



Everglades Agricultural Area Storage Reservoir Feasibility Study

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Office of Everglades Policy & Coordination

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Meeting Agenda

- Welcome and Introductions
- Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan Overview
- Everglades Agricultural Area Storage Reservoir Project Overview (SB 10)
- National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)
- Project Planning Process
- Public Comment



Meeting Purpose

Everglades Agricultural Area Storage Reservoir Feasibility Study

To involve the public in an inclusive, dynamic process designed to ensure an economically, ecologically and socially justified project design for improvements to the Everglades ecosystem.



Overview

SOUTH FLORIDA ECOSYSTEM PROJECT

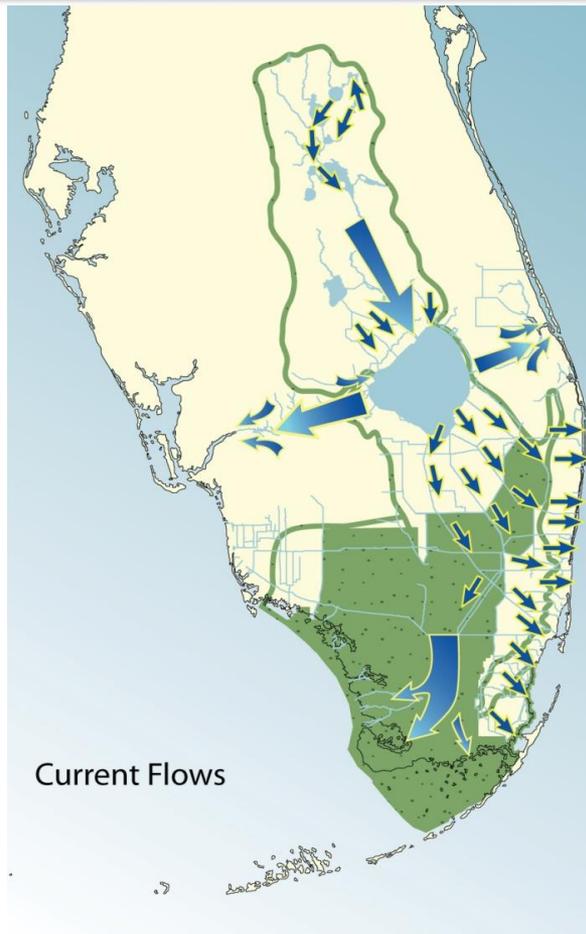


System-wide Perspective



Pre-drainage Flows

**HISTORIC
FLOW**



Current Flows

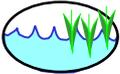
**CURRENT
FLOW**

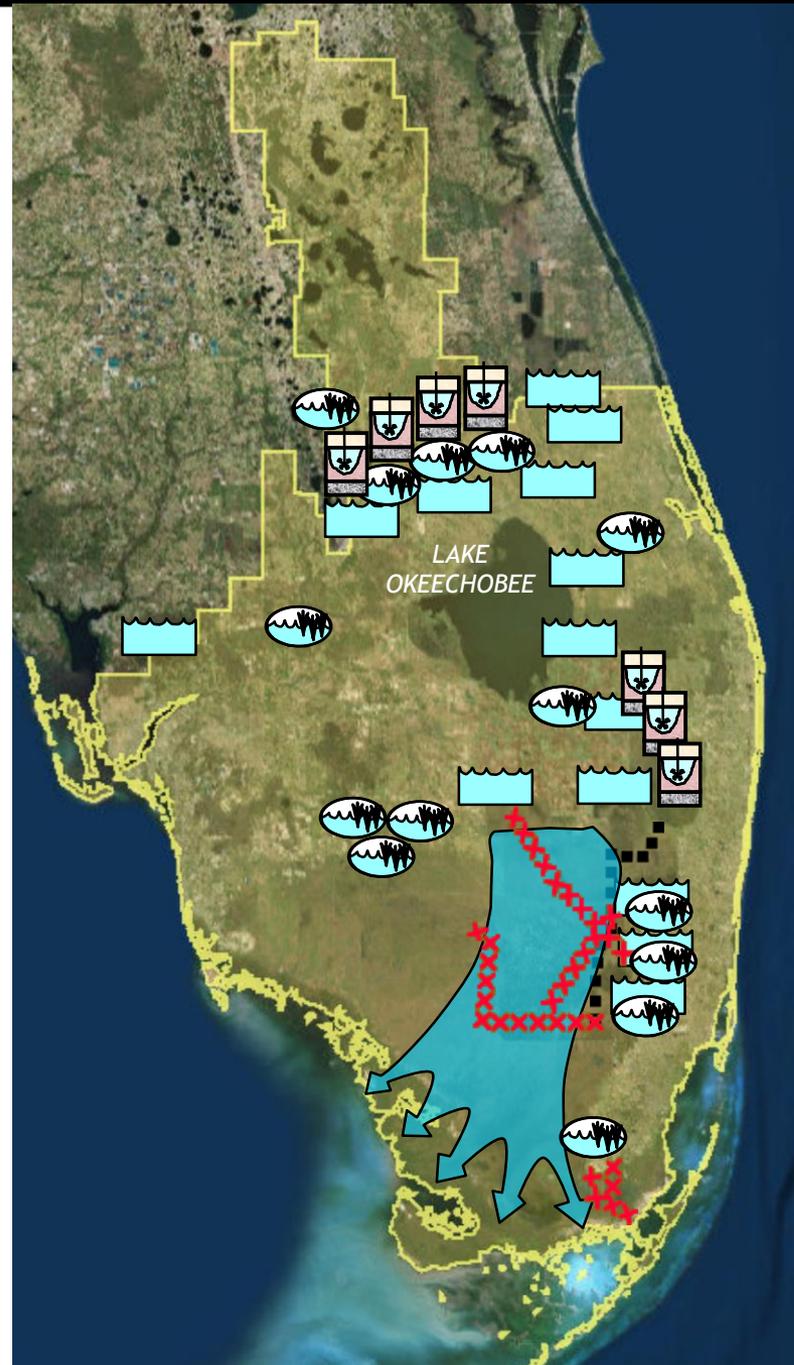


Restored Flows

**RESTORED
FLOW**

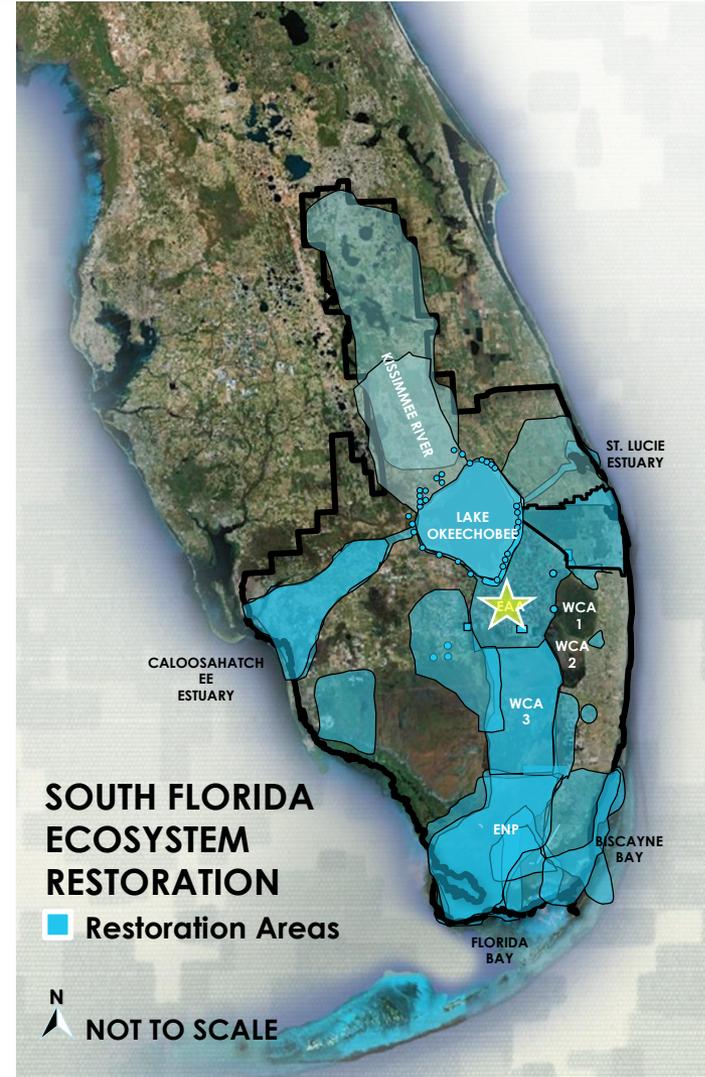
Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP)

