

Reserving Water for the Caloosahatchee Estuary

Governing Board Meeting
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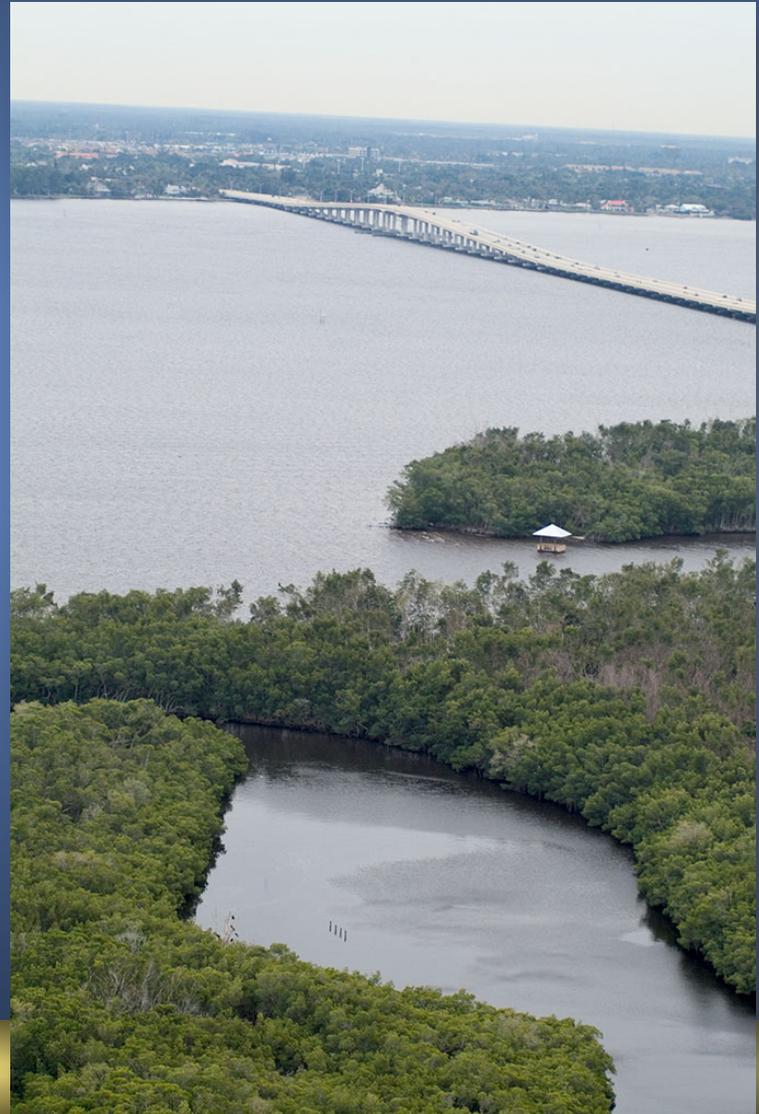
Why Protect the Water?

