



# HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE FISCAL YEAR 2025/26 BUDGET

**PRESENTED BY:**

Drew Bartlett

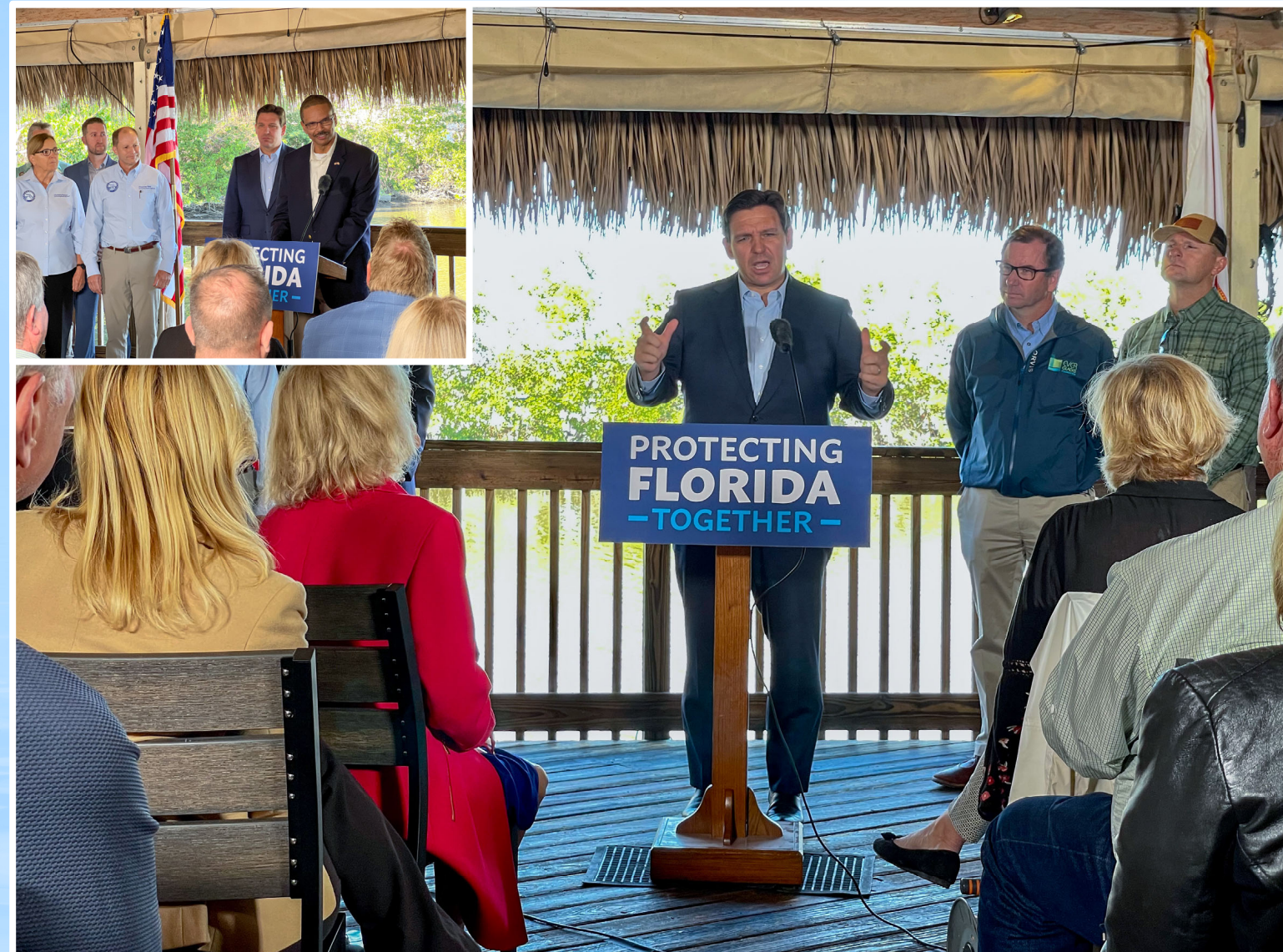
Executive Director

July 10, 2025

Governing Board Meeting



# Achieving *Even More* Now For Florida's Environment



## EXECUTIVE ORDER 23-06

Achieving *Even More* Now for Florida's Environment

**WHEREAS**, on January 10, 2019, I signed Executive Order 19-12, which laid out a bold plan to achieve more now for Florida's environment, and in the last four years, we have made incredible progress, entering into a golden era for conservation and protection of our treasured natural resources; and

**WHEREAS**, we secured unprecedented funding for the protection of our natural resources, including over \$3.3 billion in state funding for Everglades restoration and protection of our water resources, far surpassing our goal of \$2.5 billion; and

**WHEREAS**, we expedited Everglades restoration to reduce harmful discharges and send more water south, with more than 50 Everglades restoration projects being completed, breaking ground, or hitting a major milestone, and helped Florida Bay reach salinity goals for the first time in decades; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2020, I signed into law Senate Bill 712, which was the most consequential environmental legislation in decades and included a wide range of water quality protections aimed at minimizing the impact of known nutrient pollution sources, realigning the State's resources to better protect Florida's environment, and strengthening our environmental regulatory requirements; and

**WHEREAS**, we invested \$1.6 billion in water quality improvements, created the Wastewater Grant Program to construct, upgrade, or expand wastewater facilities, provide advanced wastewater treatment, and convert septic-to-sewer, and dedicated historic funding to increase alternative water supply and restore and protect Florida's springs; and

**WHEREAS**, we dedicated funding to enhance our state's water quality monitoring and identify new and innovative ways to treat, predict, and respond to blue-green algal blooms, including more than \$45 million to the Innovative Technology Grant Program and funding 20 different innovative technology projects to date; and

**WHEREAS**, the State, with the coordination of the Chief Science Officer, ensured that science is at the forefront of environmental protection and policy, with enhanced monitoring, innovative research, and modern data analytics to support water quality restoration and ensure that high quality, scientific data are readily available to citizens and state agencies; and

**WHEREAS**, we provided support to local governments for red tide cleanup efforts and established the Center for Red Tide Research within the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's (FWC) Fish and Wildlife Research Institute, which brings together state and local governments, universities, private sector partners, and community scientists to enhance statewide red tide monitoring and conduct applied research associated with tracking, predicting, and mitigating the effects of red tide; and

**WHEREAS**, the State, with the coordination of the Chief Resilience Officer, invested more than \$1.1 billion in resilience projects to protect our communities from flooding and sea level rise; and

**WHEREAS**, we established the Florida Wildlife Corridor and committed more than \$600 million to the Florida Forever Program and acquired more than 170,000 acres for conservation, nearly four times that acquired in the previous four years; and

**WHEREAS**, while the achievements of the first four years are historic, protecting our water resources, investing to make our communities more resilient, and preserving our conservation lands are essential to our economy and way of life, and we must continue the momentum of the last four years to achieve even more now for Florida's environment and ensure that we leave Florida to God better than we found it.