- 68 Components
 - ▶ Storage  Surface  ASR
 - ▶ STAs for water quality 
 - ▶ Seepage management ■■■■
 - ▶ Removing barriers to flow 
 - ▶ Revised operations
- 30+ year implementation





South Florida Ecosystem Restoration



NON-CERP & FOUNDATION PROJECTS

- Modified Water Deliveries to Everglades National Park
- Kissimmee River Restoration
- C-111 South Dade
- C-51/Storm Water Treatment Area (STA) 1E
- Storm Water Treatment Areas/Restoration Strategies
- Tamiami Trail Bridging & Roadway Modifications
- Herbert Hoover Dike (HHD) Rehabilitation
- Seminole Big Cypress Critical Project

CERP GENERATION 1 PROJECTS

- Indian River Lagoon (IRL) – South
- Picayune Strand
- Site 1
- Melaleuca Annex Facility

CERP GENERATION 2 PROJECTS

- C - 43 Reservoir
- Broward County Water Preserve Areas (WPA)
- C-111 Spreader Canal Western Project
- Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands Phase 1

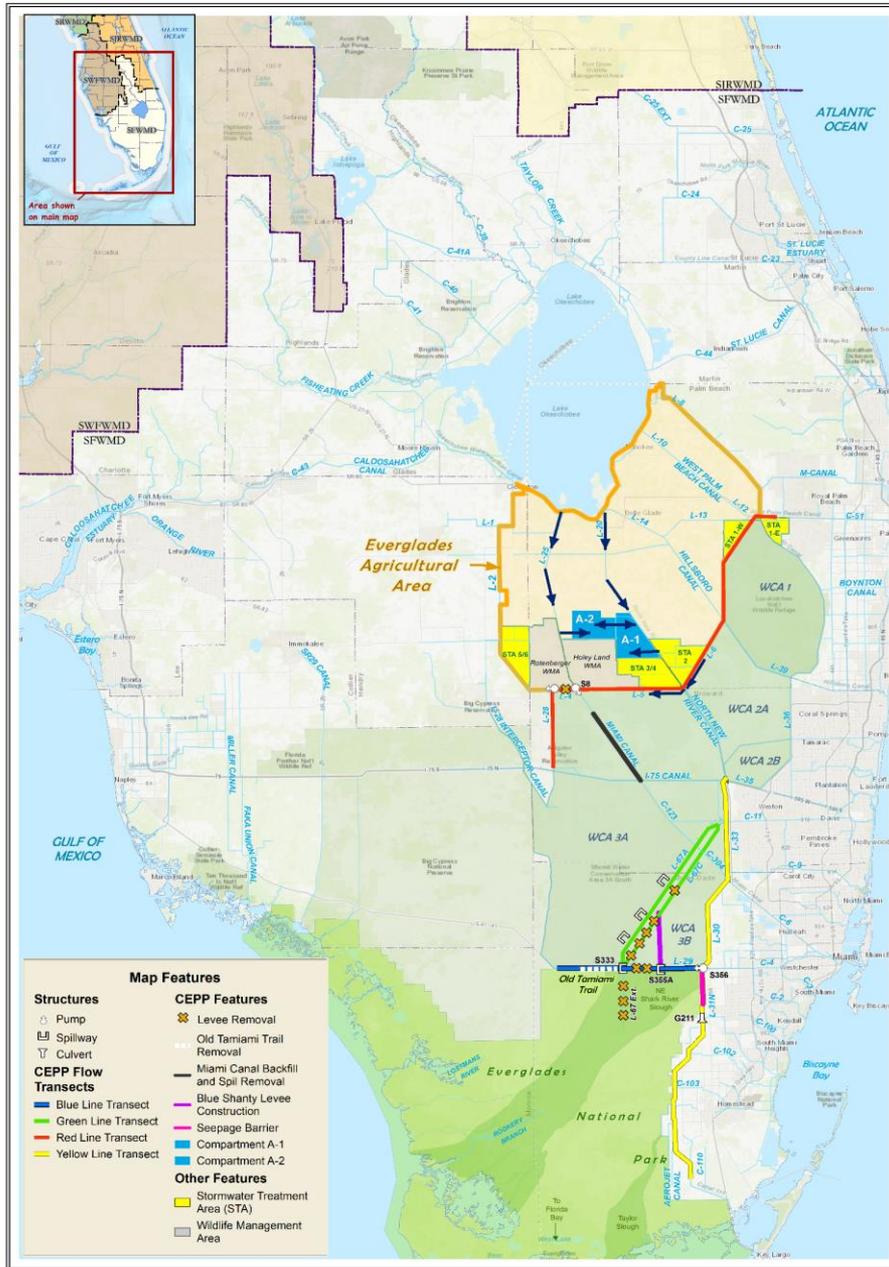
DECEMBER 2016 AUTHORIZATION

- Central Everglades Planning Project (CEPP)

PLANNING EFFORTS

- Loxahatchee River Watershed Restoration
- Western Everglades Restoration
- Lake Okeechobee Watershed Restoration

