



Memorandum

TO: Interested Parties
FROM: Media Relations, South Florida Water Management District
DATE: 4/9/15
SUBJECT: Dedicated Everglades Restoration Funding

The South Florida Water Management District Governing Board today passed a resolution supporting Governor Scott's 20-year funding request for Everglades restoration. In his 2015-16 budget, Governor Scott proposed \$5 billion in state funding over 20 years for the restoration and protection of Florida's Everglades. This dedicated, ongoing source of revenue will eliminate the "stops and starts" that have repeatedly impeded Everglades restoration progress in the past.

Implementation of the Governor's funding plan will provide significant environmental benefits through construction of water storage reservoirs; aquifer storage and recovery (ASR) systems; stormwater treatment areas; wetland restoration; and infrastructure improvements.

When completed, these projects will deliver critical benefits across the entire South Florida ecosystem, including:

- **Creation of water storage** to capture and store 1 million acre-feet (330 billion gallons) of fresh water during wet periods. This will significantly decrease the frequency and intensity of harmful freshwater discharges to the estuaries.
- **Reduction of nutrients**, including a significant reduction in phosphorus and nitrogen loads to Lake Okeechobee, the Caloosahatchee Estuary, the St. Lucie Estuary and into the Everglades.
- **Restoration of more natural water flows** from the northern Everglades through Lake Okeechobee and to the southern Everglades, with more natural sheetflow of water into Florida Bay, Biscayne Bay and the Ten Thousand Islands National Wildlife Area.

For more information: [Governing Board Resolution](#)
[Fact Sheet, Projects and Map](#)

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