



# Everglades Agricultural Area Storage Reservoir Feasibility Study

Matt Morrison

Federal Bureau Chief

Office of Everglades Policy & Coordination

October 26, 2017



# 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

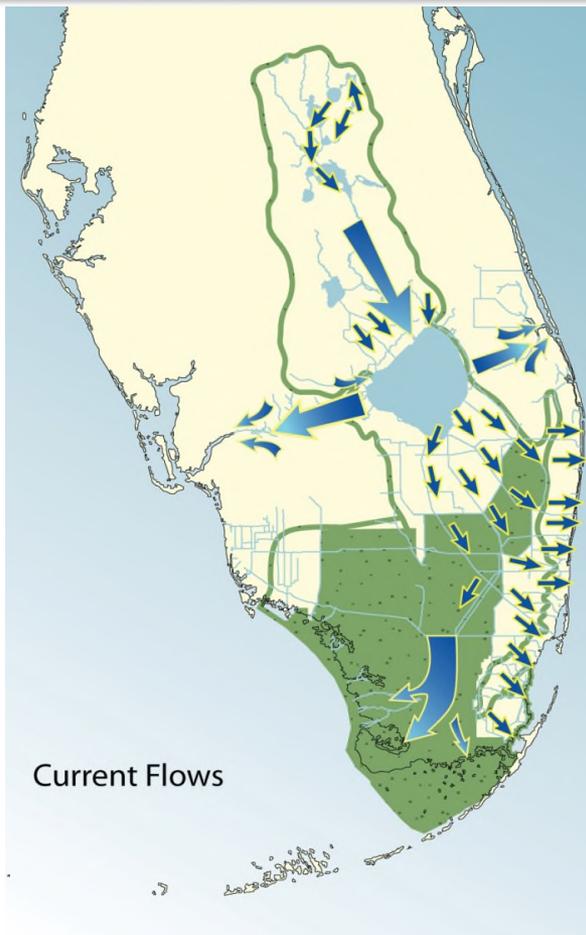