EVERGLADES AGRICULTURAL AREA STORAGE RESERVOIR

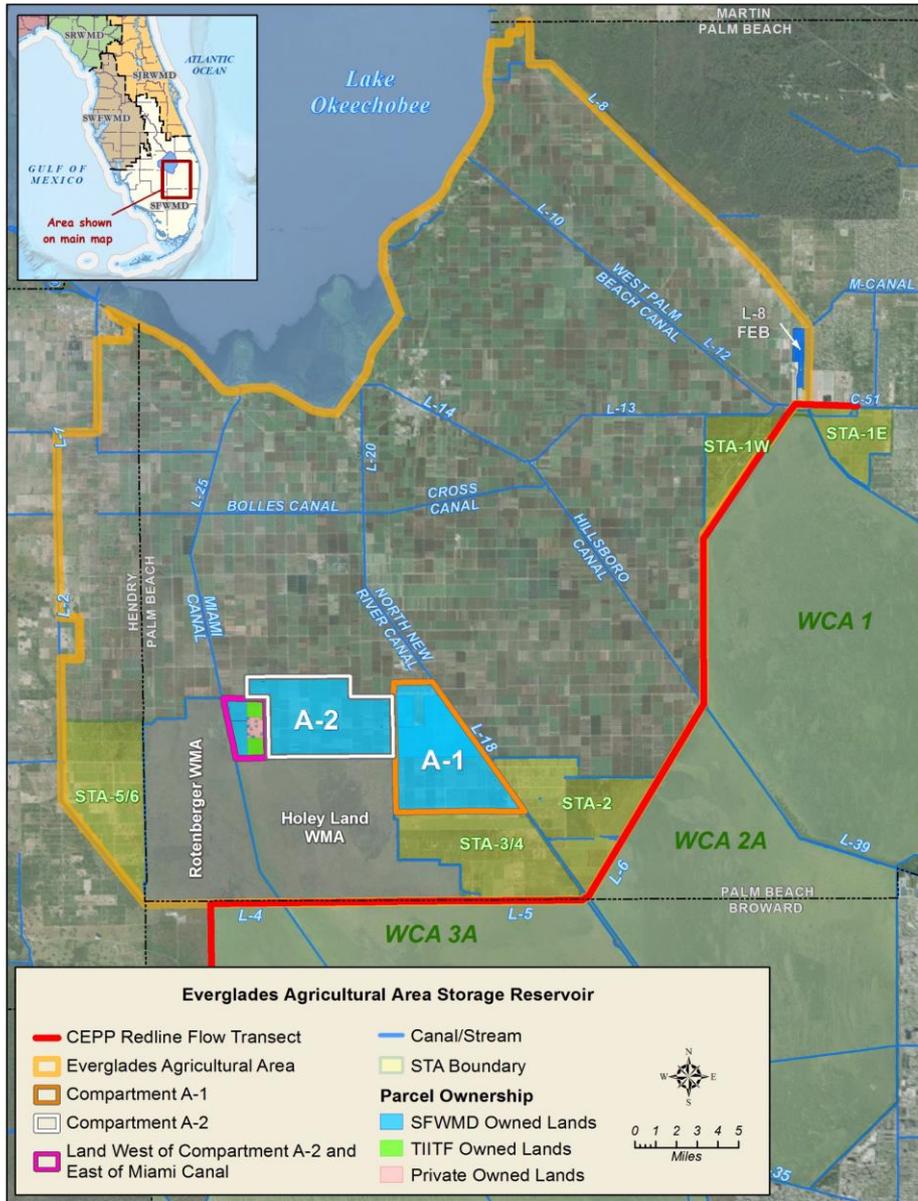


CEPP Recommended Plan ALT 4R2

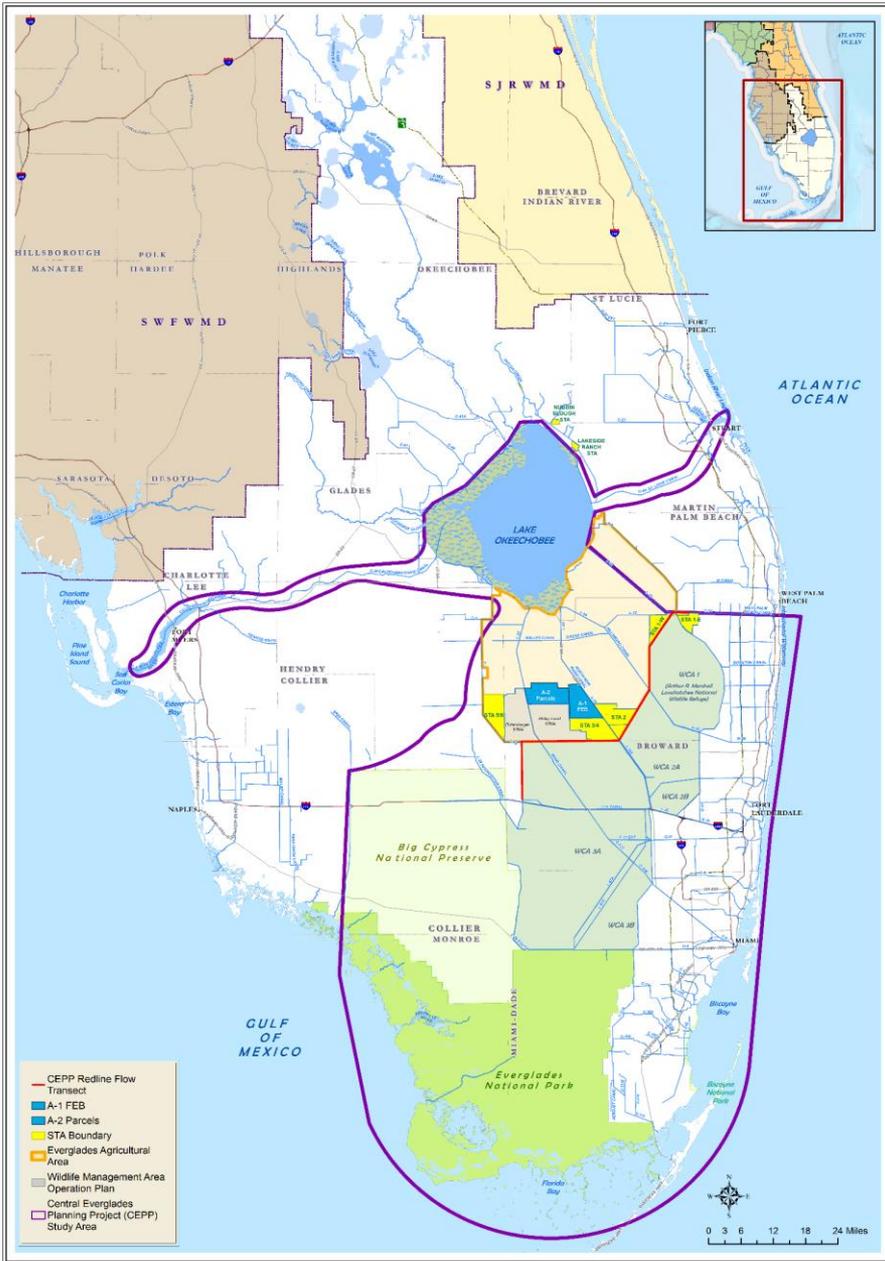
- A-2 Flow Equalization Basin (FEB) (14,000 acres)
- L-6 Canal Flow Diversion
- L-5 Canal Conveyance Improvements
- S-8 Pump Station Complex Modifications
- L-4 Levee Degrade (approx. 2.9 miles) and Pump Station (360 cfs)
- Miami Canal Backfill (approx. 13.5 miles from 1.5 miles south of S-8 to I-75)
- S-333 Spillway Modification (1,150 cfs gated spillway adjacent to S-333; 2,500 cfs total)
- L-29 Canal Gated Spillway (1,230 cfs)
- L-67A Conveyance Structures (three, 500 cfs)
- L-67C Levee Gap (6,000 feet)
- L-67C Levee Degrade (approx. 8 miles)
- Blue Shanty Levee, WCA 3B (approx. 8.5 miles)
- L-29 Levee Degrade (4.3 mi, within Blue Shanty Flowway)
- L-67 Extension Levee Degrade and Canal Backfill (approx. 5.5 miles)
- Old Tamiami Trail Removal (approx. 6 miles)
- S-356 Pump Station Modifications (increase to 1,000 cfs)
- Seepage Barrier, L-31N Levee (approx. 4.2 miles)
- System-wide Operations Refinements