Signing of Executive Order 19-12 on January 10, 2019.



Gov. DeSantis signs Senate Bill 712.



Dr. Mark Rains, Chief Science Officer.

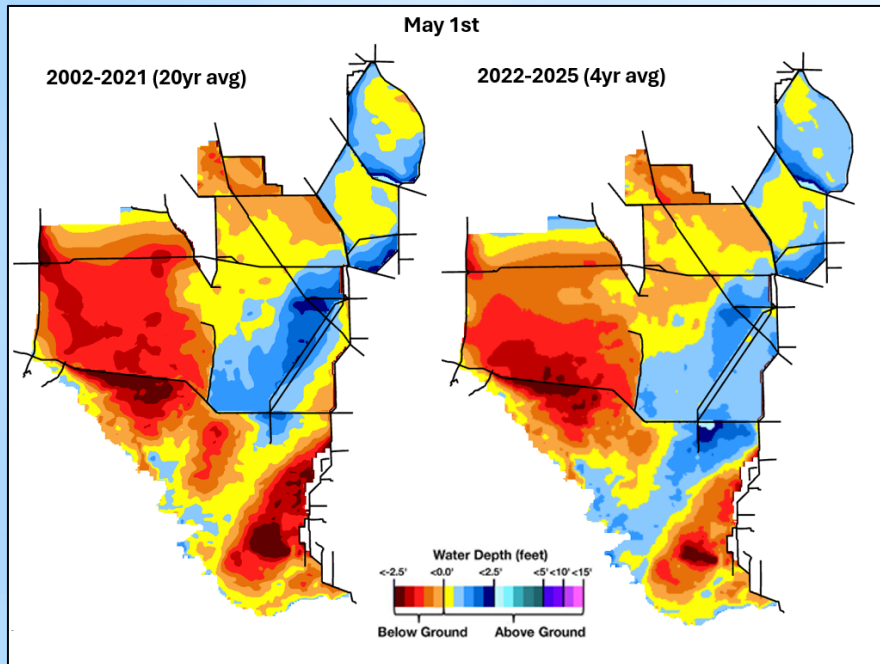


Dr. Wes Brooks, Chief Resilience Officer.

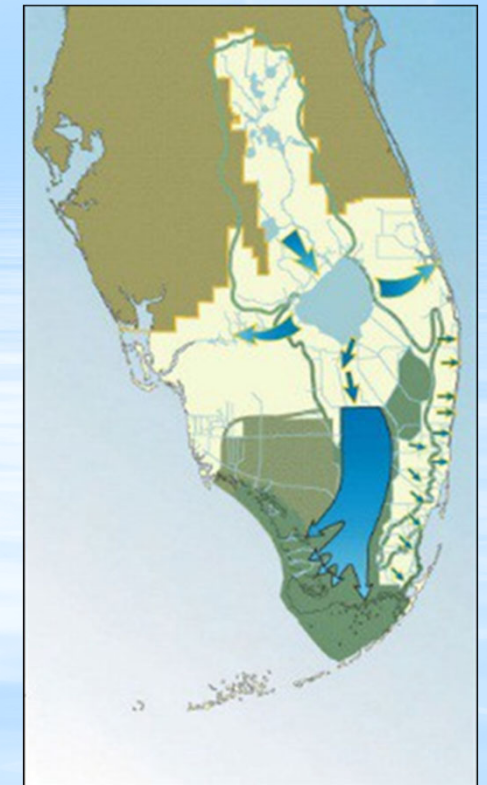
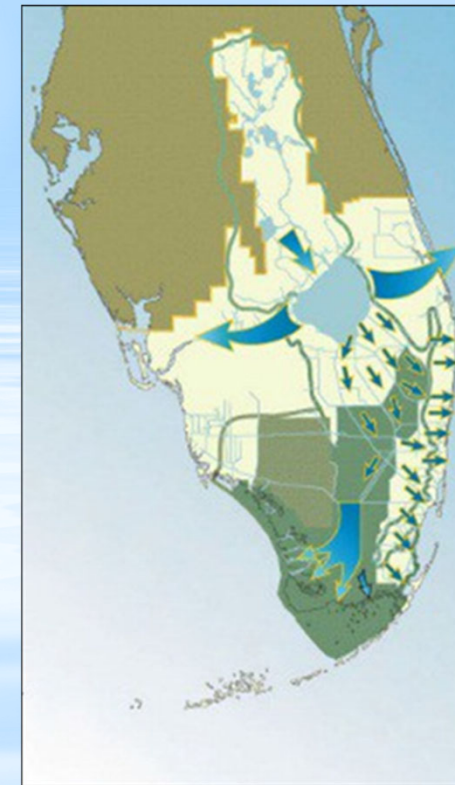