# **SOUTH FLORIDA ECOSYSTEM PROJECT**



# System-wide Perspective



**HISTORIC  
FLOW**

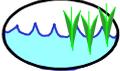


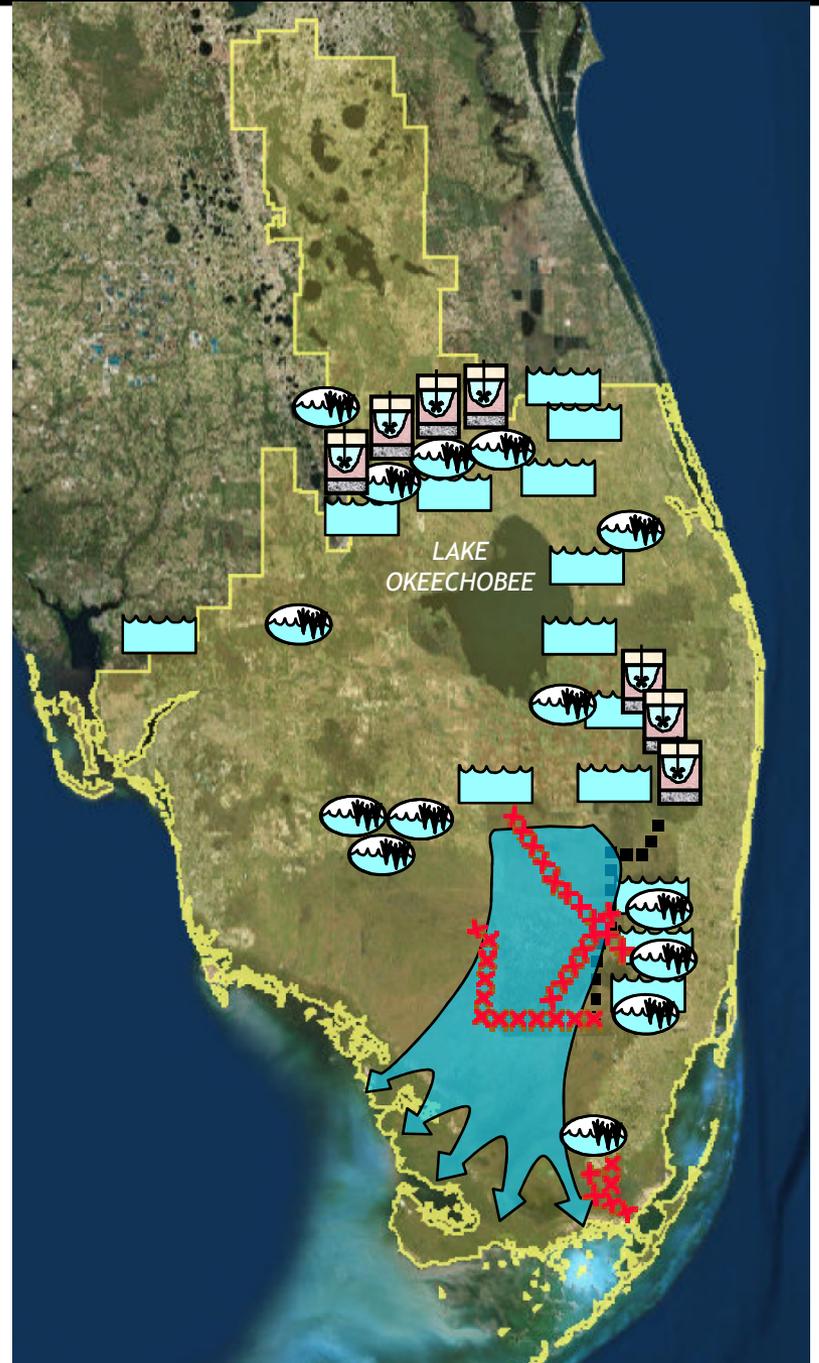
**CURRENT  
FLOW**



**RESTORED  
FLOW**

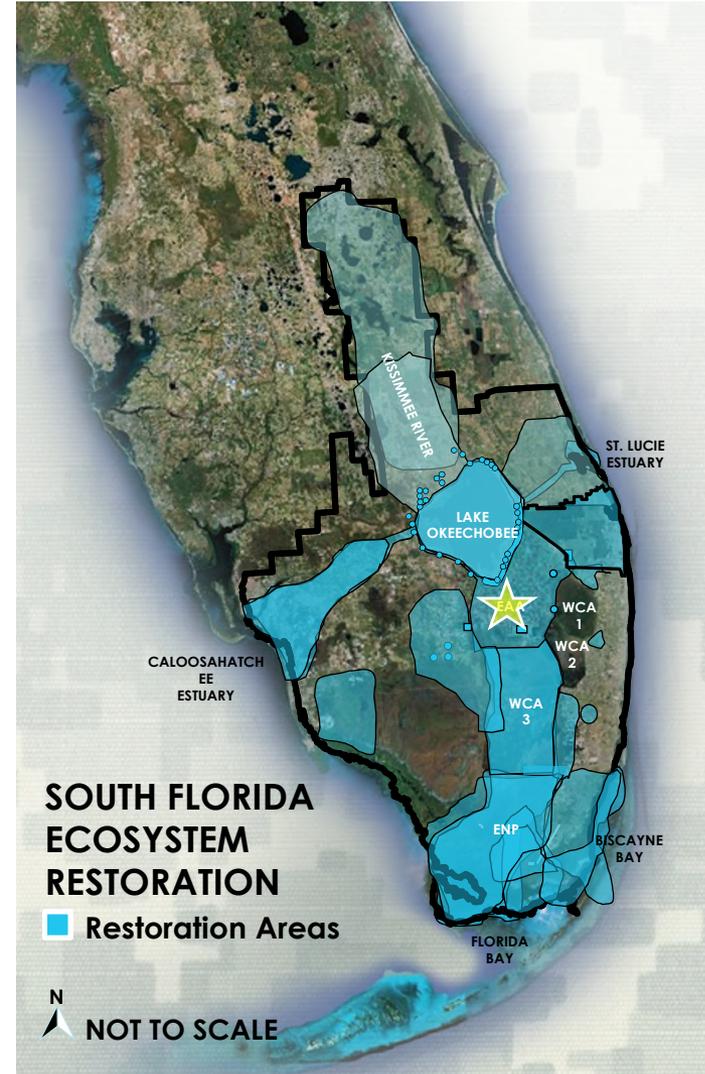
# Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP)

