



SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

## NEWS RELEASE

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### **SFWMD Readies Storage for Wet Season Water on the West Coast** *Efforts continue to identify storage opportunities*



*Nicodemus Slough in Glades County is available for water storage.  
(Click on the picture for a larger version.)*

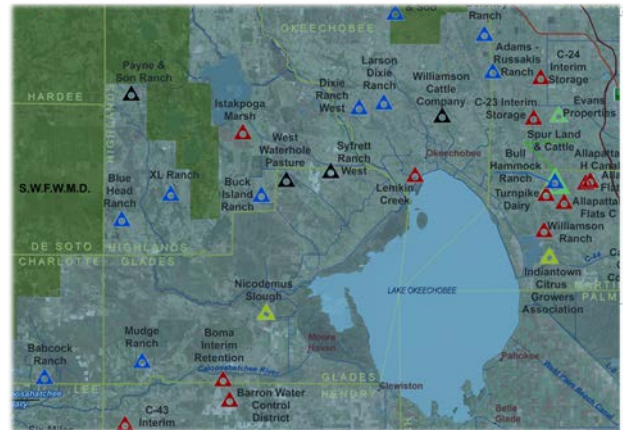
**Fort Myers, FL** – South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) engineers have made thousands of acres of land available for water storage this wet season to benefit the Caloosahatchee River and Estuary.

“Critical planning and engineering during the past dry season allowed the District to prepare an array of options to store excess wet season water that would otherwise flow to the river,” said SFWMD Governing Board member Mitch Hutchcraft. “And we continue to work toward bringing more storage online to increase flexibility going forward.”

Throughout the watershed, several new storage projects have come online since the last rainy season, including:

### Operational/Available to Store Water:

- Nicodemus Slough - 34,000 acre-feet: The District began operations in January, and has successfully utilized the site in Glades County to store water and also provide water supply to the river and local agriculture.
- Boma Property - 1,500 acre-feet: Three new electric pumps have been installed and improvements have increased storage capability. The site in Glades County was tested and utilized for water storage in the spring.
- North Six Mile Cypress Slough - 1,400 acre-feet: Through a partnership with Lee County, construction was recently completed to store water and redirect historic water flows to Six Mile Cypress Slough.
- Mudge Ranch - 396 acre-feet: The site located just north of the Caloosahatchee River in Glades County recently came online to store water.



(Click on the map to see water storage projects.)

### Planned:

- Alico Ranch -- 91,944 acre-feet dispersed storage: Located in Hendry County, the project has been contracted and is under design.
- Babcock Ranch - 1,214 acre-feet: The site in Charlotte County is contracted and is under design.

Additionally, the District has coordinated with local West Coast drainage districts to hold as much water as possible within their facilities, including:

- East County Water Control District - About 1,000 acre-feet of storage is being made available at Mirror Lakes/Halfway Pond.
- Barron Water Control District - About 5,000 acre-feet is being made available through weir and operational improvements at the C-2.

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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.*