# Focusing on Results

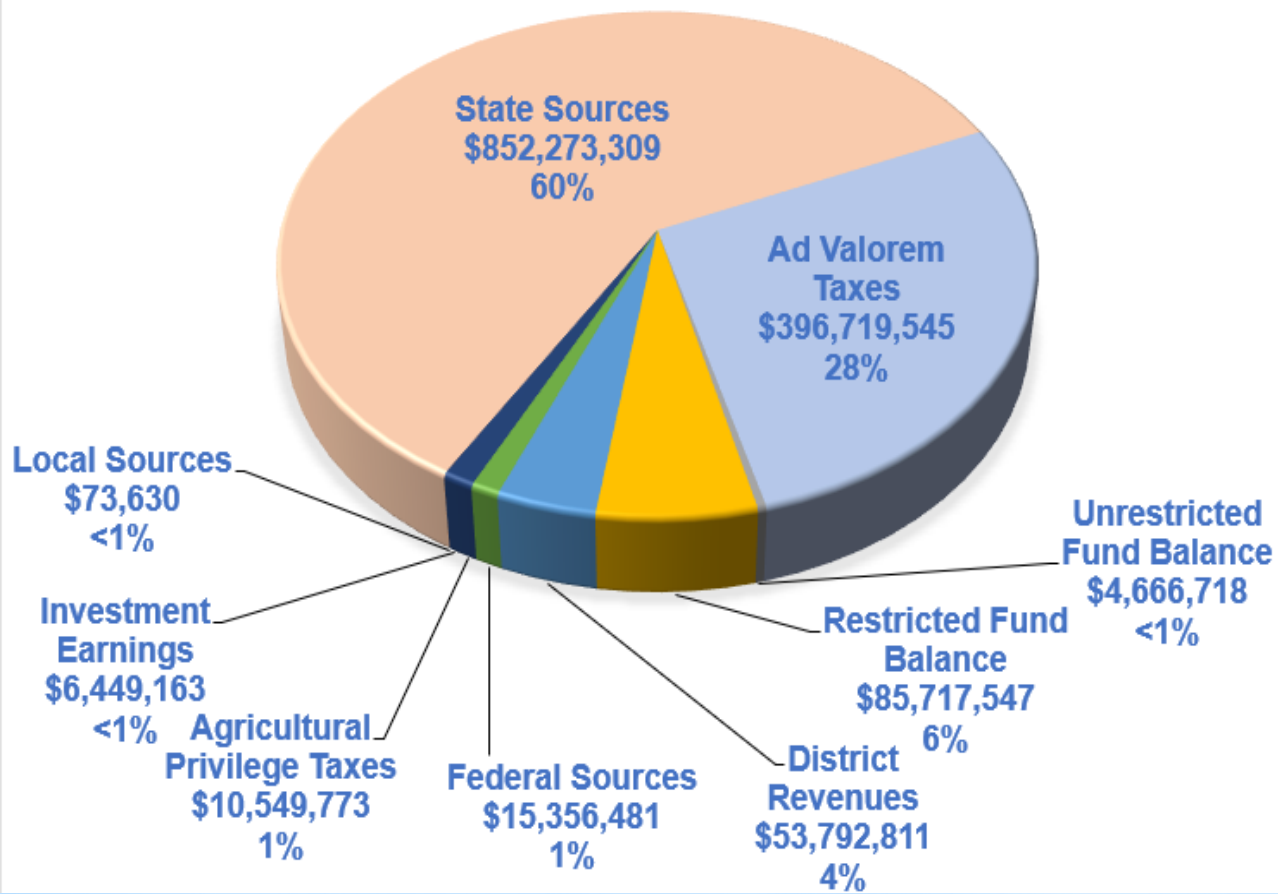


**CURRENT MISSION:** To **safeguard** and **restore** South Florida's water resources and ecosystems, **protect** our communities from flooding, and **meet the region's water needs** while connecting with the public and stakeholders.

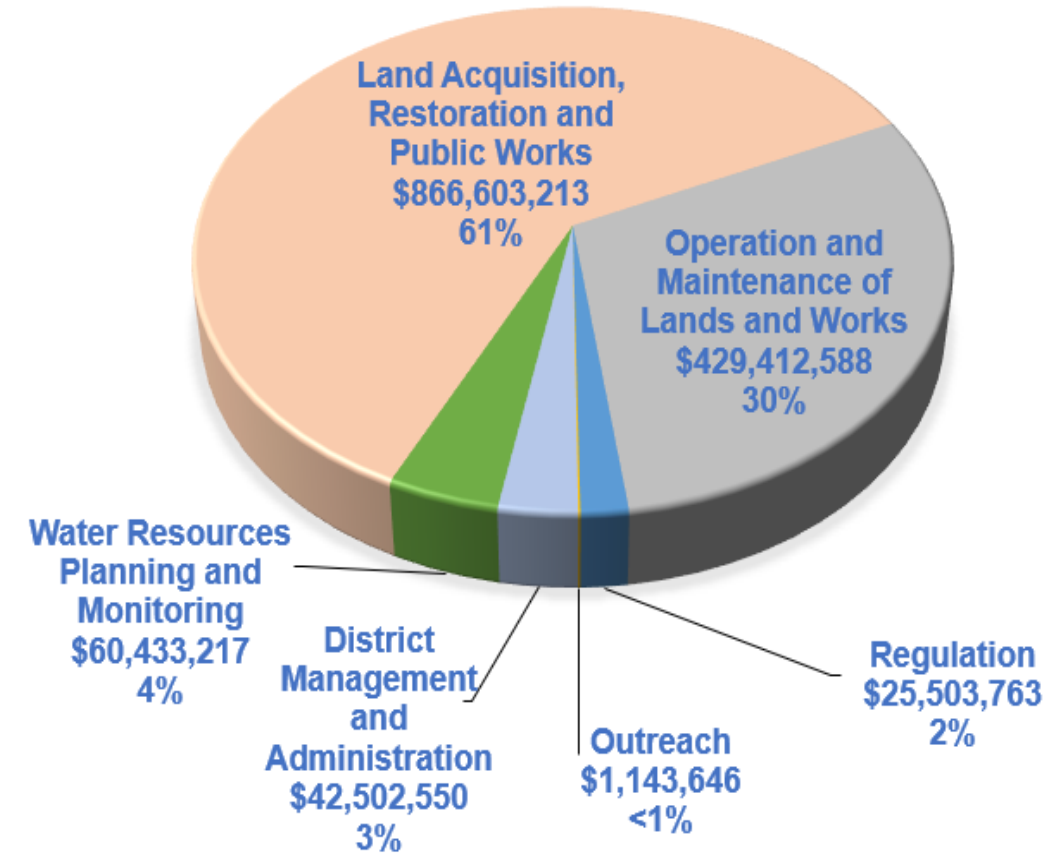


# Tentative Budget \$1,425,598,977

FISCAL YEAR 2025-2026  
TENTATIVE REVENUE BUDGET  
\$1,425,598,977



FISCAL YEAR 2025-2026  
TENTATIVE PROGRAMATIC EXPENDITURE BUDGET  
\$1,425,598,977





# Science, Monitoring and Water Supply \$75 Million



- Continued expanded monitoring network:
  - Northern Everglades
  - Lake Okeechobee
  - Caloosahatchee & St. Lucie Estuaries
  - Lake Worth Lagoon
  - Florida and Biscayne Bays
  - Central Everglades
- CERP monitoring
- Algae response
- Modeling and machine learning
- STAs
- Python research





# Operations and Maintenance of Lands and Works \$429 Million



- Continued maintenance of critical flood control infrastructure
  - Continued maintenance for new Projects
  - Land management
  - Economic Stabilization
- More than 2,175 miles of canals
  - More than 2,130 miles of levees/berms.
  - More than 936 water control structures
  - More than 620 project culverts.
  - 98 Pump Stations
  - About 3,537 hydrological monitoring stations at more than 687 flow sites, including 201 rain gauges and 22 weather stations.



