

NORTHERN EVERGLADES PROJECT UPDATES

Jennifer Reynolds, Director Ecosystem Restoration & Capital Projects South Florida Water Management District County Coalition Meeting, Okeechobee, FL September 23, 2022

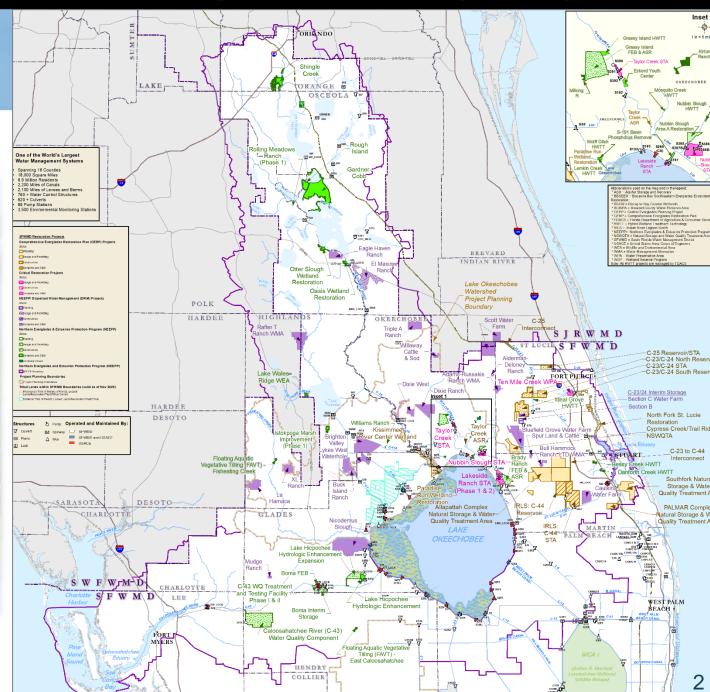




SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

Map of Projects







SEWING Presenter: Jennifer Reynolds

Interagency Coordination - Federal

> South Florida Water Management District



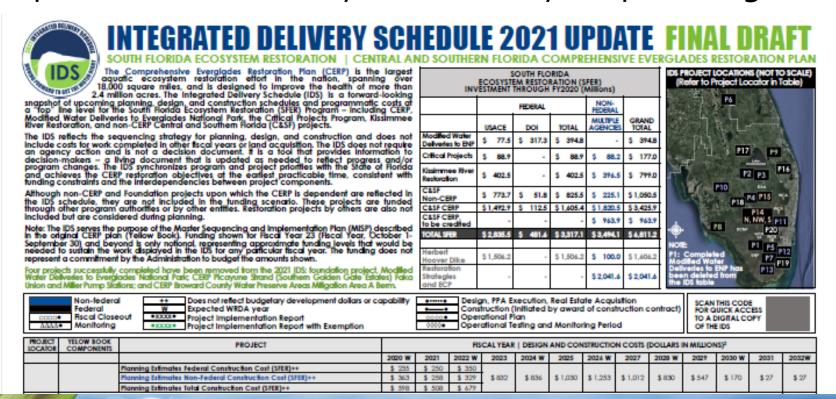
➤ U.S. Army Corps of Engineers





Integrated Delivery Schedule

- Sequencing strategy for planning, design, and construction
- Updated annually
- > Public process facilitated by the US Army Corps of Engineers



Interagency Coordination - State

- > FDEP
 - Basin Management Action Plans (BMAP)
 - Best Management Practices (BMP) enforcement
- > FDACS
 - BMP enrollment, verification and updates
- > SFWMD
 - Watershed Protection Plans
 - Research and Water Quality Monitoring Program
 - Watershed Construction Projects



