



SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

## OPERATIONS UPDATE

July 29, 2016

### **Multimedia Operations Update: SFWMD Begins Construction on Plan to Help Save Florida Bay**



*A SFWMD hydraulic ram breaks up the top of the S-327 Weir near Everglades National Park to help send more water to Florida Bay. (Click on the photo for a larger version.)*

**Homestead, FL** - South Florida Water Management District construction crews began work this week on a key component of the plan to deliver more fresh, clean water to the ailing Florida Bay.

The plan will double the flow of water into the headwaters of Taylor Slough, which connects to the bay. This means on average as much as 6.5 billion gallons more freshwater per year will reach the bay to help restore seagrass that succumbed to the drought of summer 2015.

Using a hydraulic ram, crews began to remove a portion of the S-327 Weir in Miami-Dade County so that more water can flow from west of Homestead into Taylor Slough in Everglades National Park, and ultimately to the bay. The weir operates much like a dam but allows water to flow over the top to help manage water levels. The work entails degrading 250 feet of the 1,900 foot weir by excavating 170 cubic yards of reinforced concrete off the top and stockpiling 850 cubic yards of limestone fill.

**Multimedia Links:** (B-roll video and photos are downloadable below.)

- **Flickr Photo Gallery:** [See ongoing work and a locator map.](#)
- **Video 1:** [Field Station Superintendent Mike Worley explains the work.](#)
- **Video 2:** [A heavy hydraulic ram breaks up concrete at the project site.](#)

All of the proposed improvements in the Florida Bay plan 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.

**For More Information:**

- [SFWMD Florida Bay Plan Webpage](#)

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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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