# Stewardship of Conservation Lands

## Invasive and Harmful Exotic Plant and Species Control

- Herbicide Reduction Strategy
- Integrated Pest Management including use of mechanical removal, biocontrols, prescribed burns
- STA replanting
- Python Elimination Efforts
- Efforts on key projects like Picayune Strand Restoration Project and Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge

## Land Management

- Management of 1 million acres of public lands
- Recreational management





# Eliminating Pythons

1 Raccoon  
1 Opossum  
4 5ft Alligators  
5 American Coots  
6 Little Blue Herons  
8 Ibises  
10 Squirrels  
15 Rabbits  
15 Wrens  
30 Cotton Rats  
72 Mice



Sample diet for a Burmese python in the Florida Everglades to grow to 13 feet in approximately 5-7 years.

Source: Skip Snow, Everglades National Park and Dr. Stephan Secor, University of Alabama.



Removed since 2019:

SFWMD	All Others	Total
7,965	7,732	15,697

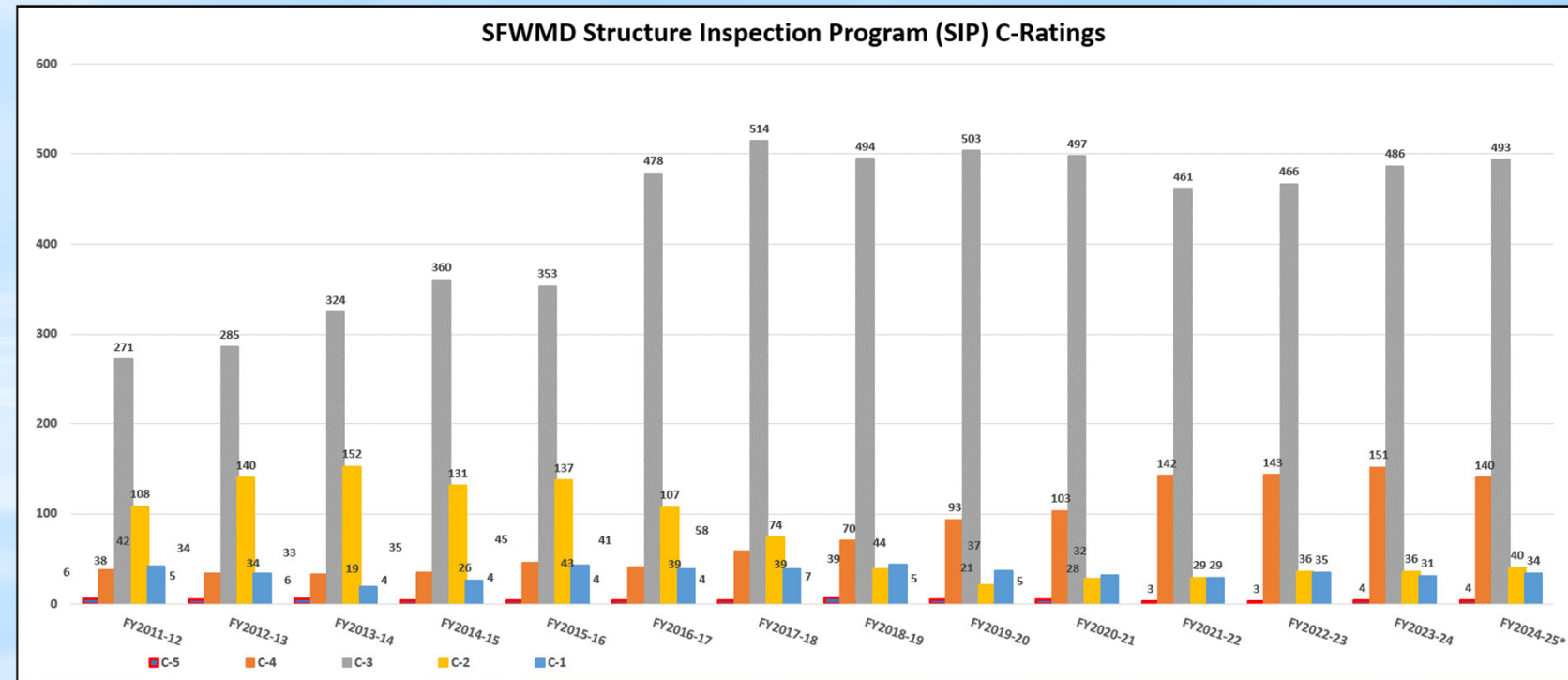
Presenter: Drew Bartlett





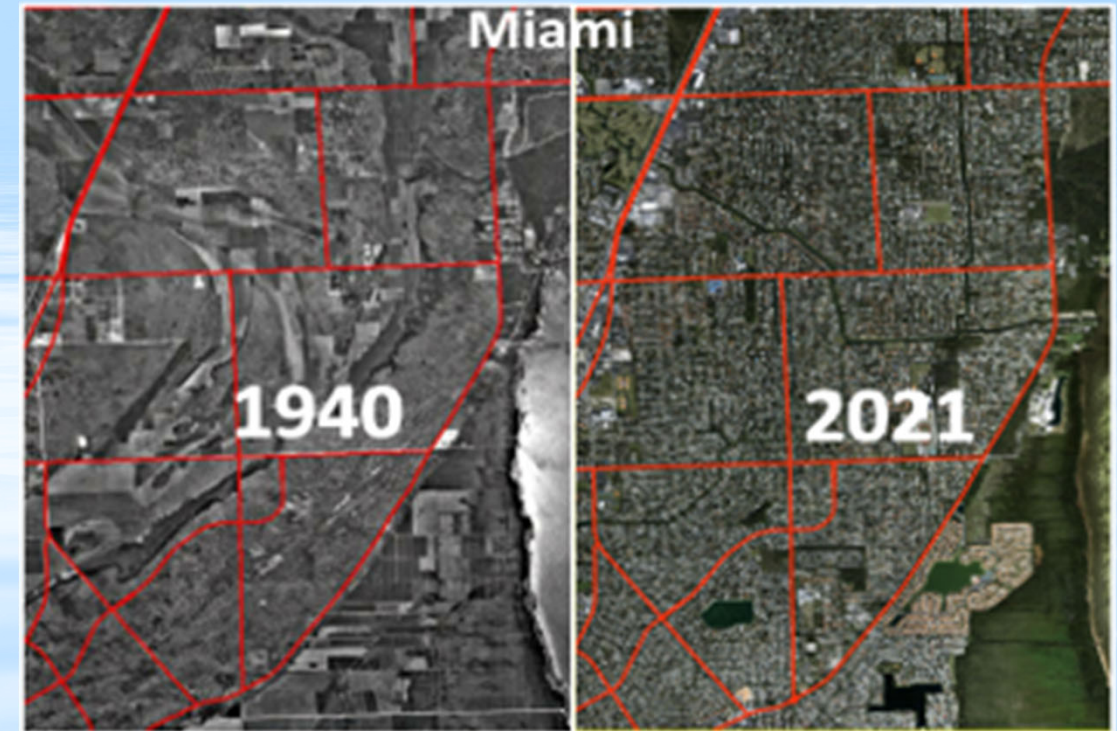
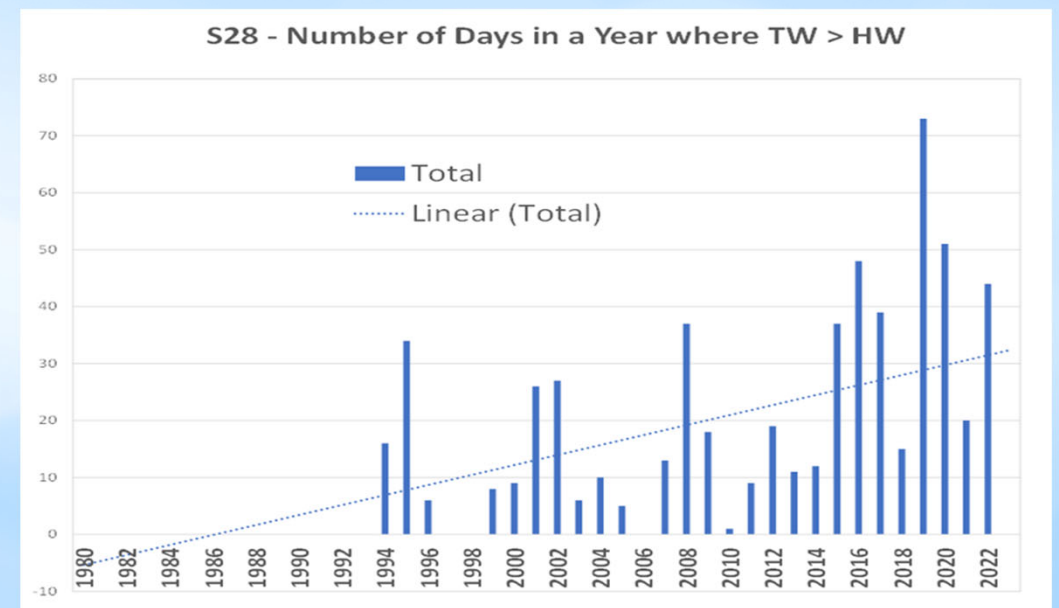
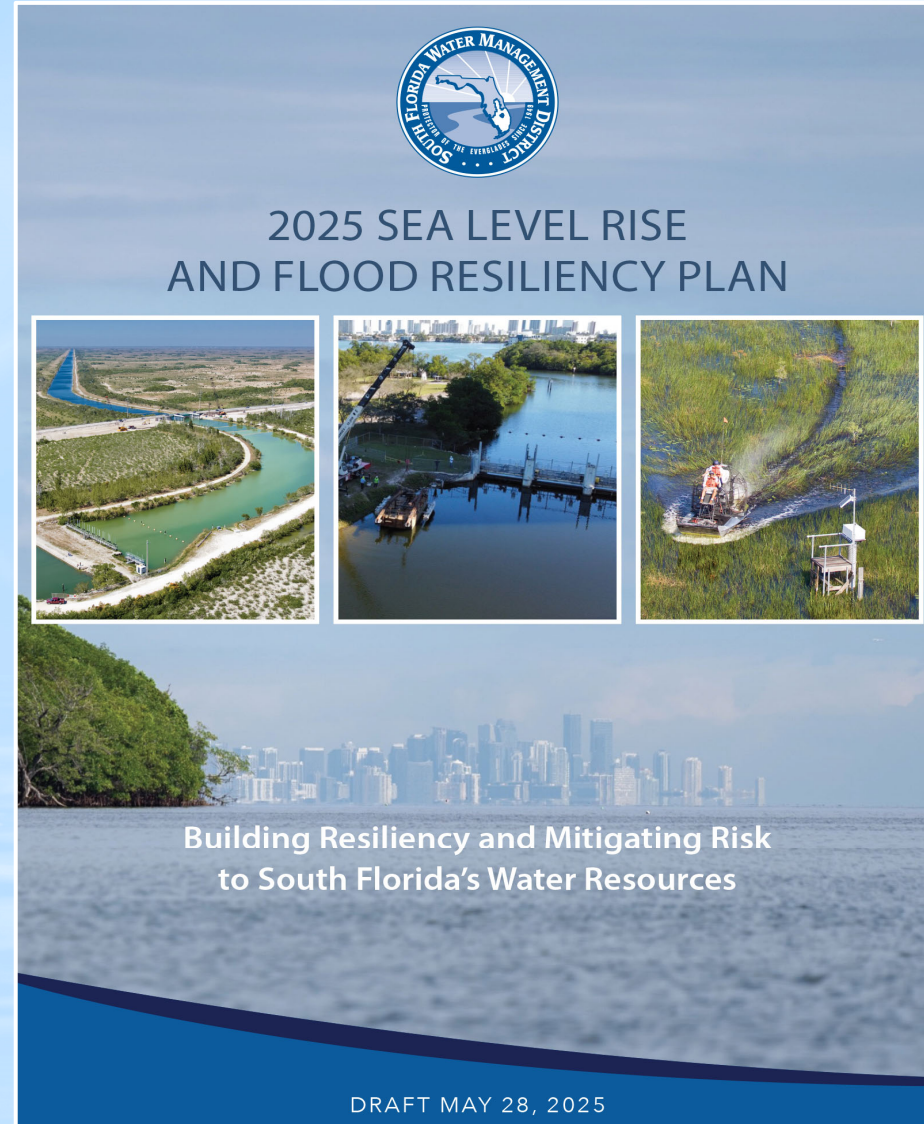
# Rebuilding Critical Flood Control Infrastructure: ~\$100M

Since 2019, the District has almost doubled the water management system refurbishment and adaptation program without raising taxes.