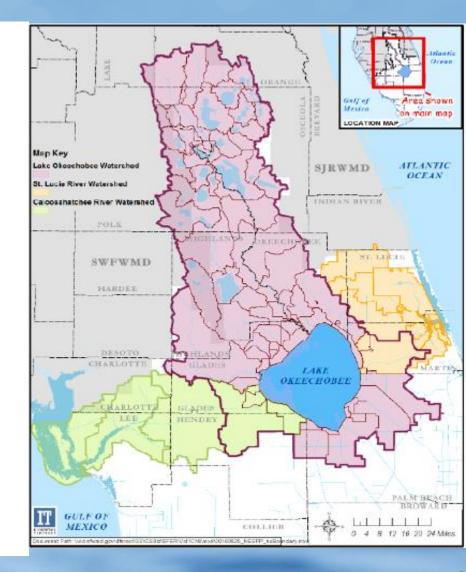




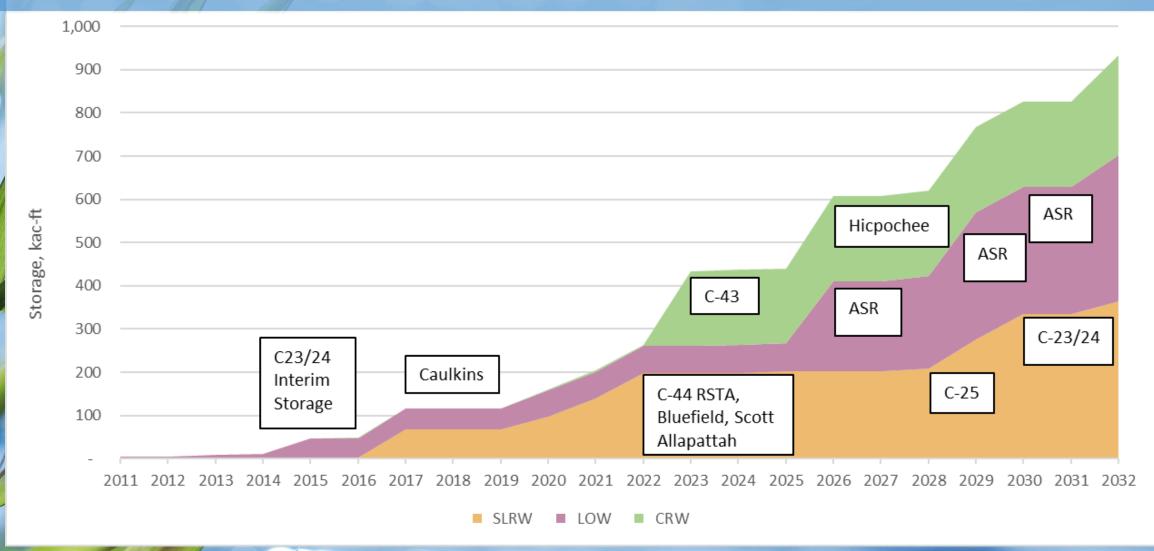


Watershed Protection Plans

- > Science driven plans comprised of:
 - Research & water quality monitoring
 - Projects
- > 3 watersheds:
 - Lake Okeechobee
 - St. Lucie River
 - Caloosahatchee River
- Progress reported annually in the South Florida Environmental Report SFWMD.gov/SFER



Project Storage by Watershed



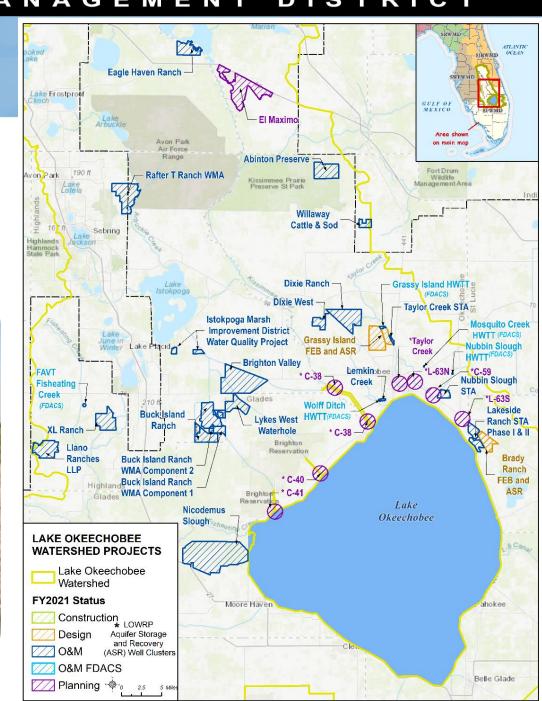
Lake Okeechobee Watershed Projects

- > Status:
 - 4 projects planning/design
 - 18 projects operations





Presenter: Jennifer Reynolds



Kissimmee River Restoration Project

- Restores over 12,000 acres of wetlands and 40 miles of historic river channel
- Status:
 - Construction complete summer 2021
 - Headwaters Revitalization Schedule (HRS) through 2026
 - Post restoration monitoring 5 years post HRS







