Gov. Ron DeSantis identified the C-44 Stormwater Treatment Area (STA) as a priority Everglades restoration project to help improve regional water quality. Located on approximately 12,000 acres on the north side of the St. Lucie Canal (C-44 Canal) in western Martin County, the C-44 Reservoir and STA project will capture Lake Okeechobee releases and local basin runoff and provide water quality treatment to reduce harmful nutrients. This project is a major component of the Indian River Lagoon-South Restoration Project and is a part of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP). The Reservoir component is being built by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and the STA is being built by the South Florida Water Management District.

Benefits of the C-44 Reservoir and Stormwater Treatment Area

- Reduces harmful nutrients reaching the St. Lucie Estuary – the treatment area alone can treat 46 billion gallons of water each year,
- Stores 50,600 acre-feet, or 16 billion gallons at an average depth of about 15 feet in the reservoir component
- Captures 65 percent of the average annual C-44 basin stormwater runoff

Status of Project

- The C-44 STA is substantially complete, and all six treatment cells are flooded with water
- The reservoir is planned to be completed in 2021 by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers