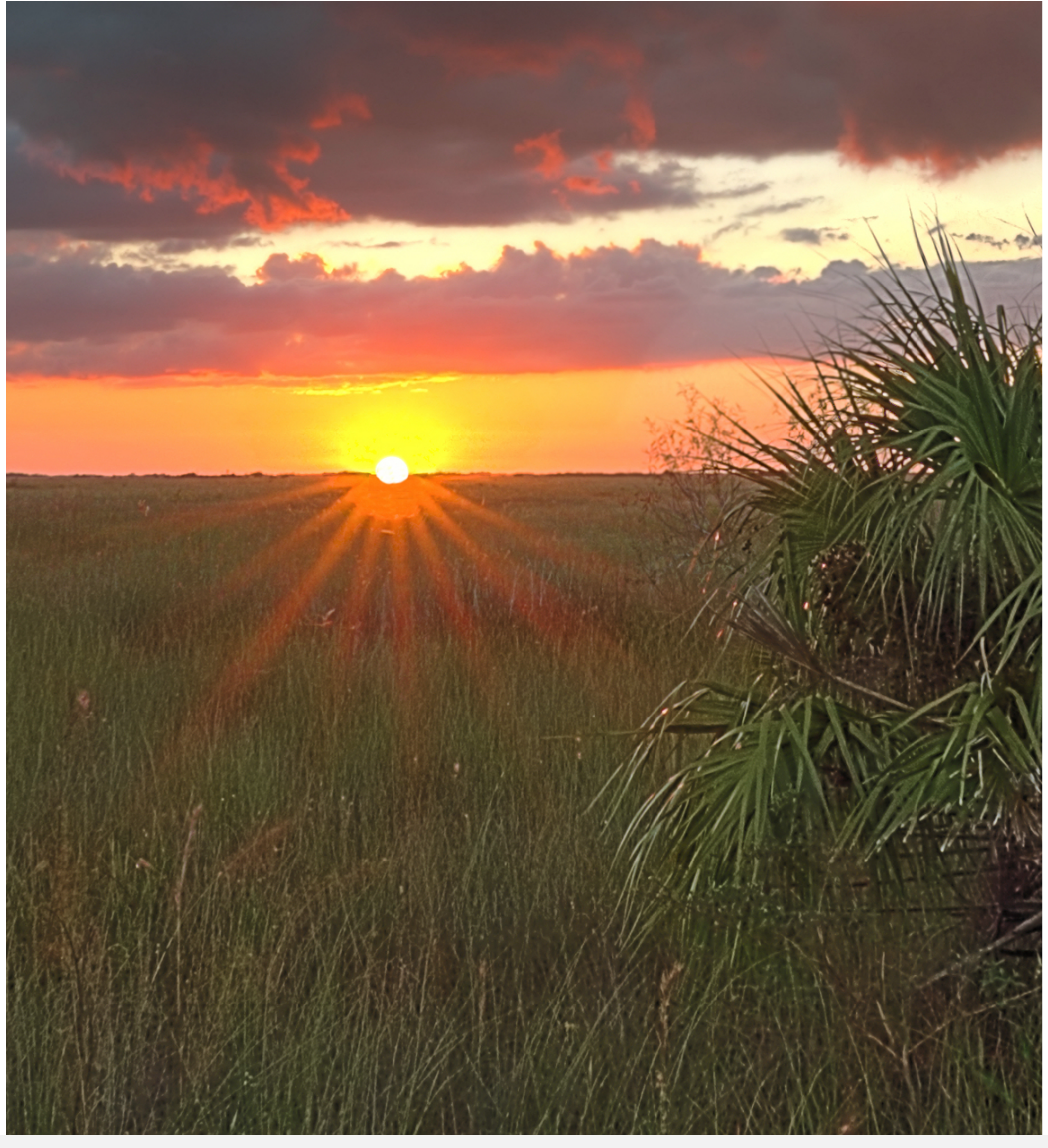
Sunset over the vast Everglades



AN ERA OF EVERGLADES PROGRESS

2009–2017

Rick Scott is elected Florida's 45th governor in 2010. Re-elected in 2014, Gov. Scott is touted for stepping up for the Everglades, making it the environmental highlight of his leadership. From the Kissimmee River to Florida Bay, projects are being built to restore South Florida's ecosystem and ensure sound water supply management. West and east coast reservoirs (C-43 and C-44) are underway to reduce discharges to the estuaries and Kissimmee River restoration is nearing the finish line.

