



SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

NEWS RELEASE

July 1, 2015

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SFWMD Sends Request for Bids to Start Caloosahatchee Reservoir Work *Momentum continues toward achieving early water storage benefits*

Fort Myers, FL – The South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) this week issued a request for bids to start early construction of key features of the Caloosahatchee River (C-43) West Basin Storage Reservoir. The work is the precursor for achieving water storage benefits before the entire reservoir is complete.

“Momentum continues building, and this initial work paves the way for tangible benefits for the Caloosahatchee River and Estuary,” said SFWMD Governing Board Chairman Daniel O’Keefe. “This is the kind of progress that will accomplish major restoration goals.”

The request seeks bids for construction work, including:

- Demolishing existing agricultural features such as buried pipes, culverts, irrigation pump stations and above- ground facilities across the 10,000 acre reservoir site
- Construction of 7 compacted, above-ground earthfill mounds reaching 56 feet high at select locations to help compact the ground to support future structures
- Moving approximately 1.8 million cubic yards of fill for the mounds, enough to fill 1 acre of land to a height of 1,100 feet, or 120 feet higher than the Eiffel Tower
- Preparation of the foundation for construction of the 16 mile dam that will surround the reservoir

The work is the first step for the SFWMD to undertake expediting construction of the facility as part of Governor Rick Scott’s commitment to South Florida ecosystem restoration. The project as a whole is a joint effort between the District and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers under the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP).

This week’s action follows a June vote by the SFWMD Governing Board that authorized entering into an agreement designed to help the District receive federal cost credit for expediting construction.

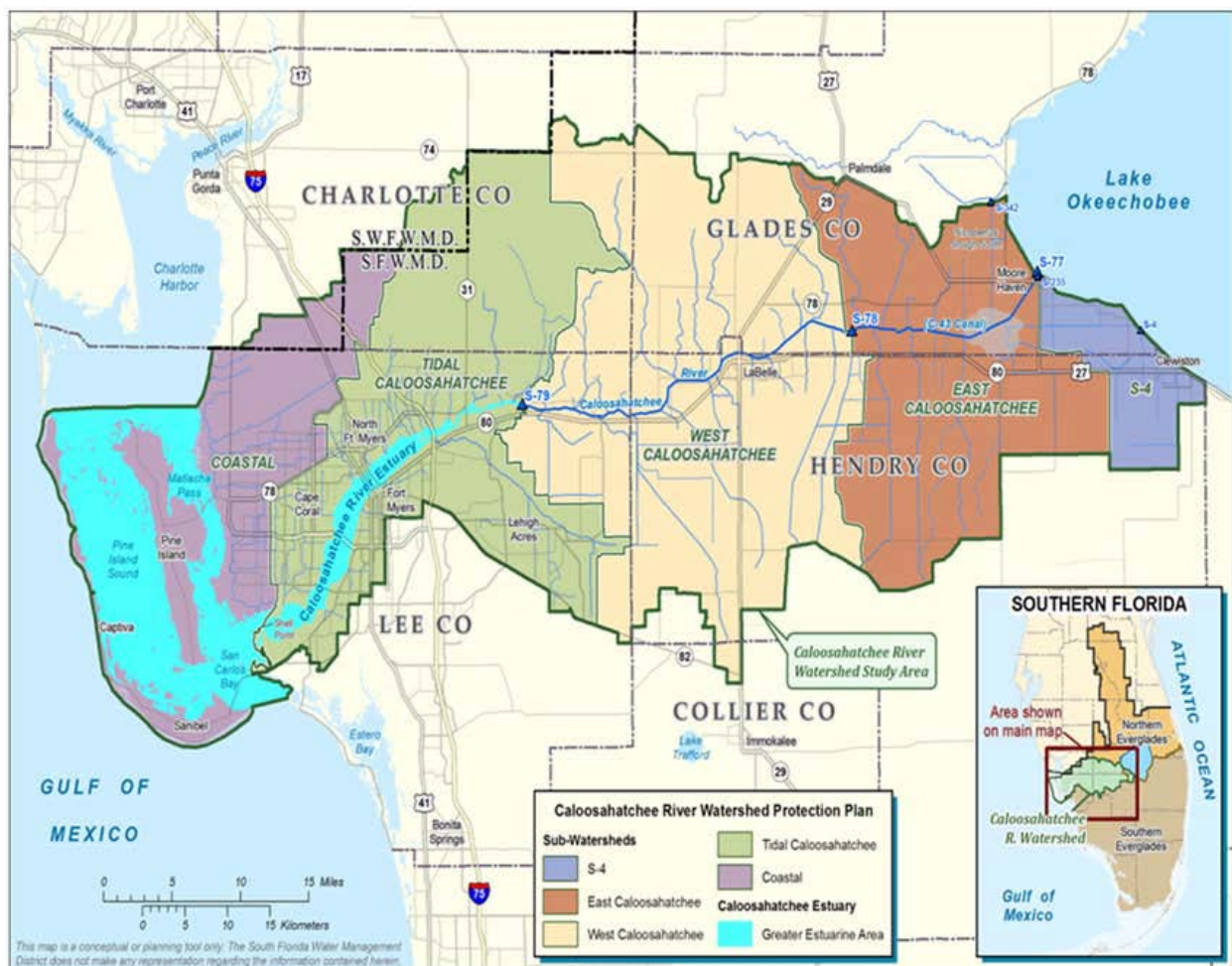
C-43 Project Overview

The C-43 reservoir project was authorized 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/calooahatchee 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.