



SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

OPERATIONS UPDATE

August 12, 2016

Multimedia Operations Update: SFWMD Completes Key Component in Plan to Help Save Florida Bay



The SFWMD this week completed degrading a section 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 this week completed work 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 removed a portion of the S-327 Weir in Miami-Dade County so that more freshwater can flow into Taylor Slough in Everglades National Park, and ultimately to Florida Bay. The weir operates much like a dam but allowed water to flow over the top to help manage water levels. The work entailed degrading 250 feet of the 1,900 foot weir by excavating 170 cubic yards of reinforced concrete and 850 cubic yards of limestone fill. This limestone will be used to build plugs in the L-31 West Canal which is another component of the plan to help Florida Bay.

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

- **Flickr Photo Gallery 1:** [See the construction work and a locator map.](#)
- **Flickr Photo Gallery 2:** [See the completed construction work.](#)
- **Video 1:** [Top SFWMD Applied Sciences Bureau Chief Susan Gray and Chief District Engineer John Mitnik explain the components and benefits of the plan to Move Water South to Florida Bay.](#)
- **Video 2:** [Field Station Superintendent Mike Worley explains the work.](#)
- **Video 3:** [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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