2010

Historic flow is now returning to the Kissimmee River.
Water is now flowing naturally through 19 miles of the Kissimmee River channel.

Kissimmee River restored floodplain

Begun in 1999, construction is reaching its final stages by 2017. When complete in 2019, flow will be returned to 40 miles of the historic river and 25,000 acres of floodplain.

2012

Victory and consensus is long-awaited.
Florida reaches an agreement with the federal government, ending a decades-long dispute on the quality of water flowing into the Everglades. Having worked tirelessly to end this costly lawsuit, an exuberant governor exclaims to the press, "Look what we've done for the Everglades!"

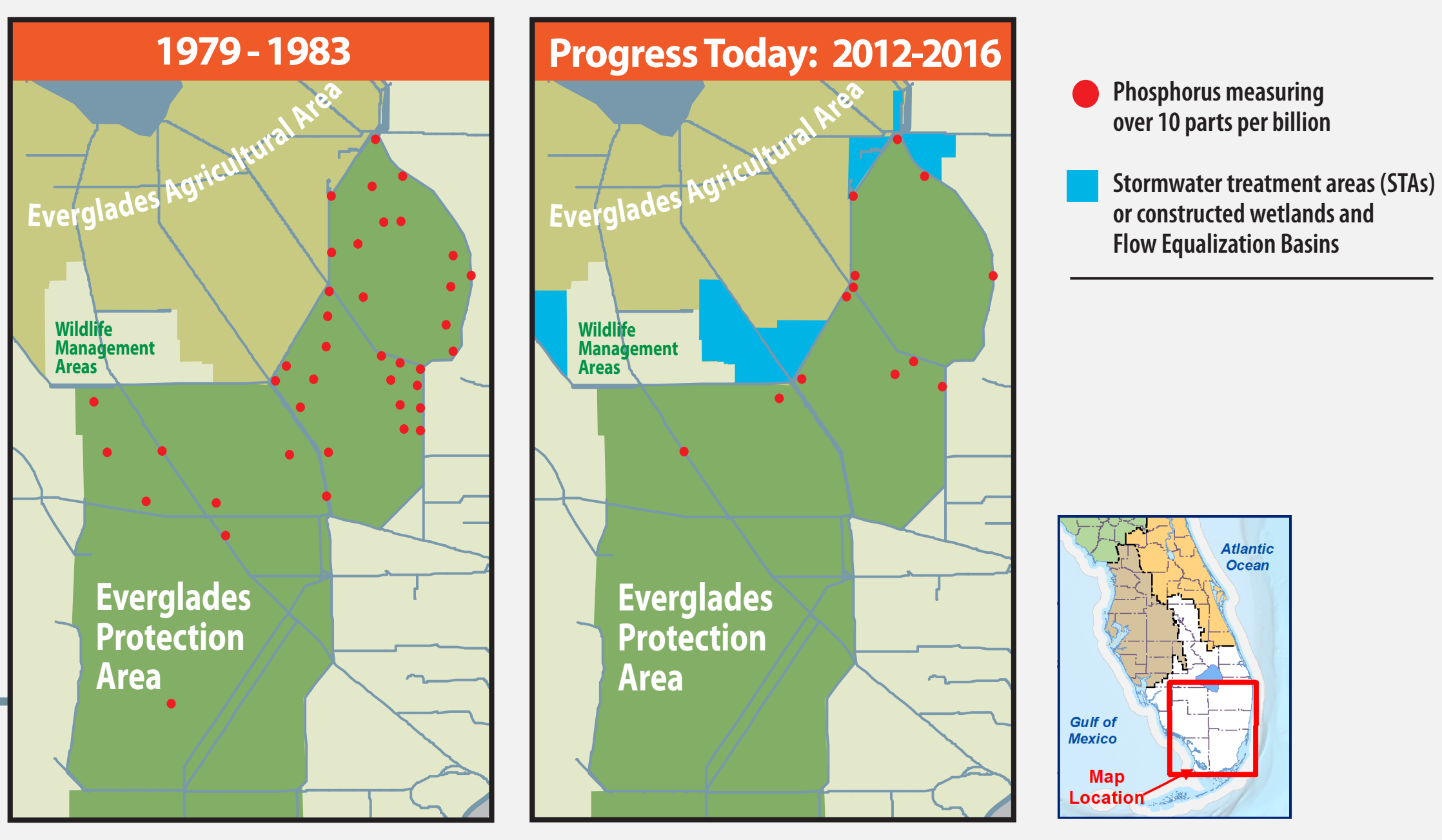
Based on consensus reached after months of scientific and technical discussions, Gov. Scott's Restoration Strategies are developed to expand water quality improvement projects.

