

SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

GET THE FACTS

May 11, 2016

Today, the Caloosahatchee River Watch group is holding what was advertised as a public forum to discuss the C-43 Reservoir project. However, this "forum" will consist solely of one-sided detractors in pursuit of an agenda without facts to support it. Caloosahatchee River Watch did not contact the South Florida Water Management District that designed and is building the reservoir, to invite any of the agency's noted scientists and engineers to explain its benefits. Any complete and fair discussion of this reservoir must include relevant facts.

The Facts:

- Projects designed by these experts undergo rigorous testing and scrutiny before construction. The C-43 Reservoir was preceded by test cells at the Hendry County site to evaluate seepage, water movement and water quality, and the results were incorporated into the final design.
- The C-43 Reservoir is designed to keep water moving to avoid stagnant water.
 This design will hinder excessive algae growth and prevent the algal blooms that
 detractors have falsely claimed could plague the reservoir without any sound
 scientific basis.
- When complete, the C-43 Project will hold approximately 170,000 acre-feet of freshwater from local stormwater runoff and releases from Lake Okeechobee. It is not designed to completely eliminate all lake releases. The reservoir's primary purpose is to store freshwater during the wet season and release it to the Caloosahatchee River Estuary during drier months to help balance salinity.
- Like all projects in the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan approved by Congress, operational and design changes can be made to the C-43 Reservoir to accommodate future developments and ensure its benefits are realized.
- When the project is completed, the C-43 Reservoir, alone, will resolve more than 70 percent of the times where the river does not meet the minimum flows and levels necessary for a healthy ecology.

The project is just one crucial component of the overall solution to restore the
river, which includes a Basin Management Action Plan, water quality
improvements, a facility for testing and developing new water quality treatment
methods, storage that includes dispersed water management around Lake
Okeechobee, science-based watershed protection plans and operational changes
to the water management system.

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The South Florida Water Management District is a regional governmental agency that manages 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.