# Adapting to Changed Conditions





# Start Construction: Rebuilding and Adapting Coastal Structures

S27 & S29

Add High Volume  
Pump Station



Address Structure Deficiencies



# Investing in Everglades Restoration and Water Quality



Florida has invested nearly \$8 billion to restore and protect the state's iconic waterways



Presenter: Drew Bartlett





# Continued State Funding for Everglades Projects



## Continued Improvements for Water Quality, Quantity and Supply

### ✓ **\$550 Million** CERP Projects

- EAA Reservoir Project
- Central Everglades Planning Project
- Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands
- Caloosahatchee (C-43) Reservoir
- Indian River Lagoon-South
- Western Everglades
- Loxahatchee and C-111 South Dade



- ✓ **\$64 Million** Everglades Agricultural Area Reservoir and general Everglades Restoration.
- ✓ **\$50 Million** Lake Okeechobee Watershed Restoration Project
- ✓ **\$81 Million** Northern Everglades and Estuaries Protection/Dispersed Water Storage



# Finish: Caloosahatchee (C-43) Reservoir AND Recreation Features





# Finish: Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands

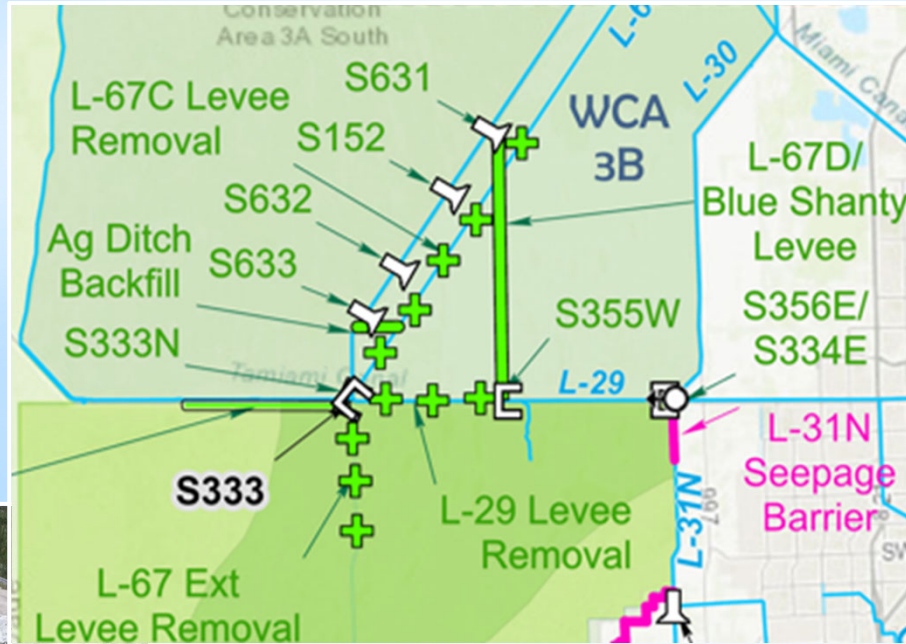




# Continue Uncorking Tamiami Trail

## CEPP South: Build the Blue Shanty Flow-way

- S-355W Spillway
- L-67 Culverts



## Tamiami Trail Features Complete:

- 1 mile Bridge
- 2.3 mile Bridge

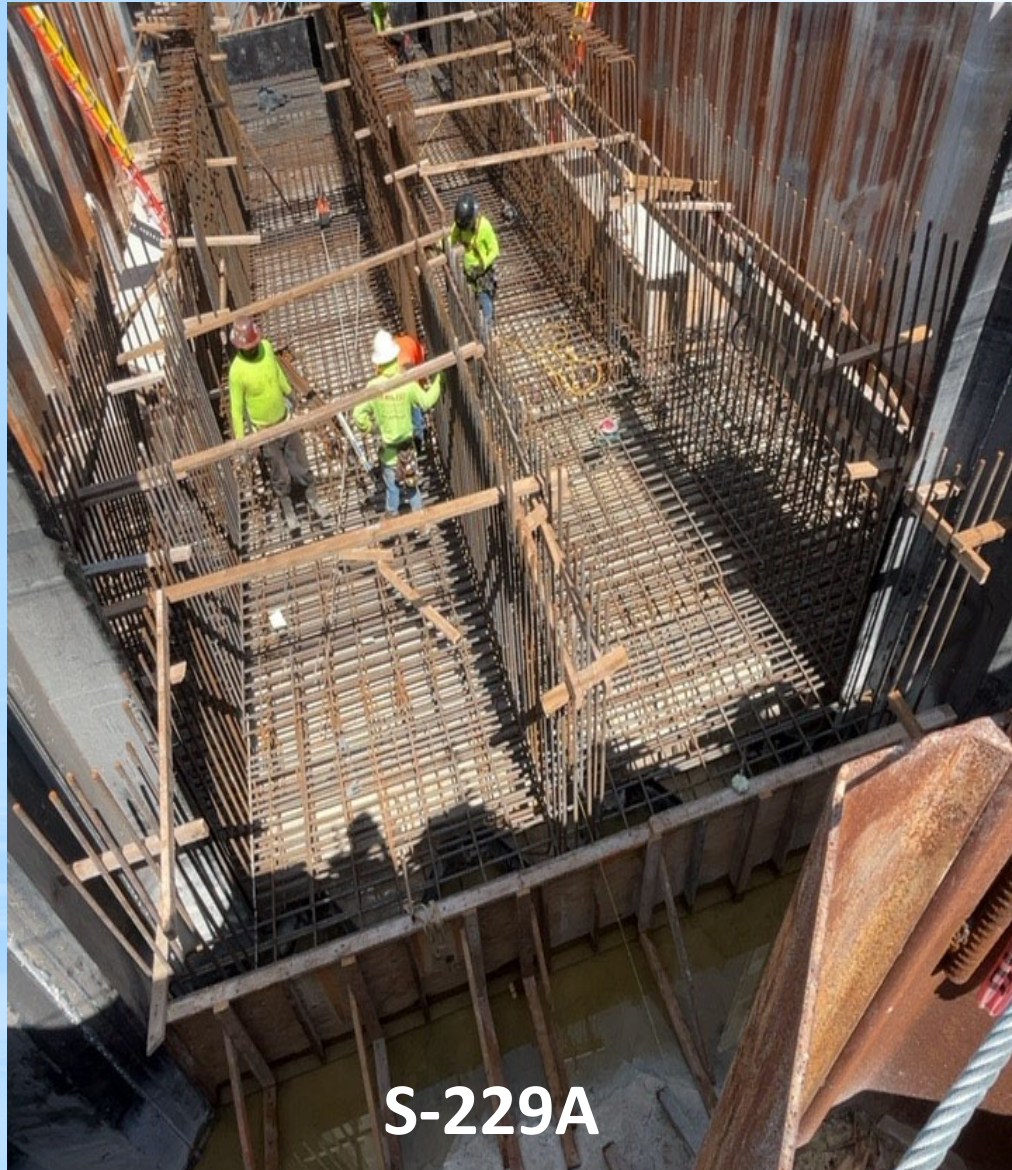
## Raising Tamiami Trail:

