



NEWS RELEASE

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Miami-Dade County Resolution Supports SFWMD Plan to Deliver Clean Freshwater to Help Florida Bay

The Florida Bay Plan:

- Degrading a weir and adding plugs along the L-31 West Canal to allow more water to flow into Taylor Slough, and keeping more water in Everglades National Park.
- Sending additional water through the S-328 water control structure in the L-31 West Canal reaching Taylor Slough.
- Connecting the Frog Pond detention system to the L-31 West Canal sending more water towards Taylor Slough.
- Rebuilding a L-31 West Levee and Weir to keep more water in Everglades National Park.

These actions will be the first steps to help save the bay.

The South Florida Water Management District's expedited plan to restore Florida Bay will send billions more gallons of freshwater per year into Taylor Slough.

Click on the image to see a larger version and learn more about the Florida Bay plan.

Miami, FL - The largest county in Florida on Tuesday unanimously supported the implementation of the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) plan to help restore Florida Bay and urged the federal government to speed up its repairs of the dike surrounding Lake Okeechobee.

The Miami-Dade County Board of County Commissioners adopted a resolution urging the SFWMD to fully implement the District plan to deliver more clean freshwater to Taylor Slough. The resolution Miami-Dade Commissioners passed also urges the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to expedite the ongoing rehabilitation of the Herbert Hoover Dike.

"This resolution will help Florida Bay, the Herbert Hoover Dike and all South Floridians," said Miami-Dade District 12 Commissioner Jose "Pepe" Diaz, who sponsored the resolution. "Florida Bay is a special piece of the Everglades ecosystem and the South Florida Water Management District's plan will

provide the bay with critical relief. The completion of the Herbert Hoover Dike rehabilitation work is needed now and I am happy the County is doing its part to get this project completed."

The plan, created by SFWMD scientists and engineers, would rebuild levees and weirs, add canal plugs along the L-31 West Canal and connect canals in southern Miami-Dade County just east of Everglades National Park to deliver billions more gallons of freshwater to Taylor Slough each year. Taylor Slough connects directly to Florida Bay, where the additional freshwater would help to reduce salinity levels and help restore seagrasses damaged by localized droughts.

"We fully agree with the resolution passed by Miami-Dade Commissioners and applaud them for their actions," said SFWMD Governing Board Member Federico Fernandez. "We have been working tirelessly for months to fully implement our plan and help Florida Bay. We have every intention of continuing until this plan is fully implemented as soon as possible."

The rehabilitation of the 143-mile earthen Herbert Hoover Dike around Lake Okeechobee by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to reduce the risk of catastrophic failure and flooding of surrounding communities has been going on since 2007 and is a major component of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan.

"We have also been urging the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for years to expedite the rehabilitation of the Herbert Hoover Dike and to expedite the restudy to determine the regulation schedule for the lake once the dike is repaired," Fernandez said. "We thank Miami-Dade Commissioners for their vision and support to expedite the completion of this crucial projects."

To view the Miami-Dade County Commission's resolution supporting the full implementation of the Florida Bay plan and urging the expediting of the Herbert Hoover Dike rehabilitation [click here](#).

To learn more about the SFWMD's Florida Bay plan please visit www.sfwmd.gov/floridabay.

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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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