



SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

NEWS RELEASE

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Miami-Dade, Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands Restoration Work Begins *Deering Estate Flow-way construction project to showcase restoration progress*



(Click on the picture for a larger version.)

West Palm Beach, FL — The South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) and a host of partners today marked the beginning of a vital construction project to improve freshwater flows into Biscayne Bay and enhance the surrounding coastal wetlands.

The Deering Estate Flow-way in Miami-Dade County is part of a larger master restoration plan for Biscayne Bay, an effort known as the Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands Project. The project is part of the state-federal Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP). CERP is helping to restore the quantity, quality, timing and distribution of fresh water throughout the South Florida ecosystem.

“The start of construction on a restoration project is always an exhilarating moment,” said SFWMD Governing Board Chairman Eric Buermann. “This flow-way will benefit plants, birds, wildlife and the greater Everglades ecosystem while enhancing recreational opportunities for residents and visitors.”

When complete, the flow-way will redistribute excess freshwater runoff, directing it away from existing canal discharges and spreading it out as sheetflow prior to discharging into Biscayne Bay.

“The result of this restoration work will be healthier coastal wetlands and a more natural flow of water overland that will mimic historical conditions,” said Kenneth Ammon, P.E., SFWMD Deputy Executive Director - Everglades Restoration and Capital Projects. “Improved freshwater flow and salinity distribution near the shore will also help re-establish productive nursery habitat for shrimp and shellfish.”

Additionally, the District is coordinating with the Miami-Dade County Parks and Recreation Department to develop an education site on two acres of the Deering Estate property, a 400-acre environmental, archeological and historical preserve.

Construction of the Deering Estate Flow-way, part of Phase 1 in the Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands Project, represents an SFWMD investment of nearly \$4.2 million. Completion of the flow-way is scheduled for June 2011.

The Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands - Phase 1 Project is part of a series of CERP projects being expedited by the State of Florida. The District will receive credit for the cost of the project as part of its cost share for CERP under an historic agreement between the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the District, which was signed in August 2009.

The Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP) is a framework for restoring, protecting and preserving the water resources of central and southern Florida. CERP is a 50-50 partnership between the State of Florida and the federal government. The State of Florida and the South Florida Water Management District have invested approximately \$2.4 billion toward this effort, including approximately \$300 million in construction. Through March 31, 2010, 60 percent – or approximately 233,277 acres – of the estimated lands needed to implement CERP have been acquired.

Click [here](#) for a more information about the Deering Estate Flow-way project. For more information on the District’s Everglades restoration efforts, please visit www.sfwmd.gov/everglades.

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About the South Florida Water Management District

The South Florida Water Management District is a regional, governmental agency that oversees the water resources in the southern half of the state – 16 counties from Orlando to the Keys. It is the oldest and largest of the state’s five water management districts. The agency mission is to manage and protect water resources of the region by balancing and improving water quality, flood control, natural systems and water supply. A key initiative is cleanup and restoration of the Everglades.