- 6.7 miles of 3ft. Road Raising



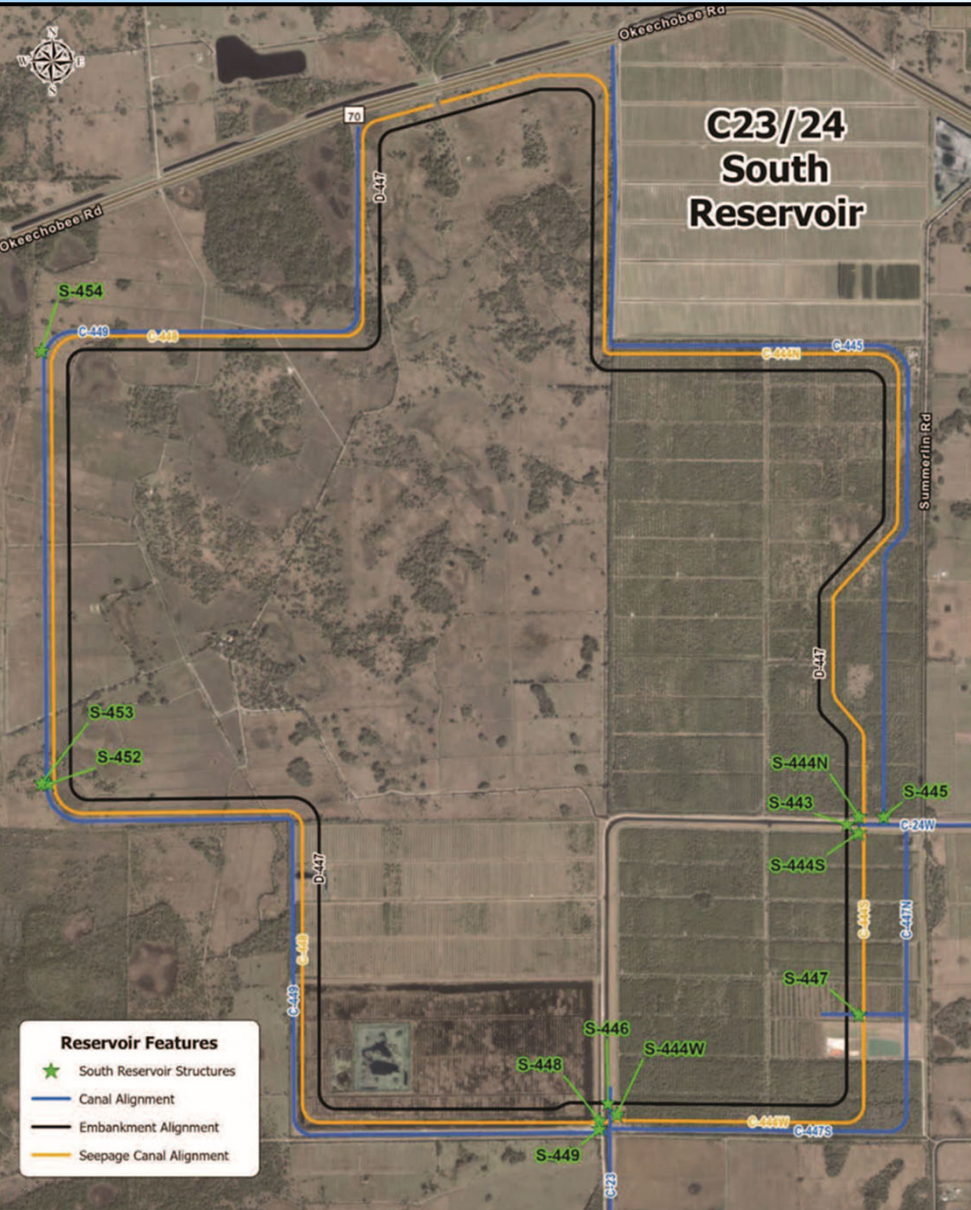


# Continue Western Everglades Restoration Project





# CERP Indian River Lagoon South



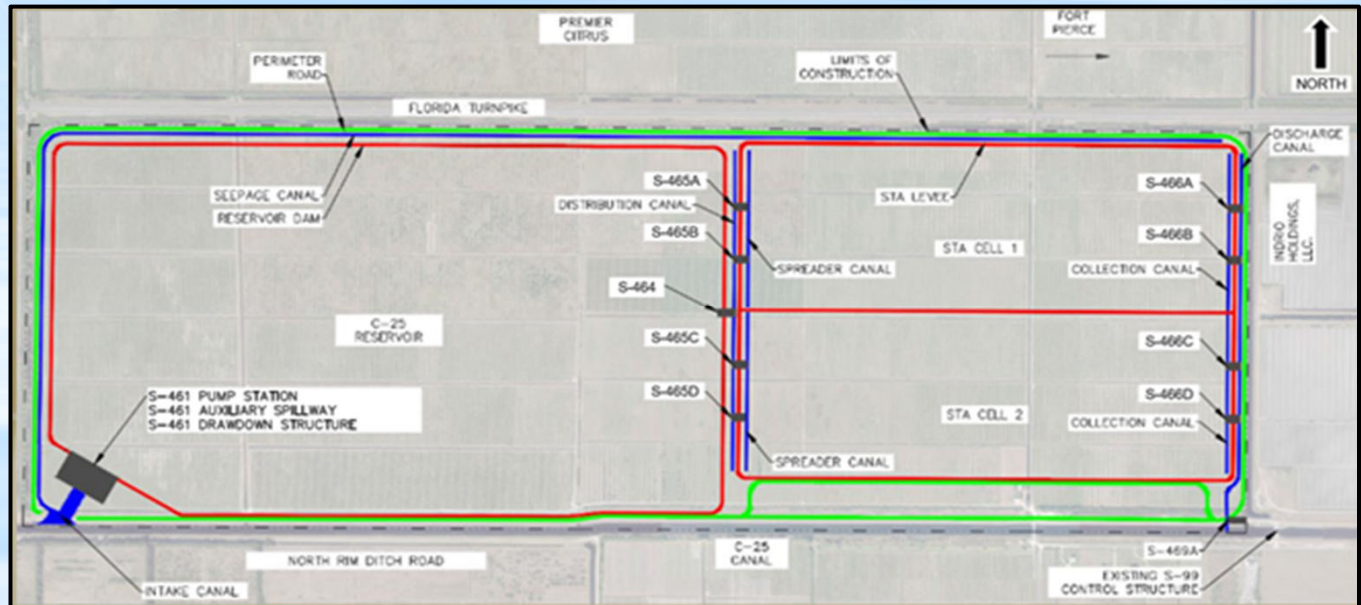
Start Constructing the C23/24 South Reservoir to protect the St. Lucie Estuary.

Start Constructing the C25 Reservoir and STA to protect the Indian River Lagoon.

Finish the C-23 to C-44 Estuary Discharge Diversion to protect the St. Lucie Estuary.