- 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

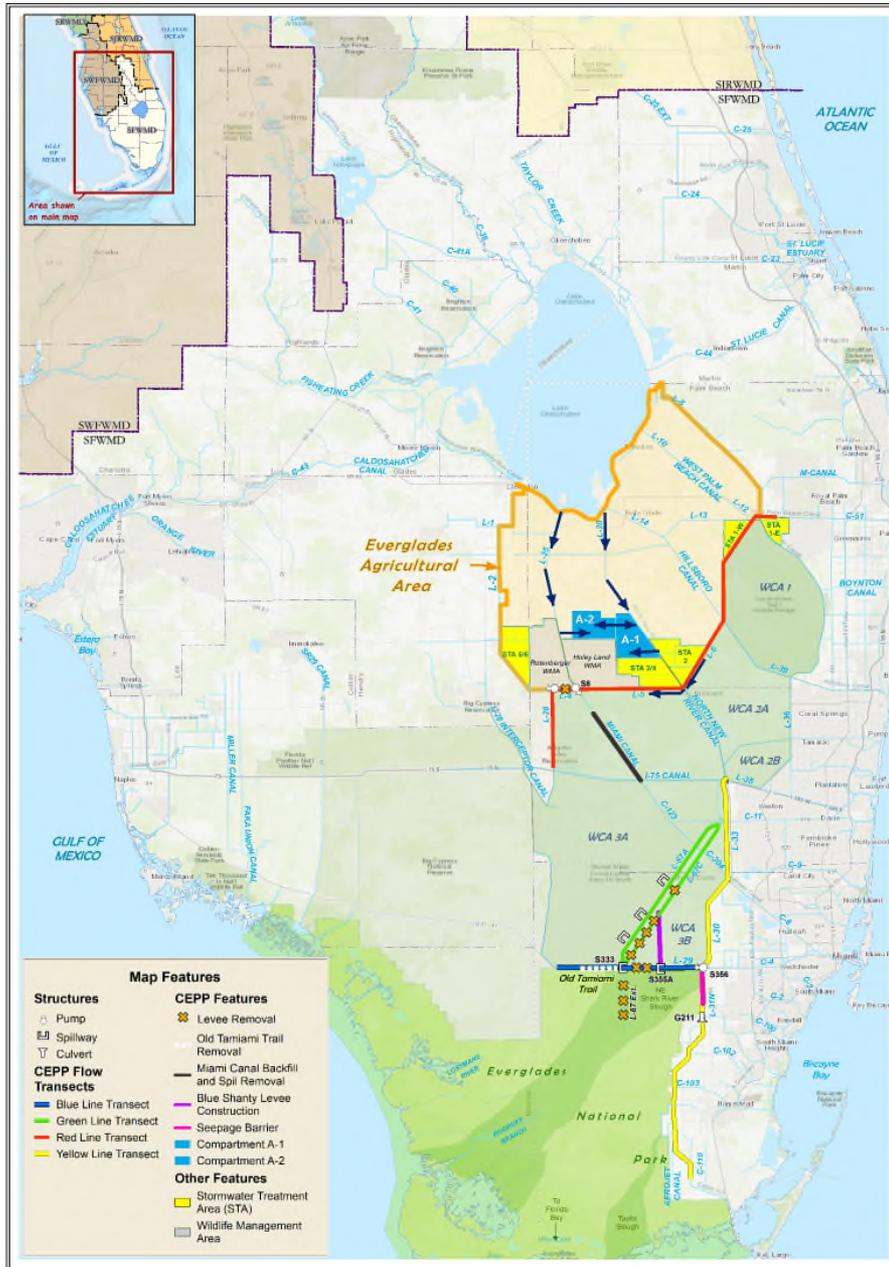
## DECEMBER 2016 AUTHORIZATION

- Central Everglades Planning Project (CEPP)