Lakeside Ranch STA

Nubbin Slough STA

- Treats runoff from S-191 Basin
- Operational 2013 (Phase I); 2019 (Phase II)
- S-191A Pump Station (Phase III) completed August
 2021 to improve operations





- Treats runoff from Nubbin Slough
- Operational since 2016, USACE transfer to SFWMD
- Rehabilitation to optimize treatment; repairs to levee and seepage ditch, completed in August 2021



Brighton Valley DWM

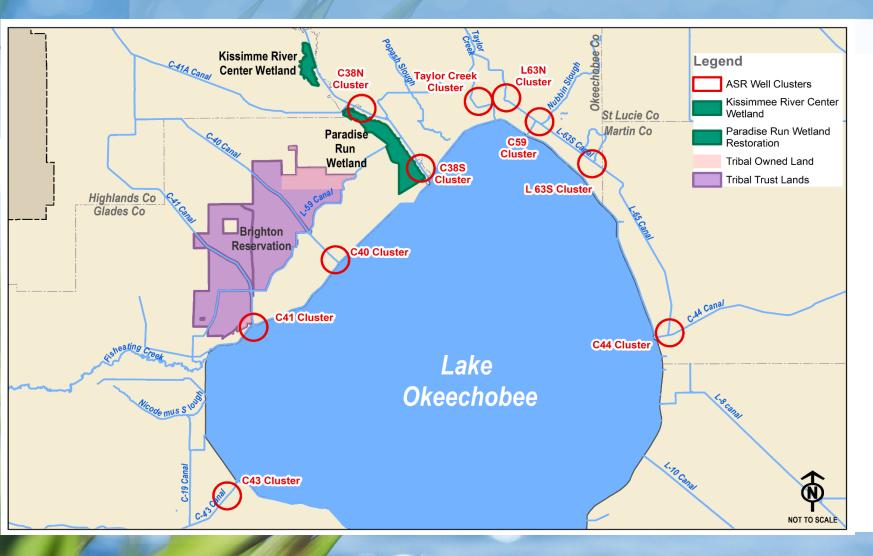
- ~8,100-acre NE-PPP Project in C-41 Basin
- Excess water treated before discharge to C-40 Canal
- Largest DWM project in LOW; treatment capacity ~39,000 ac-ft/yr; average reduction 3.2 t/yr TP; 27.3 t/yr TN
- Water Year 2021 was first full year of operations







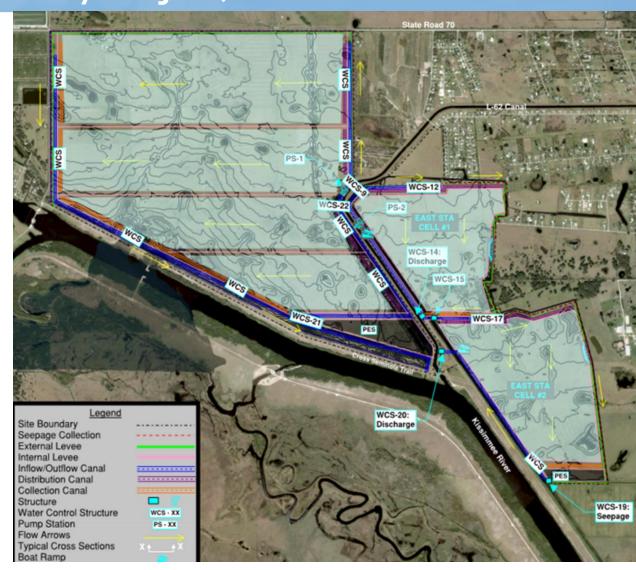
Lake Okeechobee Watershed Restoration Project



- Captures, stores and redistributes water entering Lake Okeechobee
- Aquifer storage and recovery
 - 55 ASR wells
 - 308,000 ac-ft of storage per year
- Wetland restoration
 - Paradise Run ~ 4,700 acres
 - Kissimmee River Center ~
 1,200 acres

