



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



**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.*