Over the next 5 years, they include 6,500 more acres of new stormwater treatment area and 116,000 acre-feet of additional water storage.

Governor Rick Scott

2014

Harmful nutrients in the Everglades now reduced by 90%.
Phosphorus control programs in place over the last 20 years have significantly improved Everglades water quality. Stormwater Treatment Areas (STAs), large constructed wetlands, reduce the amount of nutrients reaching the Everglades. Farming best management practices curb phosphorus at the source.



2015

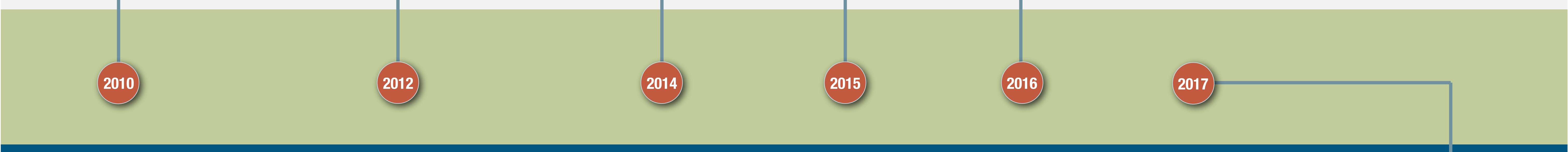
Dry season is wettest on record.
El Nino brings record rainfall during the 2015-16 dry season with South Florida averaging more than 16 inches, the largest amount since record keeping began in 1932.

2016

Cleaner water is now reaching the Everglades.
Water managers can now move water from flow equalization basins (that temporarily store peak stormwater flows) into STAs. Benefits are 105,000 acre-feet of additional water storage and enhanced phosphorus treatment in downstream STAs. Construction of 4,300 acres of additional treatment at STA-1 West in Palm Beach County is underway.

2016

Gov. Scott signs Legacy Florida legislation.
This commitment provides at least $200 million annually over 20 years in dedicated funding for Everglades restoration.



