

## Lake Okeechobee Watershed Restoration Project Aquifer Storage and Recovery Wells

Progress continues to increase water storage and restore wetlands north of Lake Okeechobee. The SFWMD is building underground storage wells known as aquifer storage and recovery (ASR) wells as part of the Lake Okeechobee Watershed Restoration Project in accordance with a science plan. The SFWMD continues to follow the science on this project and research water treatment technologies necessary to clean the water. Additionally, the SFWMD is making plans to restore thousands of acres of wetlands along the Kissimmee River to support water quality improvements and benefits for wildlife.



Existing Kissimmee River ASR well site (photo by SFWMD).