Everglades Agricultural Area Storage Reservoir Feasibility Study

- Next increment of storage and necessary treatment to provide progress towards the level of restoration envisioned for the CERP
- Continue to improve the quantity, quality, timing and distribution of water flows to the Northern Estuaries and central Everglades
- Be consistent with federal program and policy requirements to maintain eligibility for federal cost share



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Everglades Agricultural Area Storage Reservoir Feasibility Study

Proposed Study Area Encompasses:

- Lake Okeechobee & Lake Okeechobee Service Area
- St. Lucie Estuary
- Caloosahatchee Estuary
- Everglades Agricultural Area
- Water Conservation Area 3
- Everglades National Park
- Florida Bay & Biscayne Bay
- Lower East Coast Service Area



Problems

- Impacts to the Northern Estuaries as a result of high-volume discharges from Lake Okeechobee
- Reduced flows to the Everglades system



St. Lucie Inlet



Caloosahatchee River



Project Opportunities and Objectives

- Reduce the high-volume freshwater discharges from Lake Okeechobee to the Northern Estuaries
- Identify storage, treatment and conveyance south of Lake Okeechobee to increase flows to the Everglades system
- Reduce ongoing ecological damage to the Northern Estuaries and Everglades system



Water Conservation Area 3A



Constraints

- WRDA 2000 Sec. 601(h)(5); Sec. 373.1501, F.S.
 - Elimination or transfer of existing legal sources of water must be addressed
 - Maintain existing level of flood protection

- Meet applicable water quality standards
 - Will not cause or contribute to a violation of state water quality standards, permit discharge limits or specific permit conditions
 - Reasonable assurances exist that adverse impacts on flora and fauna will not occur

