



SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

OPERATIONS UPDATE

July 15, 2016

SFWMD Helps Florida Bay

Today, the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) submitted a request to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to expedite one of several authorizations necessary to immediately implement a plan to start restoring Florida Bay.

The improvements will double the flow of water directly into Taylor Slough by as much as 6.5 billion gallons more freshwater per year. The additional water reaching the bay during dry season and wet season meets stringent water quality standards. These actions will be the first steps to help save the bay by reducing salinity levels and promoting the recovery of seagrasses killed during a severe drought in 2015.

Required features of the plan include:

- Connecting two canals to directly deposit water through the L-31 West Canal into Taylor Slough.
- Sending additional water through the S-328 structure into the L-31 West Canal directly to the headwaters of Taylor Slough.
- Rebuilding a levee and weir and adding plugs along the L-31 West Canal to encourage the flow of more water towards Taylor Slough. This will also keep more water in Everglades National Park.
- Removing flapgates at the S-332i Pump Station to promote more flow.

Supplemental features of the plan that will also help deliver water include:

- Installing several plugs in the L-31 West Canal to reduce drainage from Everglades National Park and to promote overland flow of water into Taylor Slough.
- Modifying a weir at the S-332D structure to promote overland flow of water to the detention area into headwaters of Taylor Slough.
- Increasing the pumping capacity at S-199 and S-200 pump stations, which will send more water flowing towards Taylor Slough and Everglades National Park, ultimately reaching Florida Bay.
- Removing vegetation to increase the quantity of water flowing through the detentions areas into Taylor Slough.

Some of the improvements require Corps permitting. Today, the SFWMD requested the authorization to degrade about 250 feet of a weir to allow more water to flow through the S-332D Detention Area into Taylor Slough. [Click here to read the letter to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers requesting permits to begin helping Florida Bay.](#) All of the proposed

improvements will cost the SFWMD less than \$3.3 million and could be completed before the start of the next dry season in November if the Corps approves the necessary permits quickly.

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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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