



SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

NEWS RELEASE

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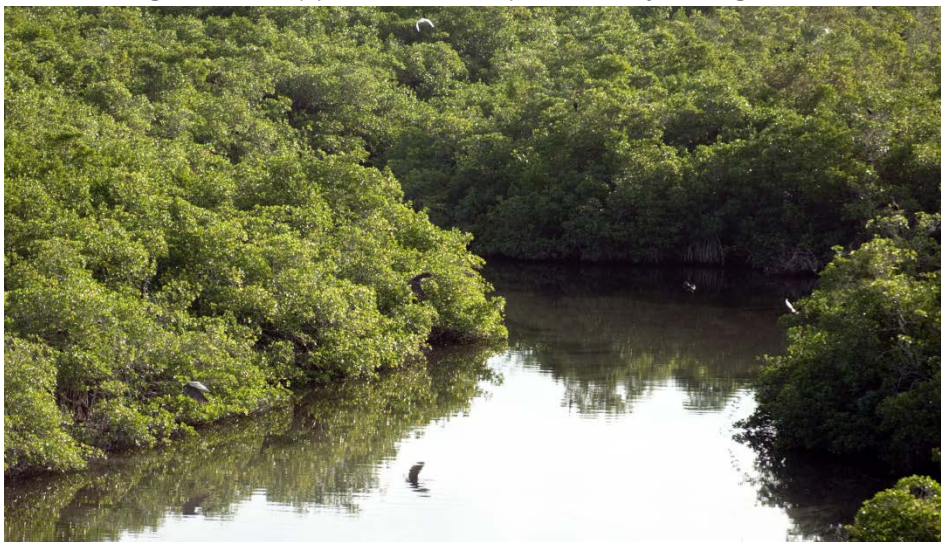
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Central Everglades Planning Project Moves Forward

SFWMD Governing Board supports next steps in a key Everglades restoration plan



West Palm Beach, FL — The South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) Governing Board today voted unanimously to move forward the Central Everglades Planning Project (CEPP) by supporting the release of a draft report for public and agency review by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

This step signals the District's continued partnership with the Corps in developing plans for key restoration projects that will direct more water south into the heart of the Everglades. Today's action was the first formal vote by the SFWMD as the local sponsor of this planning effort.

"This is one of many steps, but it is an important one that comes after extensive public participation and technical work," said Dan O'Keefe, Chair of the SFWMD Governing Board. "We continue to make progress with CEPP, which is a reflection of the ongoing commitment between the Corps and District to restore the Everglades."

The Governing Board's vote on CEPP is part of the federal process to deliver a technically sound plan, known as a Project Implementation Report, for a suite of restoration projects in the central Everglades to prepare for congressional authorization as required under the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP). The vote today supported the release of the draft Project Implementation Report for public and agency review.

"Our shared commitment to completing a final report as expeditiously as possible is evident by the milestone we have reached today," said Col. Alan Dodd, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Jacksonville District Commander. "I would like to applaud the District and our dedicated partners and stakeholders for remaining engaged and flexible in the planning process. Thanks to your dedicated efforts, we now have a draft report that can be released to the public for review."

The Central Everglades Planning Project will identify and plan for projects on land already in public ownership to allow more water to be directed south to the central Everglades, Everglades National Park and Florida Bay while improving the health of coastal estuaries.

The Corps is scheduled to officially publish the draft on Aug. 30 through a federal process for public review.

CEPP is part of the long-term solution for moving water south away from the northern coastal estuaries and into the heart of the Everglades and Everglades National Park. When this project is completed, approximately 210,000 acre-feet of water on an average annual basis will be captured and directed south where it can provide ecological benefits.

The SFWMD is fully integrated in the technical process of the planning effort, which is led by the Corps.

For more information on the plan, visit www.evergladesplan.org.

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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.