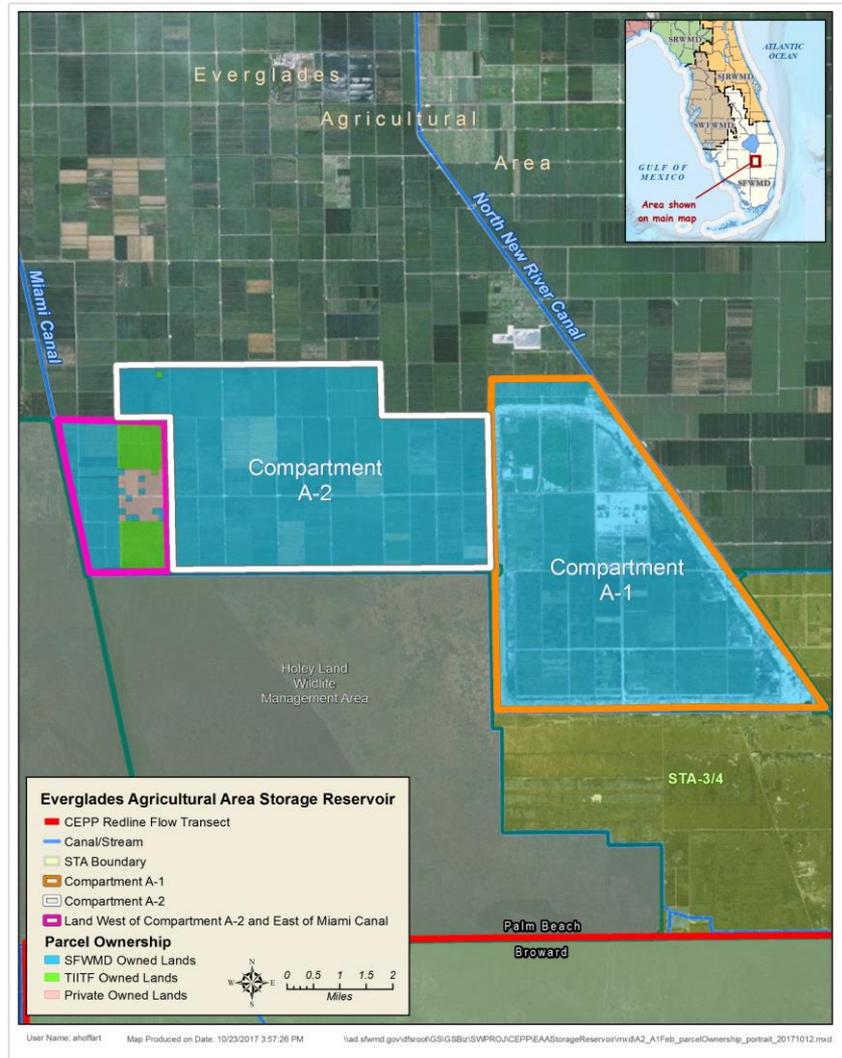
- Remain within federal authorities (CERP)



Florida State Law

Chapter 2017-10 Requirements as it Relates to Post-Authorization Change Report

- Engage landowners on a 'willing seller' basis
- 240,000 acre-feet of storage and necessary treatment on A-2 Parcel plus conveyance improvements
- 360,000 acre-feet of storage and necessary treatment on A-1 and A-2 Parcels plus conveyance improvements
- Report to State Legislature by January 9, 2018
- Submit Post-Authorization Change Report to Congress for approval by October 1, 2018





Planning Process

NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT



National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)

- NEPA is a Federal law requiring Federal agencies to consider the environmental impacts of a proposed project that are:
 - Major Federal Actions that may have a significant affect on the quality of the human environment
- Solicit and consider public views on proposals
- Consult with Tribal, state, and local governments concerning plans
- Provide agencies with a mechanism to coordinate overlapping, jurisdictional responsibilities



Combined NEPA & Planning Process

SIX-STEP PLANNING

- **Step 1:** Problems, Opportunities and Objectives
- **Step 2:** Forecast Existing and Future Conditions
- **Step 3:** Develop Alternative Plans
- **Step 4:** Evaluate Plans
- **Step 5:** Compare Plans
- **Step 6:** Select Plan

NEPA ASSESSMENT

- Purpose and Need
- Affected Environment, No Action Alternative
- Range of Alternatives
- Environmental Effects
- Conclusions – Consultation and Coordination



Combined NEPA & Planning Process

- Section 203 of the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 1986, as amended
- Key Activities and Target Dates:
 - Update to Florida State Legislature - by January 9, 2018
 - Draft Report complete – by January 30, 2018
 - Final Report and submittal to Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works – March 30, 2018
 - ASA(CW) submit report to Congress – October 1, 2018
 - Anticipated Congressional authorization – December 31, 2019



Public Participation Process

NEPA Process &
Public Comment

Governing Board
Meetings

Water Resources
Advisory Commission
(WRAC)

Additional Public
Meetings &
Workshops



Public Meetings

- October 23rd & 26th - Project scoping meetings - Clewiston & West Palm Beach
- October 31st - Project scope, features, planning assumptions, and tools - West Palm Beach
- November 2nd - Water Resources Advisory Committee (WRAC) meeting - West Palm Beach
- November 9th - Governing Board Meeting - Doral



Public Comment Opportunities

- Public Comments Cards
- Email Address EAareservoir@sfwmd.gov
- Mailing address:
 - Mike Albert, Project Manager
 - South Florida Water Management District
 - 3301 Gun Club Road, MSC 8312
 - West Palm Beach, FL 33406
- Scoping comment period ends **November 22, 2017**
- Additional information available at www.sfwmd.gov/EAareservoir



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Discussion

www.sfwmd.gov/EAAreservoir