



SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

NEWS RELEASE

January 8, 2014

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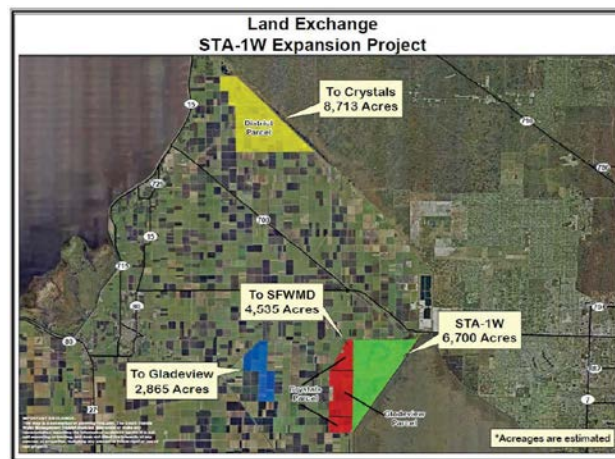
South Florida Water Management District

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SFWMD Key Land Exchange to Improve Everglades Water Quality *Property enables expansion at a strategically located Stormwater Treatment Area*



(Click on the map for a larger version.)

West Palm Beach, FL — As part of its comprehensive plan to achieve stringent Everglades water quality standards, the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) Governing Board on Thursday will consider approval of a land exchange necessary for the expansion of a highly effective water-cleaning wetland.

With the land exchange, Stormwater Treatment Area 1 West (STA-1W), just west of Wellington, will grow from 6,700 acres to 11,300 acres of aquatic plants that remove phosphorus and other nutrients from water flowing south into the Everglades. Science has proven that Stormwater Treatment Areas are among the most effective tools for cleaning water before it reaches the Everglades. The project is one of 10 components in the State's Restoration Strategies plan to improve Everglades water quality.

Key benefits of the land exchange include:

- Increasing the size of the treatment area used for cleaning water flowing to the adjacent Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge.
- Saving approximately \$32 million by using lands adjacent to STA-1W, eliminating the need for additional major construction projects that connect to the STA from a remote location.

- Providing the optimal acreage necessary to allow the District to remain on schedule to meet state and federal discharge limits.

Under the terms of the exchange, the District will acquire a total of 4,604 acres of land in an agreement with Florida Crystals and Gladeview Holdings company. Details include:

- Florida Crystals will convey 2,003 acres to the District and Gladeview will convey 2,600 acres to the District.
- The District will convey to Florida Crystals approximately 8,700 acres of land, and the company has the option to acquire an additional 55 acres of land.
- Gladeview will acquire approximately 2,865 acres from Florida Crystals.
- The District will provide \$5,978,474 to Gladeview for the company to relocate its agricultural operations on that site.
- The District will receive \$450,000 from Florida Crystals for environmental restoration.
- The District will lease back the 4,604 acres to Florida Crystals on an interim basis consistent with construction on the STA-1W Expansion Project.
- The District will extend two existing leases with Florida Crystals containing approximately 1,691 acres until 2019 at the current lease rate.

Closing of the land exchange is targeted for mid-2014.

Restoration Strategies Progress

The STA-1W expansion is the latest project to move forward under the state's Restoration Strategies plan.

Construction is already underway on the 15 billion-gallon L-8 Reservoir in Palm Beach County. With enough water to fill 34,000 football fields one foot deep, the storage project will deliver consistent flows needed to optimize the District's STAs, including STA-1W, that clean Everglades-bound water.

In addition, a contract was approved in October to start construction on the A-1 Flow Equalization Basin south of Lake Okeechobee. With the capacity to hold 60,000 acre-feet of water, the project is designed to capture and store peak stormwater flows during the wet season or heavy rainfall events and also deliver consistent flows to the STAs.

A science plan has also been developed and nine key studies are underway.

For more information:

- [Improving Water Quality](#)
- [Restoration Strategies for Clean Water for the 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.