

March 2014



## *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.



For more information on this subject, scan this QR code using a barcode reader app on your smartphone.



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## Lake Hicpochee Shallow Storage and Hydrologic Enhancement Project

*The Lake Hicpochee Shallow Storage and Hydrologic Enhancement Project will provide water storage and hydrologic enhancement consistent with the goals of the Northern Everglades and Estuaries Protection Program. The project will capture surface waters from the C-19 Canal, which discharges directly into the Caloosahatchee River (C-43); hold the water in a shallow storage feature north of the lake; and distribute the stored water via a spreader canal onto the northwest area of Lake Hicpochee.*

### **Background**

- Located in southeastern Glades County, Lake Hicpochee was one of three lakes that were historically considered the headwaters of the Caloosahatchee River.
- The channelization of the Caloosahatchee River (C-43) in the 1800s created an artificial connection between the Caloosahatchee River and Lake Okeechobee, resulting in detrimental impacts to hydrology and ecology in the basin.
- This action bisected Lake Hicpochee into north and south portions and drained the natural headwaters of the Caloosahatchee River.

### **Project Objectives / Benefits**

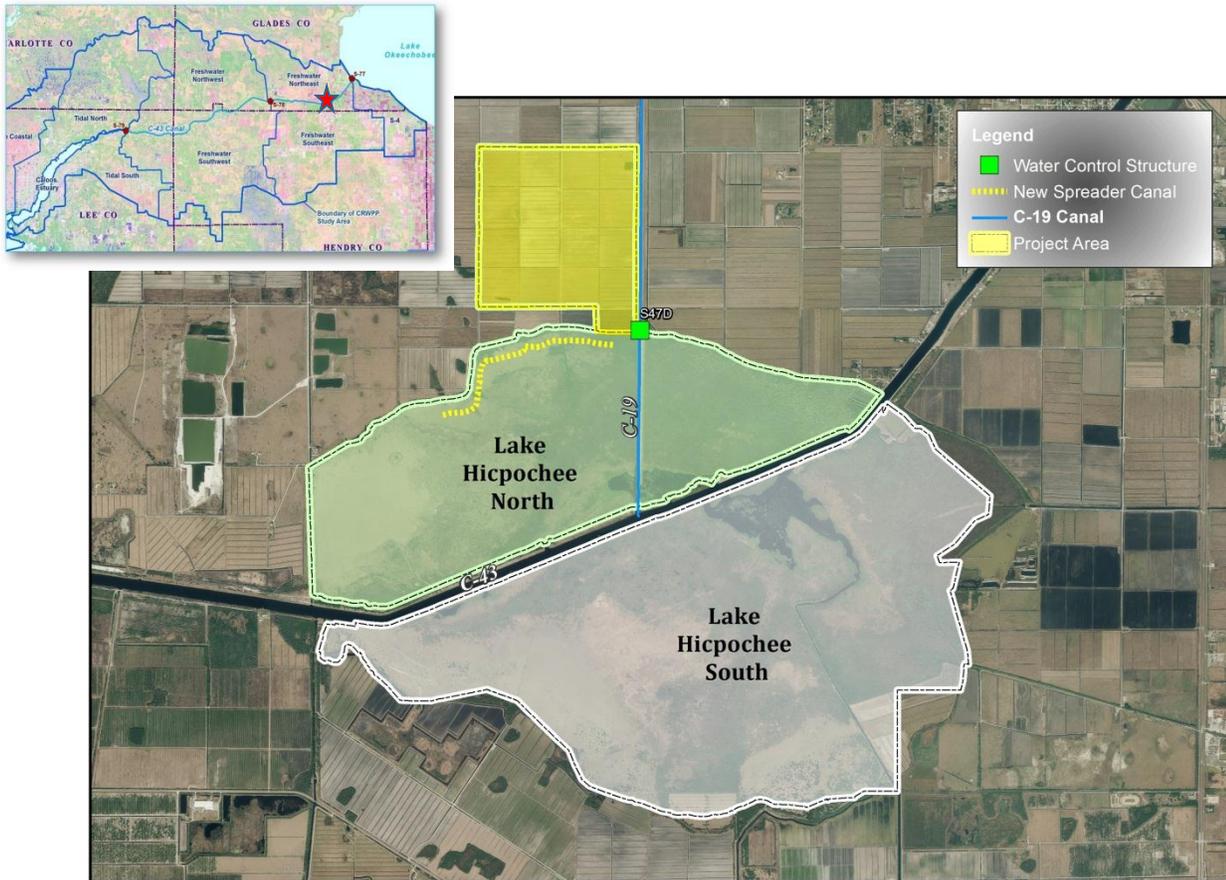
- Store and distribute C-19 flows to promote hydrologic enhancement of Lake Hicpochee North and improve the timing and volume of water deliveries to the Caloosahatchee River.
- Provide additional water storage and increased capacity for water quality enhancements in the Caloosahatchee basin.
- Promote ancillary habitat and water quality improvements.

### **Project Status / Cost**

- Preliminary surveying and technical investigations are complete; final engineering design is anticipated to be completed in early 2015.
- In addition to 5,300 acres of land already in state ownership, the South Florida Water Management District is acquiring 640 acres of strategic land north of Lake Hicpochee to be used as part of the shallow storage feature.
- The estimated cost for this project is \$18.4 million.

(more)

## Lake Hicpochee Shallow Storage and Hydrologic Enhancement



For more information on strategies for improving the Caloosahatchee River and Estuary, visit [www.sfwmd.gov/caloosahatchee](http://www.sfwmd.gov/caloosahatchee).