## PLANNING EFFORTS

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

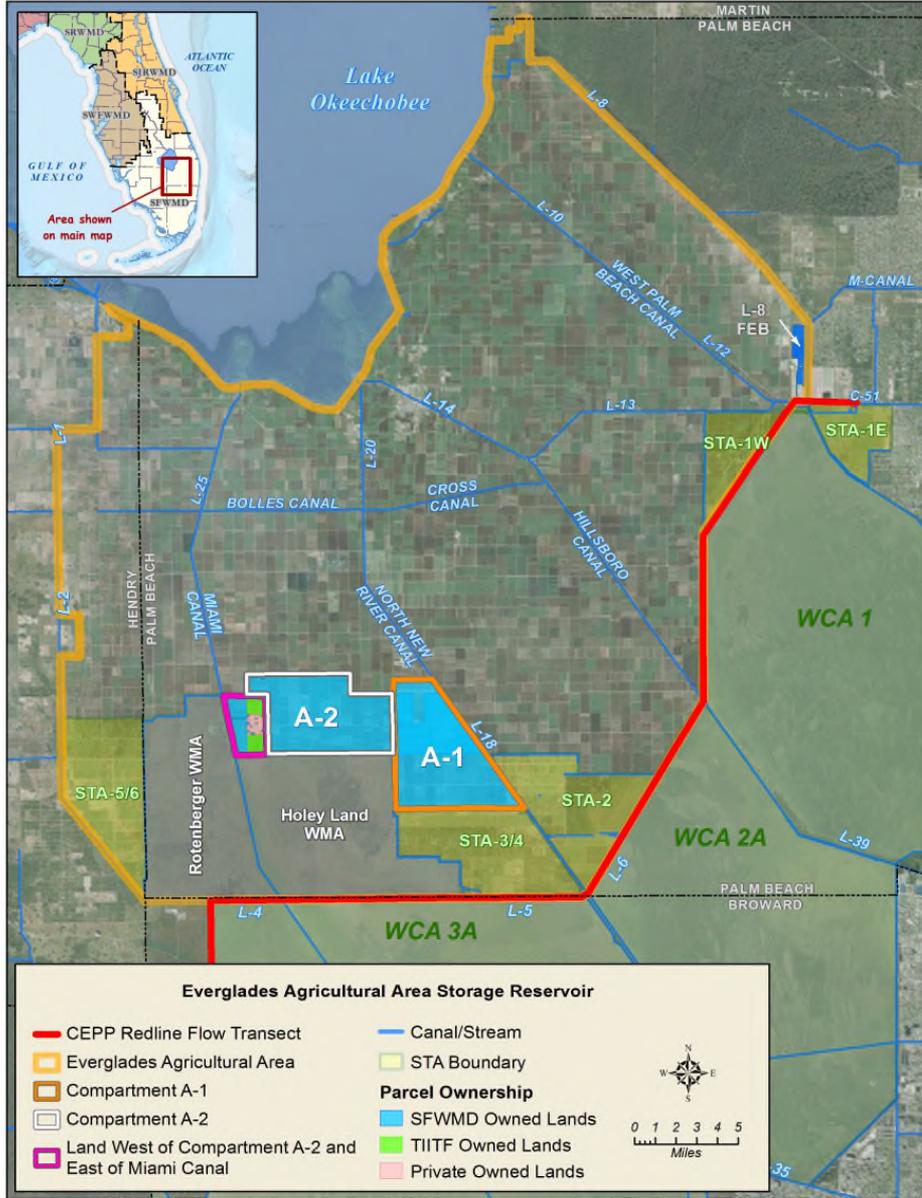
## EVERGLADES AGRICULTURAL AREA STORAGE RESERVOIR



