



SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

NEWS RELEASE

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SFWMD Construction Cam Offers a Look at Project Progress *C-44 Reservoir and Stormwater Treatment Area has reached several milestones*



Stormwater Treatment Areas are a proven resource for cleaning water to restore South Florida's ecosystems. (Click on the picture to view the new C-44 camera.)

West Palm Beach, FL — Perched on a 300-foot-tall communications tower, a high-tech webcam is now sending images of progress on a 16-billion-gallon reservoir and 6,300-acre wetland being constructed to store and clean water headed for the St. Lucie River and Estuary.

The South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) installed the camera to track work at the C-44 Reservoir and Stormwater Treatment Area in Martin County. When construction is complete, the project will help reduce stormwater runoff, improve water quality and restore native wetland and upland habitat in the estuary and watershed.

“The public now has a bird’s-eye view of progress on a project critically important to residents who live, work and play around the St. Lucie River and Estuary,” said SFWMD Governing Board Vice Chairman Kevin Powers, whose area includes Martin County. “It’s exciting to see planning efforts and taxpayer dollars being turned into a project reality.”

Features of the C-44 construction cam include:

- Automatic posting of pictures every 2 hours on the SFWMD’s public website: www.sfwmd.gov/c44cam.

- A calendar of archived photos showing the same view on different days
- Daily panoramas of the construction site
- Ability to zoom in and out of the high-resolution photos

Project Progress:

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

- In March 2015, the District approved a \$40 million contract to construct a 21,000-square-foot, three-story pump station, with four remotely operated electric pumps capable of delivering 1,100 cubic feet (about 8,228 gallons) per second from the C-44 Canal into the new reservoir.
- In September 2014, the District invested approximately \$101 million in a contract to construct the STA portion of the project, which includes 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 to the river and estuary.
- In August 2014, the District 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 July 2014, the District 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.



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.