

June 2016

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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.

L-8 Flow Equalization Basin (FEB)

The L-8 FEB is one of several projects in the State of Florida's \$880 million Restoration Strategies plan to improve water quality in the Everglades. The deep-storage reservoir will function as a multipurpose facility to capture, store and deliver stormwater runoff to Stormwater Treatment Areas 1 East and 1 West to improve their treatment performance.

Background & Project Overview

- 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 in central Palm Beach County, the L-8 FEB was built on a strategically located 950-acre former rock mine.
- The location's unique geology allows for deep below-ground storage, reduces water loss from seepage and evapotranspiration, and minimizes levee safety concerns.
- Initially approved in 2002, the District expedited completion of the reservoir storage cells. Then in 2012, the District began construction on infrastructure improvements to enable operations to improve STA performance.
- The 58-foot deep L-8 FEB is capable of storing 45,000 acre-feet, or 15 billion gallons, of water.
- The L-8 FEB is able to accept up to 3,000 cubic feet per second (cfs) of stormwater inflows. When the outflow pump station is complete, the stored water will be able to be pumped out at a rate of up to 450 cfs.

Project Benefits

- Maximizes water quality improvement capabilities for delivery to the Everglades
- Expands water storage south of Lake Okeechobee
- Offers flood control and water supply benefits
 - ✓ The L-8 FEB has already been used to help alleviate flooding during major rain events, including tropical storms and hurricanes.

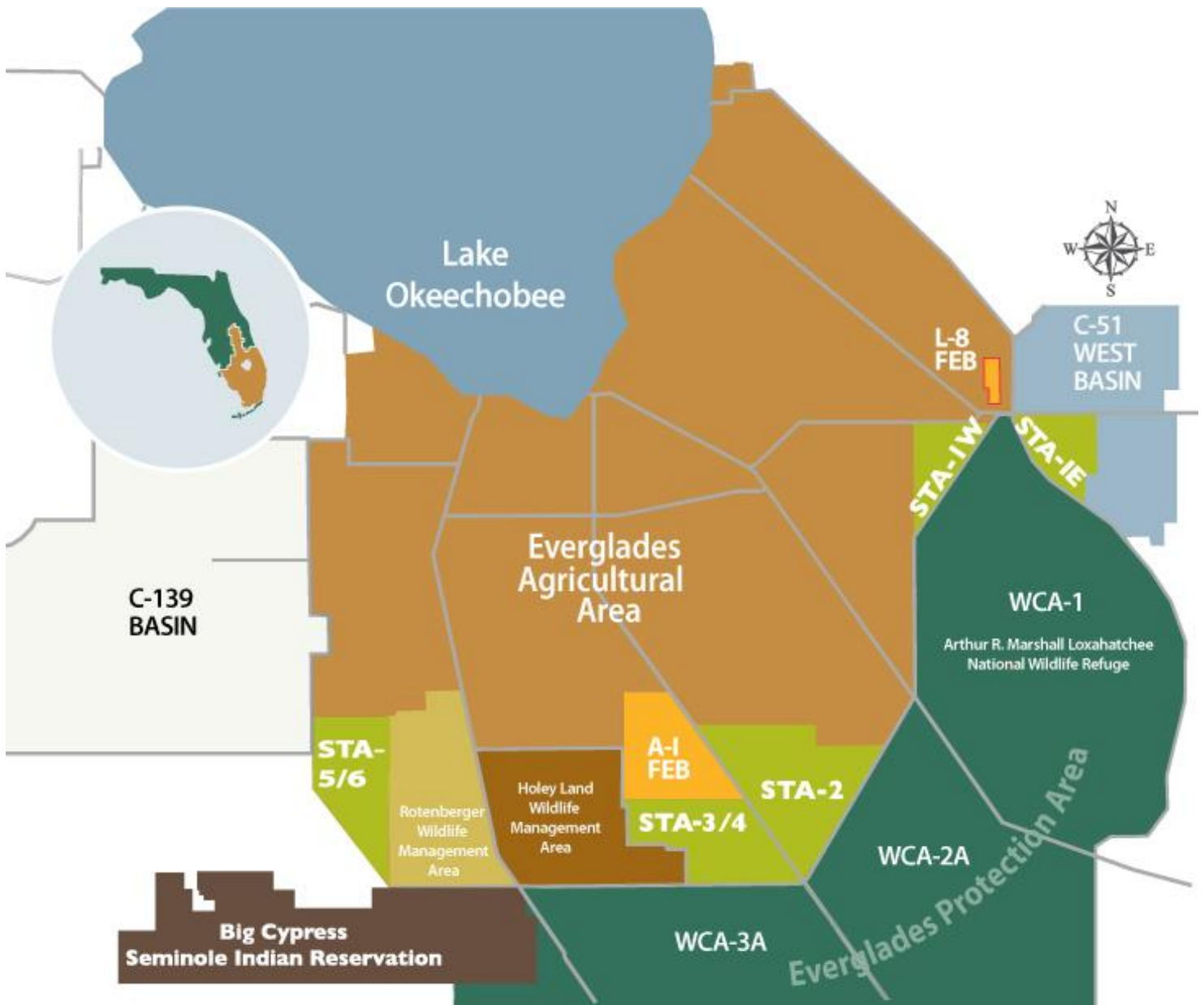
Construction Status / Timeline

- Construction is nearly complete and the L-8 FEB is now in the process of operational testing. The expected completion date is December 2016.



sfwmd.gov
 South Florida Water Management District
 3301 Gun Club Road
 West Palm Beach, Florida 33406
 561-686-8800 • 1-800-432-2045
www.sfwmd.gov

L-8 Flow Equalization Basin Location



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