



SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

NEWS RELEASE

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SFWMD Highlights Progress on Caloosahatchee River Reservoir *Massive storage project will provide significant benefits for river and estuary*

Fort Myers, FL - This month the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) Governing Board heard a staff report highlighting the significant progress the District has made building the Caloosahatchee River (C-43) West Basin Storage Reservoir.

When completed, the reservoir will hold approximately 170,000 acre-feet of water from the Caloosahatchee River. During dry periods, this water will be used to maintain a desirable minimum flow of fresh water to the Caloosahatchee Estuary to balance salinity levels and maintain the health of the estuary. During the rainy season, the reservoir will capture and store excess stormwater runoff and regulatory releases from Lake Okeechobee, helping to prevent excessive freshwater flows to the estuary.

"This project is crucial to the District's plan to restore the health of the Caloosahatchee River and Estuary," said SFWMD Governing Board Member Mitch Hutchcraft.

Contractors have been doing preliminary site work for reservoir construction for the last several months. The work includes:

- Demolishing existing agricultural features across the 10,000-acre reservoir site.
- Constructing seven above-ground earth mounds to support future structures.
- Moving approximately 1.8 million cubic yards of fill for the mounds.
- Preparing the foundation to build a 16-mile dam surrounding the reservoir.

Earlier this month, the Governing Board also awarded a contract to build a pump station necessary for the operation of the reservoir.

The first phase of the reservoir project is expected to be completed by February 2021, and the District is working to expedite construction of the rest of the project.

[Click here to see photos of C-43 Reservoir construction.](#)

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The South Florida Water Management District is a regional governmental agency that manages the water resources in the southern part of the state. It is the oldest and largest of the state's five water management districts. Our mission is to protect South Florida's water resources by balancing and improving flood control, water supply, water quality and natural systems.

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