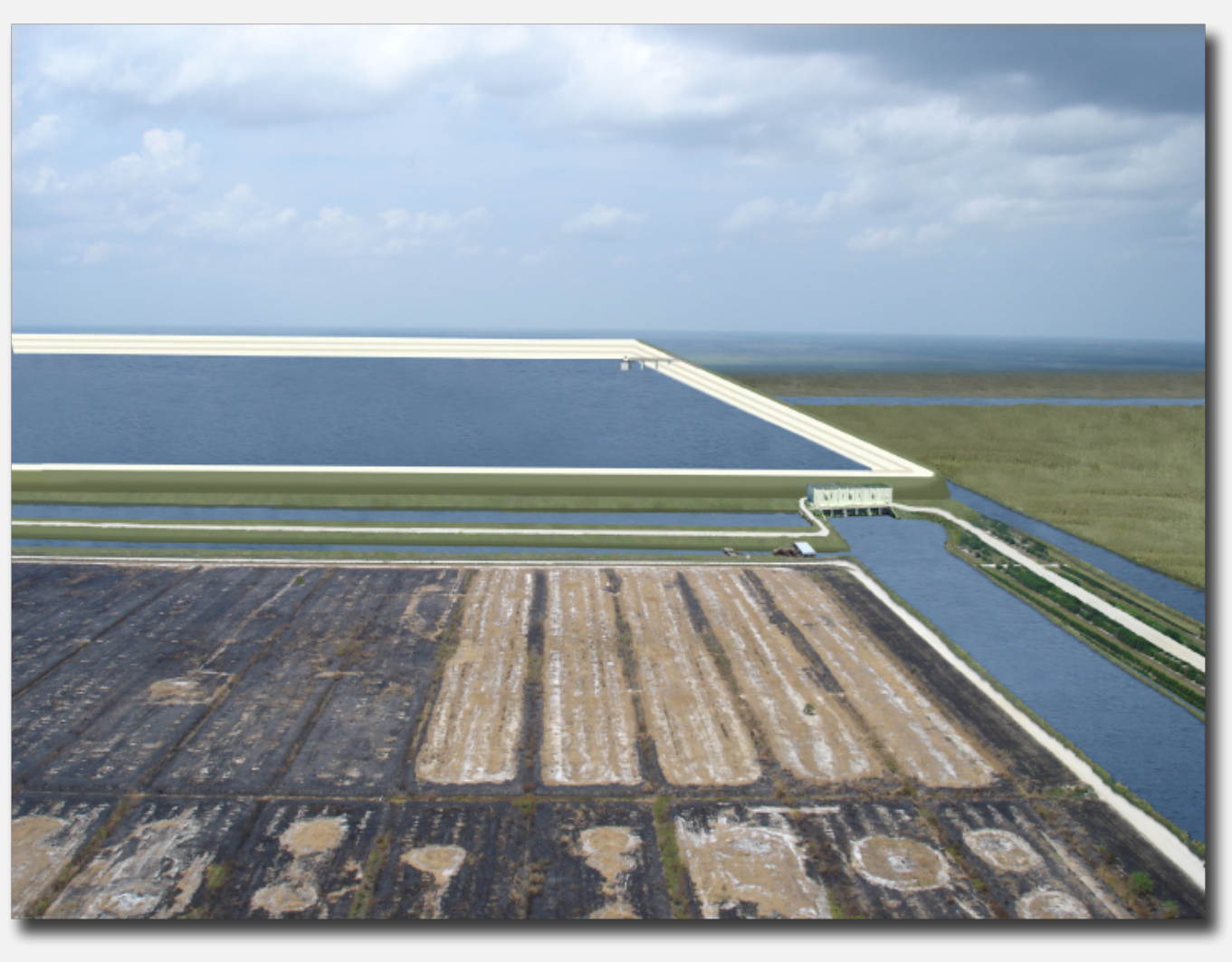
2017

Florida Bay receives freshwater delivery.
To help reduce salinity levels and promote recovery of seagrasses until larger projects are built, operational improvements increase flow of water directly into Taylor Slough in Everglades National Park, a major source of fresh water for the bay. Additional water reaching the bay during both dry and wet seasons meets stringent water quality standards.

Crews install a canal connection that will deliver freshwater to Taylor Slough and Florida Bay.

2017

Large-scale, precedent-setting projects are well underway.
Using the extensively-vetted Integrated Delivery Schedule (IDS), Florida and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers sequence Everglades project construction to make the best use of available taxpayer dollars and maximize the benefit of each project to the Everglades.



Conceptual project rendering of C-44 Reservoir/STA in Martin County