



SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

## NEWS RELEASE

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**SFWMD Approves Massive Pump Station to Help Protect St. Lucie River**  
*The facility is part of a reservoir and water-cleaning wetland under construction*



*Stormwater Treatment Areas are proven tools to clean water to restore South Florida's ecosystems. (Click on the picture for a larger version.)*

**West Palm Beach, FL** — With construction progressing on a 6,300-acre wetland to clean water headed for the St. Lucie River and Estuary, the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) today approved a contract to build the massive pump station needed to move water into its connected water storage reservoir.

“One after another, the District has approved construction contracts in recent months for the major components of the C-44 Reservoir and Stormwater Treatment Area,” said SFWMD Governing Board Member Kevin Powers, whose area includes Martin County. “This is the kind of progress needed to complete the project and begin operations to improve water quality for the St. Lucie River and Estuary.”

With four remotely operated electric pumps, the 21,000-square-foot, three-story station will be able to deliver 1,100 cubic feet (about 8,228 gallons) per second from the C-44 Canal into the new reservoir.

Capable of storing about 16 billion gallons of water, the 3,400-acre reservoir will feed the Stormwater Treatment Area (STA), which will include 32 miles of berms, 30 miles of

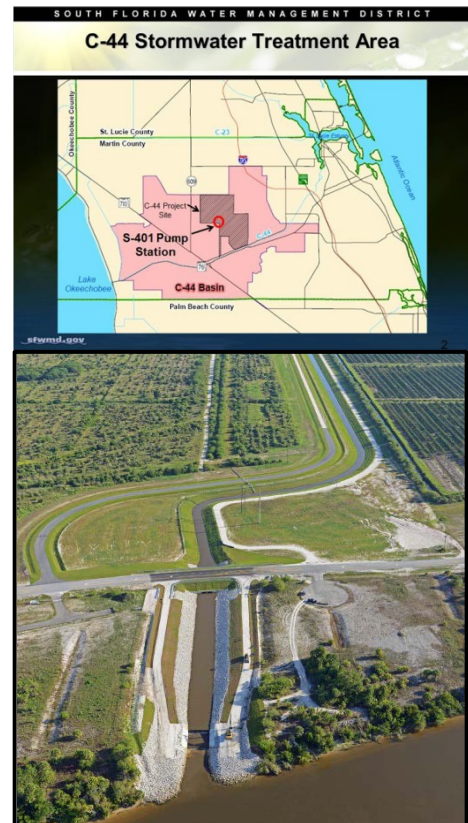
canals and 56 concrete water control structures. Inside the berms, plants such as cattails, pickerel weed and bulrush will remove and store nutrients, including phosphorus, from the water before it flows into the river and estuary.

Work on the \$40 million pump station (S-401) by Harry Pepper & Associates, Inc., the lowest responsive and responsible bidder, is scheduled to be complete in September 2018.

### **Project Progress:**

To date, several milestones have been achieved on the C-44 project, including:

- In July 2014, the SFWMD Governing Board approved a major agreement with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers – which was originally constructing all components of the project – allowing the SFWMD to expedite construction of the STAs, a pump station and a portion of the project discharge canal.
- In August 2014, the Board awarded an approximately \$5.4 million contract for construction of the spillway that will serve as the single point of water movement out of the entire project.
  - Strategically completing the spillway early in the construction timeline will allow the SFWMD to store additional water on the project, helping to reduce excess water flow to the estuary – even before the reservoir and stormwater treatment area are complete. This work will allow water managers to retain local runoff on approximately 7,000 acres of the 12,000-acre project site.
- In September 2014, the Board invested approximately \$101 million in a contract to construct the STA portion of the project.



***This former citrus operation is becoming a wetland to clean water flowing to the St. Lucie River. (Click the map/picture for larger versions.)***

### **Indian River Lagoon**

The St. Lucie River and Estuary is part of the larger Indian River Lagoon system, the most diverse estuarine environment in North America. It is home to more than 4,000 plant and animal species, including manatees, oysters, dolphins, sea turtles and seahorses.

**For More Information:**

- [Indian River Lagoon - South](#)
- [Improving Water Quality: Stormwater Treatment Areas](#)

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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.*