

June 2016

just the **FACTs**

This fact sheet is provided as a reference to encourage a greater understanding of the various issues related to managing water in South Florida.

A-1 Flow Equalization Basin (FEB)

The A-1 FEB is one of several projects in the State of Florida's \$880 million Restoration Strategies plan to improve water quality in the Everglades. Completed in 2015, the shallow impoundment captures, stores and delivers stormwater runoff to Stormwater Treatment Areas 2 and 3/4 to improve their treatment performance.

Project Overview & Benefits

- A flow equalization basin (FEB) is a constructed storage feature used to capture and temporarily store peak stormwater flows. Water managers can move water from FEBs to Stormwater Treatment Areas (STAs) at steady rates to optimize STA performance and help achieve water quality improvement targets.
- STAs are constructed wetlands that serve as the water-cleaning workhorses of Everglades restoration, using both emergent and submerged aquatic vegetation to naturally remove nutrients from the water that eventually flows to the Everglades.
- Located west of U.S. Highway 27 in southern Palm Beach County, the A-1 FEB comprises a system of 21 miles of earthen levees and 15 water control structures.
- The A-1 FEB has a storage capacity of 60,000 acre-feet (20 billion gallons) of water (15,000 acres at an average depth of four feet).
- The A-1 FEB can accept up to 4,600 cubic feet per second (cfs) of stormwater inflows. The stored water can then be discharged to STA-2 and STA-3/4 at steady flow rates to improve their performance.
- The A-1 FEB builds upon significant earthwork previously completed at the site. On-site excavated material was used to build new levees and existing canals were incorporated into the FEB design.
- The A-1 FEB attenuates peak stormwater flows, temporarily storing water so it can be delivered at lower flow rates to STA-2 and STA-3/4 to improve their performance.
- Emergent aquatic vegetation in the A-1 FEB helps to reduce phosphorus concentrations before moving water to the STAs.
- During unprecedented January 2016 rainfall, the FEB received more than 18 billion gallons of runoff, providing flexibility in the operation of the regional flood control system.

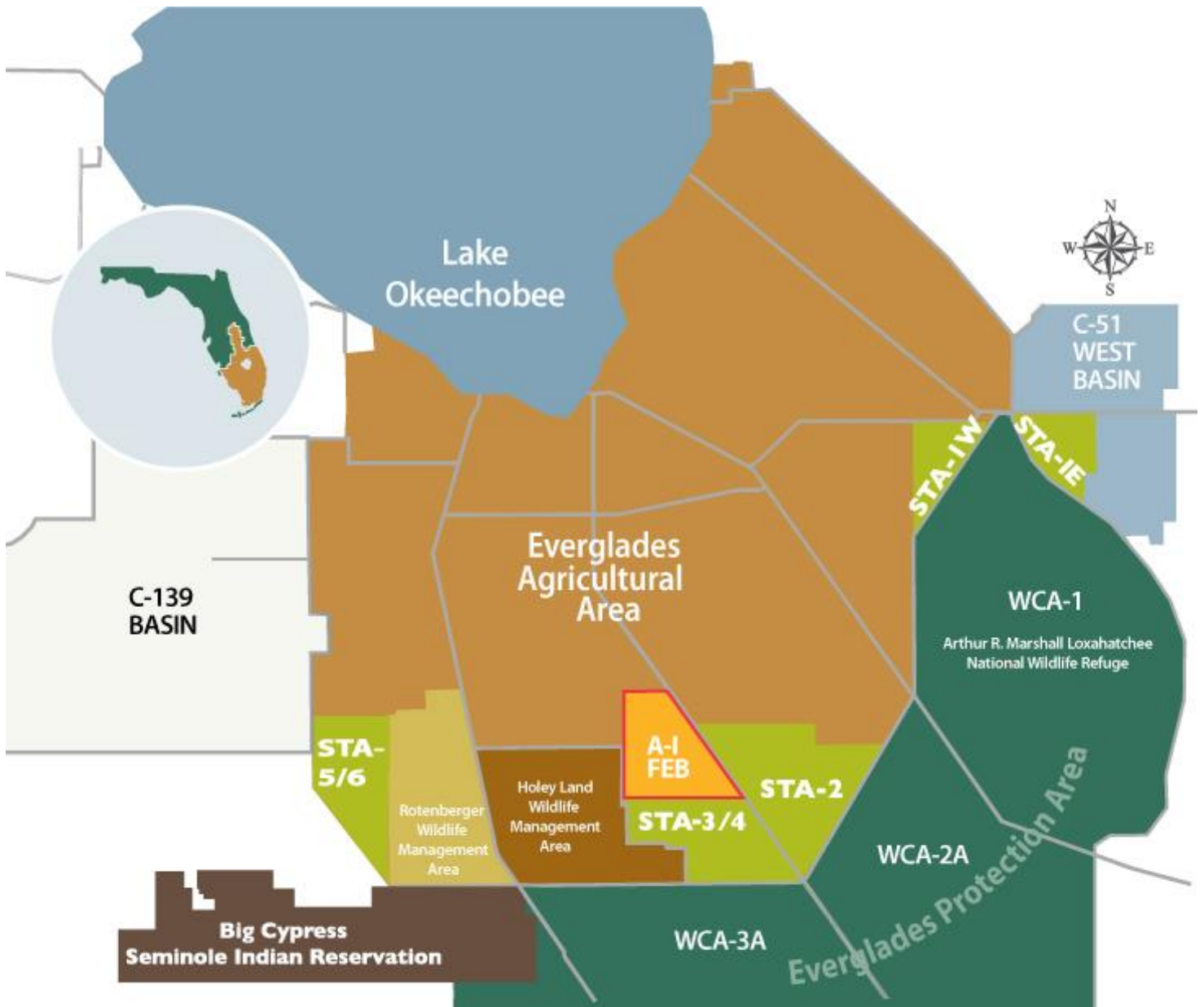
Construction Status / Timeline

- The project was completed ahead of schedule and under budget and began storing water in August 2015.



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A-1 Flow Equalization Basin Location



For more information on Restoration Strategies for Clean Water for the Everglades, visit www.sfwmd.gov/restorationstrategies.