



SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

NEWS RELEASE

July 15, 2016

SFWMD Approves Construction to Store More Water at Ten Mile Creek Reservoir in St. Lucie County

The project also cleans water for the St. Lucie River and Estuary

West Palm Beach, FL - The Governing Board of the South Florida Water Management District this week approved a construction contract to repair the Ten Mile Creek Water Preserve Area and increase its capacity to provide water storage and treatment for the St. Lucie River and Estuary.

"Fixing the Ten Mile Creek Water Preserve Area is what we mean when we say existing projects must get done," said SFWMD Governing Board Vice Chairman Kevin Powers. "It is the only way to ensure years of planning become the necessary water storage and treatment to benefit our community."

SFWMD made initial repairs and began using the problem-plagued, long-idle federal facility during the 2015 wet season to provide some storage, holding one foot of water at the site. This year, SFWMD took full control of the project in May. Construction repairs to reduce seepage and boost the security of the reservoir embankment will increase the project's capacity to store water from one to four feet.

Once repairs are complete, the project will provide significant benefits, including:

- Improving the timing and quality of freshwater flowing into the North Fork of the St. Lucie River
- Providing timely water supply
- Assist in reducing flooding during high rainfall events

With an investment of \$5.8 million, which was significantly under budget, the project is scheduled for completion in June 2017 at the beginning of the wet season. Once complete, the 526-acre reservoir will be able to hold 2,500 acre-feet of water.

Background:

The Ten Mile Creek Water Preserve Area is located at the outlet of the 30,682-acre Ten Mile Creek Drainage Basin in St. Lucie County, situated immediately south of State Road 70 and west of the I-95-Florida's Turnpike intersection. The project was designed and built by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in 2006 to improve the timing and volume of water deliveries to the North Fork of the St. Lucie River by capturing, storing and treating stormwater runoff from the Ten Mile Creek Basin. The project was a failure, subject to litigation and placed into SFWMD control by Congress in 2015.

Secondary benefits of the project included reduction of fine sediment and nutrients flowing to the St. Lucie River, increased freshwater recharge into the aquifer and capability to make releases back to Ten Mile Creek for water supply when needed.

Timeline:

- 1996: Project was authorized by Congress as a joint effort between SFWMD and the Corps budgeted to cost up to \$50 million.
- 2006: Construction was completed by the Corps.
 - During operational testing, design and construction deficiencies were identified that rendered the project unsafe for operation.
 - The project remained non-operational for several years while court proceedings took place. Eventually, the Corps settled the case and received money from the contractor who built the project.
- August 2014: SFWMD asked to take control of the facility and make repairs so that the project could start providing benefits to the community.
- June 2015: SFWMD was authorized by the Corps to make improvements to store one foot of water at the site to provide benefits while the request to take over the project was pending in Congress.
- December 2015: Following Congressional action, the president signed into law a bill that allowed the SFWMD to take control of the project. The District already owned the land.
- May 2016: SFWMD Governing Board formally took over the project and is moving forward with work to make it operational.

Media Contact:

Randy Smith | rrsmith@sfwmd.gov | Office: 561-682-2800 | Cell: 561-389-3386

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.

STAY CONNECTED

Follow us on  **twitter**

 Forward to a Friend

SFWMD Newsroom

South Florida Water Management District, 3301 Gun Club Road, West Palm
Beach, FL 33406

[SafeUnsubscribe™ {recipient's email}](#)

[Forward this email](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [About our service provider](#)

Sent by waternews@sfwmd.gov in collaboration with



Try it free today