Lower Kissimmee Basin STA (Alternative Delivery Project)

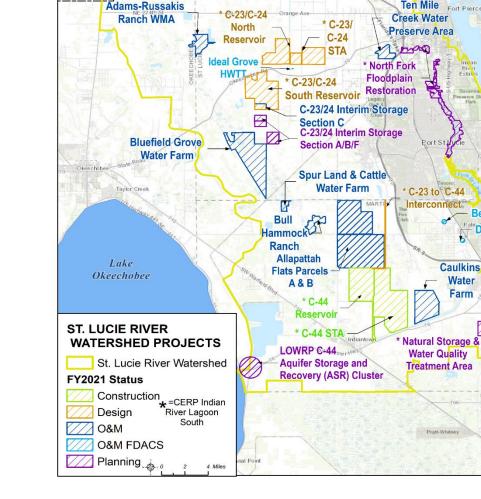
- FDEP BMAP Project (F-25) to address high nutrient areas in S-154, S-154C and S-133 priority basins
- New STA will treat water from L-62 Canal and Lake Okeechobee; also, water storage benefits
- Multi-phased implementation
 - Phase 1A Reconnaissance Study and Design Documentation Report (in progress)
 - Phase 1B: Preliminary Design (2023)
 - Phase 2 Design, Permitting, Land Transfer,
 Construction and 5 Years Operations (future)



St. Lucie River Watershed Projects

- > Status:
 - 9 projects planning/design
 - 1 project construction
 - 9 projects operations





Scott Water Farm

(Operations began Late 2021)



Presenter: Jennifer Reynolds

GULF OF MEXICO

Indian River Lagoon - South

- Reduce freshwater inflows and generate habitat/water quality improvements in St. Lucie Estuary/Indian River Lagoon
- C-44 Reservoir and STA completed October 2021; USACE testing and monitoring, prior to transfer to SFWMD in 2023
- C-23/C-24 STA design completed in September 2021;
 STA construction underway, complete in 2025
- C-23/C-24 N & S reservoirs and C-24/C-44 interconnect design under way; construction complete in 2025 (interconnect), 2028 (south), 2030 (north)
- C-25 Reservoir and STA design also under way; construction complete in 2028







C-44 Reservoir

C-23/24 Interim Storage Section C

- 297-ac storage reservoir on public land (2017)
- Will operate until land is required for C-23/24 South Reservoir; to be integrated into reservoir
- Estimated storage benefit of 2,950 ac-ft/yr



Allapattah Flats Parcels A & B



- ~6,700 acres of restored wetland area
- Water quality improvement, curtails ecologically harmful freshwater flows to St. Lucie Estuary
- Construction complete/operations began in 2021
- Estimated storage benefit of ~13,300 ac-ft/yr



Bluefield Grove Water Farm

Scott Water Farm

- ~6,100-acre storage/treatment; reduce nutrient loads and excess discharges from C-23 to St. Lucie Estuary
- Construction complete August 2021; in operations, estimated storage benefit of 28,360 ac-ft/yr





- ~7,500-acre storage/treatment; reduce nutrient loads and excess discharges from C-25 to St. Lucie Estuary and Indian River Lagoon
- Construction complete October 2021; in operations, estimated storage benefit of 29,005 ac-ft/yr

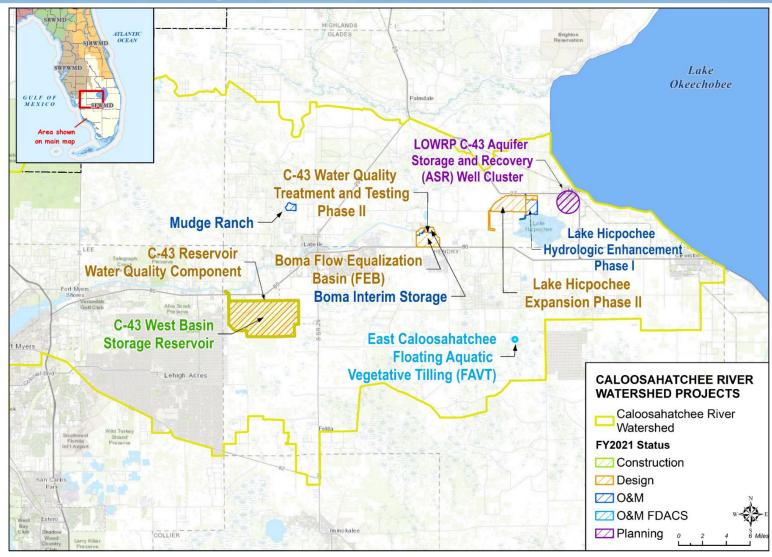


Caloosahatchee River WatershedProjects

Status:

