



SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

NEWS RELEASE

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SFWMD Puts State Funding to Work

Governor, Legislature invest in protecting South Florida's water resources



(Projects such as the L-8 Flow Equalization Basin (FEB) outflow pump station and the A-1 FEB inflow water control structure are being constructed to help improve Everglades water quality.)

West Palm Beach, FL — More than \$150 million in new state funding included in the South Florida Water Management District's (SFWMD) recently approved budget is being put to work on an array of critical projects to improve water quality and supply for the Everglades and South Florida's environment.

"Providing clean water to restore the Everglades and protect South Florida's water resources requires strong commitment as well as significant funding," said SFWMD Executive Director Blake Guillory. "Governor Rick Scott and the Florida Legislature provided both this year, with a state budget that allows this agency to move forward on projects to achieve these important goals."

Everglades Restoration: \$102 million

Given its critical importance to Floridians, the largest portion of new state funding is being invested in Everglades Restoration. Funding includes:

- **\$32 million for Governor Scott's Restoration Strategies plan to improve Everglades water quality.** Funding will be directed toward continuing construction of the A-1 and L-8 flow equalization basins, which will store and improve water flows into Stormwater Treatment Areas (STAs) that remove phosphorus from Everglades-bound water. The funding will also help complete design work to increase capacity at STA-1 West, near Wellington, as well as to

plan and prepare the Mecca Shallow Impoundment site, which will help provide water for the Loxahatchee River.

- **\$40 million for the C-44 Reservoir and Stormwater Treatment Area.** The former citrus operation in Martin County is set to become a 6,300-acre wetland to clean local stormwater runoff before it reaches the St. Lucie River and Estuary. State funds will be used to accelerate construction of the STA component and pump station construction. The contract for STA construction was approved by the Governing Board in September.
- **\$18 million for the C-43 Reservoir project.** Funding allows the District to begin early work on the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP) project to capture local basin runoff to protect the Caloosahatchee River and Estuary. Work includes construction of a key berm and pump station.
- **\$5 million for Kissimmee River Restoration.** Funding will help acquire about 500 acres needed to continue the successful effort to restore the river and floodplain, which continue to show positive signs of ecosystem recovery.
- **\$5 million to support C-111 South Dade project construction.** This funding will allow the District to acquire about 525 acres needed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for constructing a key component of the project to help improve hydrology and water flow to Everglades National Park.
- **\$2 million for Picayune Strand Restoration.** Funds will be used to carry out testing for pump stations that will help restore the hydrology of the area.

Dispersed Water Management Program: \$13 million

Along with projects to improve Everglades water quality, storing water on public and private lands is a key tool to reduce the amount of water flowing into Lake Okeechobee and/or sent to the Caloosahatchee and St. Lucie estuaries during high water conditions.

This year, the Governor and Legislature have invested \$13 million to further the effort, known as the Dispersed Water Management Program. To date, the District has stored an average annual of 86,257 acre-feet. Of 43 project sites, 29 are operational with the remaining sites being planned or under construction. As of early October, 28 of the sites are full. The total potential retention capacity for all 43 sites is 88,585 acre-feet, or approximately 29 billion gallons of water.

Moving Water South and Land Preservation: \$2.8 million + \$20 million

In concert with its Dispersed Water Management Program, the District has been working to send as much water south as practicable from Lake Okeechobee. The state's appropriation of \$2.8 million will be used to increase water storage on publicly owned lands. Funds will also cover the cost of continued extended operations at major pump stations to assist in conveying water south from the lake and to operate new pumps installed last year.

In addition, \$20 million from the Florida Forever fund will go toward acquiring land needed for the Indian River Lagoon-South natural lands project.

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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.