



## SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

# OPERATIONS UPDATE

July 25, 2016

### **Expediting Efforts To Send Water South To Florida Bay**

Last week, the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) submitted a request to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to authorize the reconstruction of L-31 West levee, along with the construction of a 500-foot long weir in Miami-Dade County. This request is part of SFWMD's plan to restore essential flows and deliver additional water to Florida Bay.

Along with average annual rainfall, the expedited plan will double the flow of water directly into Taylor Slough by as much as 6.5 billion gallons more freshwater per year. This additional water will meet stringent water quality standards and serve the bay year-round. These actions will be the first steps to help save the bay by 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.
- Modifying a weir and adding plugs along the L-31 West Canal to encourage the flow of more water towards Taylor Slough and keeping more water in Everglades National Park.
- Rebuilding a levee and 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.

The proposed improvements will cost taxpayers less than \$3.3 million and should be completed before the start of the next dry season in November if the Corps approves the necessary permits expeditiously.

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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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