



NEWS RELEASE

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SFWMD Governing Board Approves Everglades Restoration Agreements

Action signals progress on Biscayne Bay restoration and Broward water preserve areas

West Palm Beach, FL - The South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) Governing Board today approved two agreements with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers that protect Florida's investment in and advance progress on projects to restore Biscayne Bay coastal wetlands and benefit Everglades Water Conservation Area 3.

"Completing projects remains our top priority, and these agreements signal progress toward that obligation," said SFWMD Governing Board Chairman Daniel O'Keefe. "They also protect the substantial financial investment in restoration by Florida families who are counting on our efforts to protect South Florida's environment."

The two Project Partnership Agreements ensure Florida will receive credit for its investment in the two Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP) projects and allow the Corps to begin construction work. CERP is a 50/50 partnership between Florida and the federal government.

Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands Phase 1 ([More Information](#))

SFWMD acquired land and successfully completed construction of the Deering Estate Flow-way, the first component of the effort that is redistributing water to improve nearshore salinity, wildlife habitat and the overall ecology of Biscayne Bay. Today's agreement credits SFWMD for its approximately \$30 million investment and allows the Corps to move forward with issuing a contract to initiate construction of the L-31 East Flow-way component, which will further help redistribute water to the bay.

Broward County Water Preserve Areas ([More Information](#))

SFWMD acquired land for this project to reduce seepage from Water Conservation Area 3 in Broward County. The project will also capture and store urban and agricultural surface water runoff that is currently discharged into the Everglades, thereby improving water quality. Today's agreement credits SFWMD for its land acquisition investments of more than \$250 million and allows the Corps to move forward with issuing a contract to initiate construction of the C-11 Impoundment portion of the project.

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The South Florida Water Management District is a regional governmental agency that manages the water resources in the southern part of the state. It is the oldest and largest of the state's five water management districts. Our mission is to protect South Florida's water resources by balancing and improving flood control, water supply, water quality and natural systems.

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