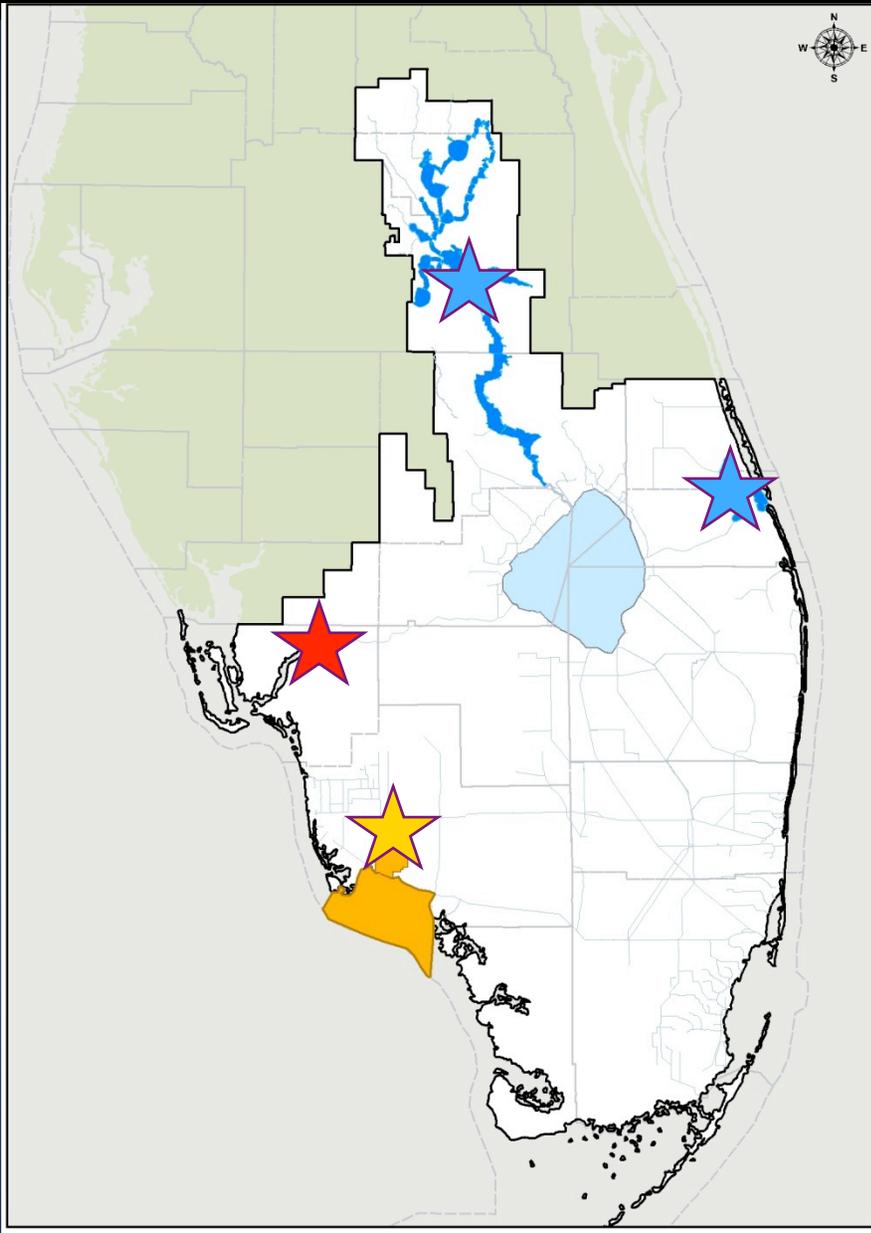
- Protection of water made available by the CERP Project for the natural system is required by Section 601(h) of the 2000 Water Resources Development Act (WRDA 2000)
 - State required to protect water for natural system using its **reservation or allocation** authority
- WRDA 2000 requires the reservation or allocation to be complete prior to signing a Project Partnership Agreement to receive federal funding for project construction and operation



What is a Water Reservation?

- A water reservation is a legal mechanism to set aside water for the protection of fish and wildlife or the public health and safety
 - Authority: F.S. 373.223(4)





Water Reservation Waterbodies

■ Rules in place

- Picayune Strand and Fakahatchee Estuary

■ Rules in development

- North Fork of the St. Lucie River
- Kissimmee Basin Chain of Lakes and River

■ Next rule

- Caloosahatchee Estuary



Caloosahatchee Estuary Reservation Rule

- Reservation associated with Caloosahatchee River (C-43) Reservoir is necessary for federal funding (WRDA 2000)
- Reservation will be based on water identified in the PIR plus additional analyses
- Operations will be consistent with reservation as required by CERP Programmatic Regulations
- Caloosahatchee River (C-43) Reservoir part of recovery plan for Caloosahatchee River MFL



Major Milestones for Rule Making

- Initiate rule development
 - December 10, 2009
- Complete draft technical report
 - July 2010
- Scientific peer review of data, analysis, and assumptions used to determine water reservation
 - August 2010
- Public workshops
 - Throughout 2010
- Seek Governing Board approval to publish the draft rule
 - February 2011



Recommendation

- Initiate the rule development process to reserve water within the Caloosahatchee Basin



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