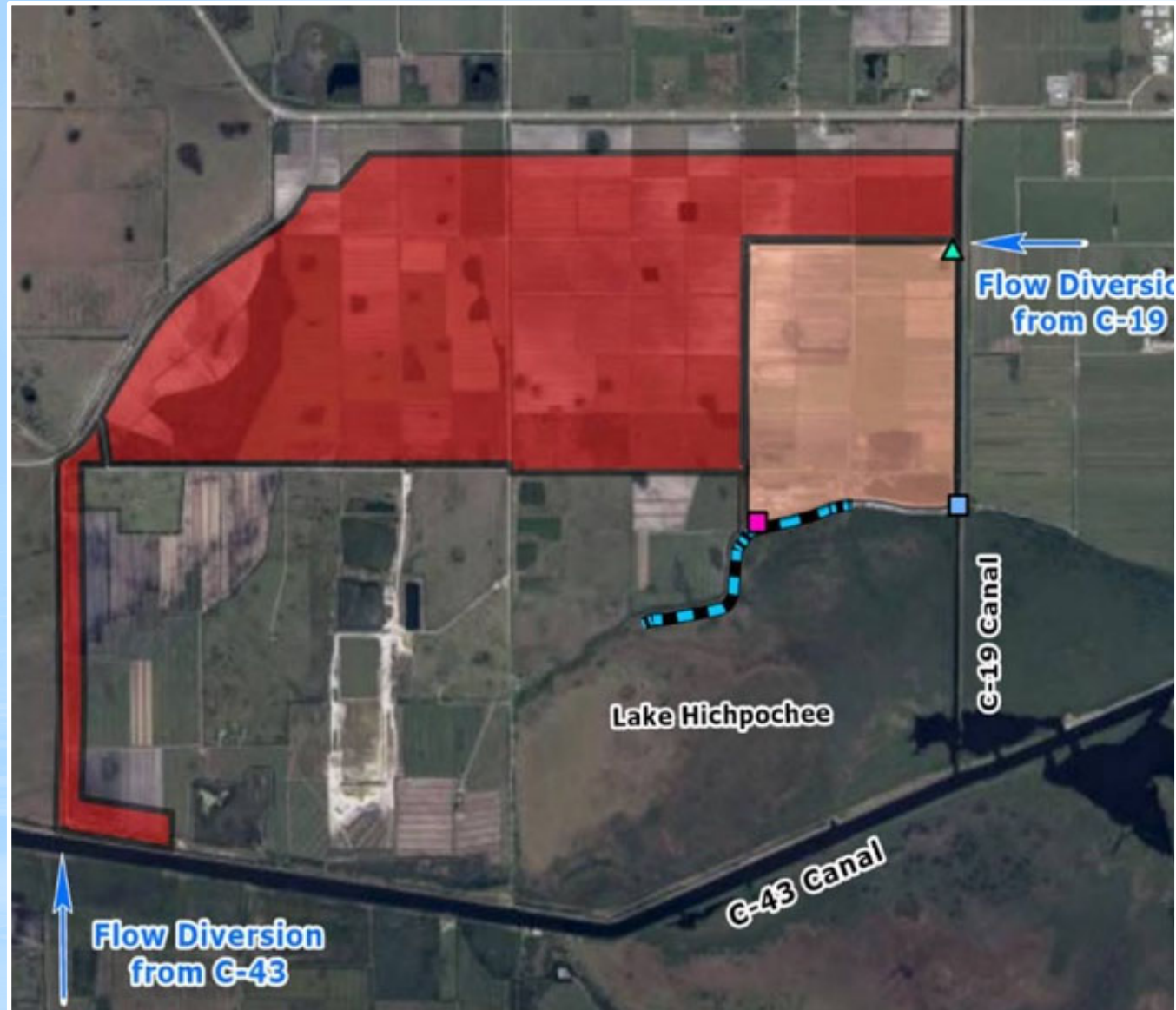


## C-25 Reservoir & STA





# Start: Lake Hicpochee Phase II



Divert and clean water for the Caloosahatchee River and Estuary.



# ✓ Major Projects Completed



- East and West Reservoirs Completed
- Restoration Strategies: Clean Water Entering the Everglades
- Everglades Agricultural Area Reservoir STA
- Completed Seepage Wall
- Restored Kissimmee River
- Dispersed Water Management Projects
- And many more...



# Completing in Fiscal Year 25/26



- Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands
  - Culter Wetlands
  - L-31 Flowway
- Picayune Restoration Project
- Tamiami Trail Raising
- Indian River Lagoon South
  - C23/24 STA
  - C23 to C44 Estuary Discharge Diversion
- Clewiston AND Homestead Field Station Expansions
- CEPP North Component
- ASR Test Wells



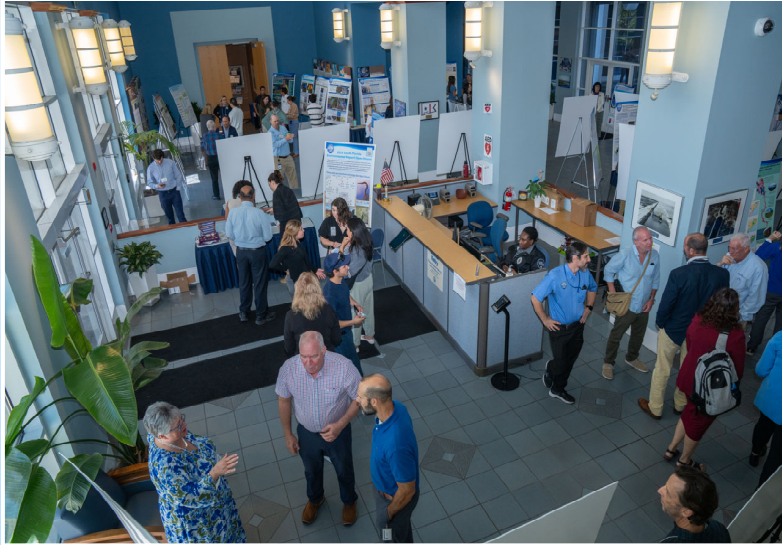
# Starting Construction in Fiscal Year 25/26



- Blue Shanty Flowway - S-355W
- EAA Reservoir Project:
  - Miami Canal Expansion
  - Communication Tower
- Indian River Lagoon South
  - C23/24 Reservoir
  - C25 Reservoir & STA
- Miami Coastal Structures
  - S-27
  - S-29
- Lake Hicpochee FEB
- Caloosahatchee Boma FEB
- CEPP North Components



# Taking Care of the BEST Workforce in Florida





# Resolution

Consider the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 proposed tentative budget and authorize submittal of the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 proposed millage rates to county property appraisers for inclusion in the notice of proposed property taxes.

District-at-Large	0.0948
Okeechobee Basin	0.1026
Everglades Construction Project	0.0327
Big Cypress Basin	0.0978