- 5 projects planning/design
- 1 project construction
- 3 projects operations







C-43 West Basin Storage Reservoir

- > 170,000 ac-ft storage reservoir
- Will reduce lake discharges (wet season); provide freshwater flow to Caloosahatchee (dry season)
- In construction since 2019; planned completion (2024) and operations (2025)



C-43 Reservoir Water Quality Component



- Feasibility Study (2020); Siting Evaluation (2021)
- In-Reservoir Alum Injection identified as most costeffective technology to suppress algae, while optimizing discharges to Caloosahatchee Estuary
- Design (2023); construction (2024) operations (2025)



Boma Flow Equalization Basin (FEB)

- > ~7,200 ac-ft FEB on Boma property
- Will attenuate high flows and store excess runoff to reduce harmful releases to Caloosahatchee Estuary
- Design (spring 2023); construction complete (2026) and operations (2027)

C-43 Water Quality Treatment & Testing Facility

- Co-located with FEB to maximize water quality and storage benefits at Boma property
- Phase II evaluate effectiveness of constructed wetlands to reduce TN at test-cell scale
- Construction complete (early 2024), with multiyear research to follow

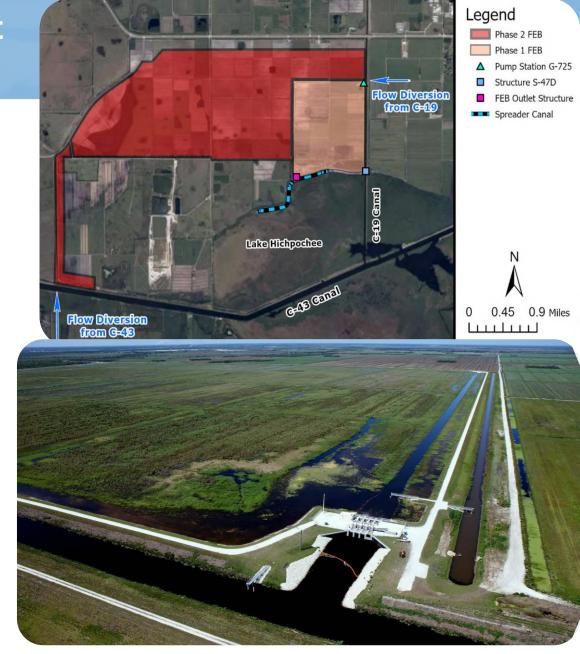




OUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

Lake Hicpochee Hydrologic Enhancement (Phase I) and Expansion (Phase II)

- Holds water in shallow storage and redistributes it to reduce harmful discharges to Caloosahatchee River
- Phase I 692-acre FEB (2019); average storage capacity ~1,297 ac-ft/yr
- Phase II 2,200-acre FEB and pump station; additional storage capacity ~17,162 ac-ft/yr
 - Design (late 2022); construction (2023–2025)





Watershed Protection Plan Reporting

For more information, refer to the 2022 South Florida Environmental Report:

SFWMD.gov/SFER





Water Year 2021 (May 1, 2020–April 30, 2021) Fiscal Year 2021 (Oct. 1, 2020–Sept. 30, 2021)

The 2022 South Florida Environmental Report (SFER) documents an important year of restoration, scientific and engineering accomplishments in the Kissimmee Basin, Lake Okeechobee, Everglades and South Florida coastal areas. The report also provides extensive peer reviewed research summaries, data analyses, financial updates and a searchable database of environmental projects. The report covers environmental information for Water Year 2021 (WY2021; May 1, 2020-April 30, 2021) and project budgetary and construction information for the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD or District) for Fiscal Year 2021 (FY 2021; Oct. 1, 2020 – Sept. 30, 2021). The full 2,918-page report is available at SFWMD.gov/sfer.

