

SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

NEWS RELEASE

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SFWMD Approves Cost-Credit Agreement for Caloosahatchee Reservoir Early start of construction on the project will provide storage benefits sooner

West Palm Beach, FL — The South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) today authorized entering into an agreement designed to help the District receive federal cost credit for expediting construction of key portions of the Caloosahatchee River (C-43) West Basin Storage Reservoir. The project to protect the river and estuary is cost-shared between the District and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

"Today's agreement with the U.S. Department of the Army moves us closer to realizing benefits from a greatly needed project," said SFWMD Governing Board member Rick Barber. "It also helps preserve the substantial investment by Florida taxpayers to restore a local water resource."

Expedited Work

As part of Governor Rick Scott's commitment to Everglades restoration, the SFWMD intends to undertake construction of a portion of the C-43 facility, a project under the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP). The SFWMD proposes to expedite construction of Phase 1, which will include the following project features:

- Embankment and associated structures of the western cell of the reservoir
- Full perimeter canal
- Two pump stations
- Improvements to the Townsend Canal between the reservoir and the Caloosahatchee River
- A manatee protection feature at the mouth of the Townsend Canal

"Construction of the reservoir is critical to protecting the ecological health of the Caloosahatchee and maintaining the economy of Southwest Florida," added Barber. "And this project was identified as the top regional priority of area stakeholders during recent public community forums."

The SFWMD's construction will be initiated before entering into a Project Partnership Agreement (PPA) with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. In order to maintain eligibility to receive future credit for the costs of performing this expedited

construction, the SFWMD must enter into this Pre-Partnership Credit Agreement with the Army Corps of Engineers.

The Corps must also sign the agreement.

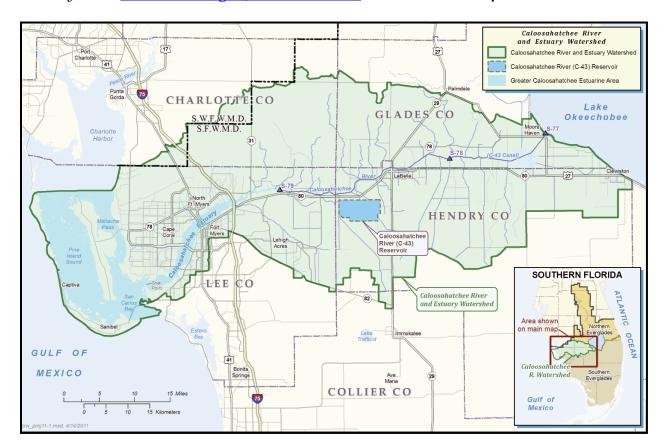
C-43 Project Overview

The C-43 reservoir project was authorized last year by Congress in the Water Resources and Reform Development Act (WRRDA) of 2014.

It will one day hold approximately 170,000 acre-feet of water to be used during dry periods to help maintain a desirable minimum flow of fresh water to the Caloosahatchee Estuary. During the rainy season, the reservoir will capture and store excess stormwater and regulatory releases from Lake Okeechobee, helping to prevent excessive freshwater flows to the estuary.

Since 2012, the SFWMD has put the reservoir property to use with emergency water storage of summertime rainfall and high runoff. Temporary pumps and levee improvements have helped capture approximately 4.2 billion gallons of water that would have otherwise flowed to the river.

For more information on projects to protect and improve the Caloosahatchee River and Estuary, visit www.sfwmd.gov/caloosahatchee or click on the map below:



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.