



SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

NEWS RELEASE

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Everglades Restoration Strategies Projects Make Major Move Forward *Ongoing efforts are on track to help meet water quality standards*



(Click on the map for a larger version.)

West Palm Beach, FL – The South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) today approved two construction contracts to maintain significant momentum for the State of Florida’s Restoration Strategies plan to improve Everglades water quality. Both projects will expand the size and function of treatment wetlands, known as Stormwater Treatment Areas, or STAs.

Already a proven green technology, Stormwater Treatment Area 1 West (STA-1W) in western Palm Beach County will grow from 6,700 acres to 11,300 acres. The \$79.2 million investment nearly doubles the STA’s ability to clean excess phosphorus from stormwater before it reaches the Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge and the greater Everglades.

“In a short time, key projects in Gov. Rick Scott’s Restoration Strategies plan are underway or nearly complete,” said SFWMD Governing Board Chairman Daniel O’Keefe. “This is the next critical piece of the plan to achieve cleaner water for America’s Everglades.”

Formalized in 2012, the Restoration Strategies plan is a suite of projects scientifically designed to achieve the ultra-low phosphorus levels needed in the Everglades. Under the plan, the District is creating more than 6,500 acres of new STAs and 116,000 acre-feet of additional water storage.

Expansion of STA-1W involves an array work, including construction of:

- 49,000 feet of perimeter embankment
- 34,000 feet of collector canals to convey flow
- 10 inflow gated concrete box culverts
- 6 overflow weirs

Once infrastructure is complete, plants are expected to grow in naturally, removing excess nutrients from stormwater.

As part of the plan, a second expansion of 1,800 acres in STA-1W will be accomplished in the future to further increase treatment capacity.

Construction work will also include building a structure that increases the flow capacity in the nearby Stormwater Treatment Area 1 East. Increasing water flow from 1,580 cubic feet per second (cfs) to 3,600 cfs will improve the ability to distribute water during storms and other high flow events into the STA, where it can be cleaned.

In related activities, the SFWMD approved acquisition of an important seepage canal at the southern end of the project. The canal will capture clean water that naturally seeps under embankments and return it back to the regional system.

Restoration Strategies Progress

The first two major initiatives in the governor's \$880 million suite of projects are nearly complete and operating.

- **A-1 Flow Equalization Basin (FEB):** With 60,000 acre-feet of water storage, the project captures and stores peak stormwater flows. Water managers can move water from the basin into STAs at a steady rate to optimize the wetlands' performance and achieve water quality improvement targets.
 - Construction utilized 16,500 cubic yards of concrete, 2,100 tons of steel and 21 miles of levees.
 - The site is west of U.S. 27 in Palm Beach County.
- **L-8 Flow Equalization Basin (FEB):** Designed to operate like the A-1 FEB, the project is being built on a strategically located 950-acre former rock mine.
 - The deep-ground reservoir is capable of storing 45,000 acre-feet of water.
 - Initially, this project will function as a multipurpose FEB to capture, store and deliver water to STA-1 East, STA-1 West, the Loxahatchee River and for other restoration purposes.
 - When the STA-1 West expansion is completed and in-basin storage for the Loxahatchee River comes online, the L-8 FEB will transition to primarily

delivering consistent flows needed to optimize performance of STA-1 East and STA-1 West.

The SFWMD also has begun construction on the Bolles East Canal upgrade. The project will enhance flexibility for moving stormwater from the Everglades Agricultural Area (EAA) into wetlands that improve the quality of water before it reaches the Everglades. Blasting work at the site was recently documented on video: [Watch the blast](#).

For More Information:

- [Restoration Strategies](#)

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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 flood control, water quality, natural systems and water supply. A key initiative is cleanup and restoration of the Everglades.