



SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

NEWS RELEASE

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Canal to Close Temporarily for Maintenance *C-40 canal dredging to help improve flood protection*

Okeechobee, FL – Okeechobee Field Station staff at the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) will begin a maintenance project next week to restore the C-40 canal to its original dimensions during a four-month dredging project. During the work, public access to the canal from State Road 70 south to the S-75 structure will be closed.

The canal is scheduled to reopen to boat traffic in November.

Work was necessitated from years of silt and sediment reducing the canal's ability to move stormwater runoff. The first phase of the project will restore the conveyance capacity of the canal by removing about 142,000 cubic yards of sediment, enough to fill more than 8,000 dump trucks.

The multiyear effort will ultimately remove more than 760,000 cubic yards of material from the C-40 canal between State Road 70 and the S-72 structure, just north of Lake Okeechobee.

Questions regarding the project may be directed to Gary Ritter at (863) 462-5260, ext. 3017, or by email at gritter@sfwmd.gov.

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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.