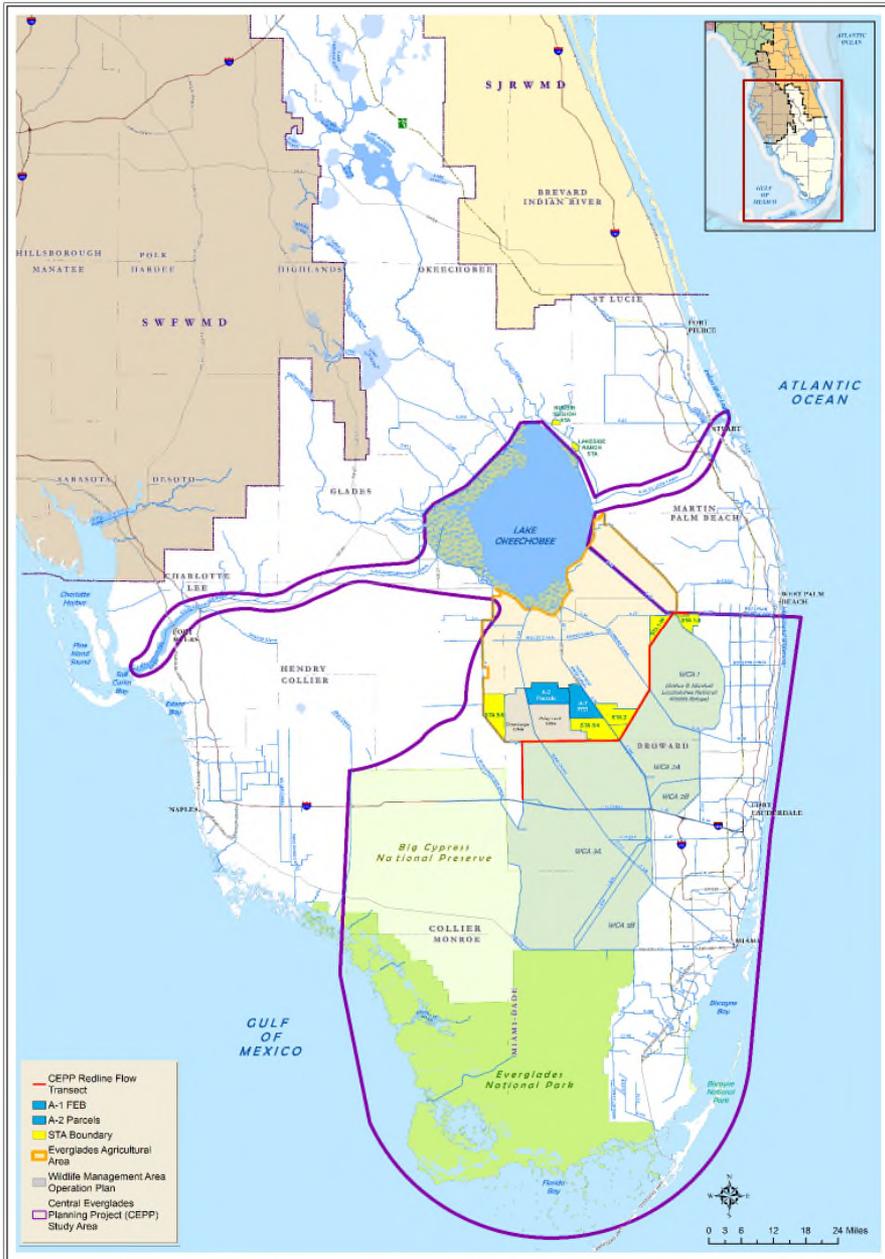
## CEPP Recommended Plan ALT 4R2

- 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



# 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

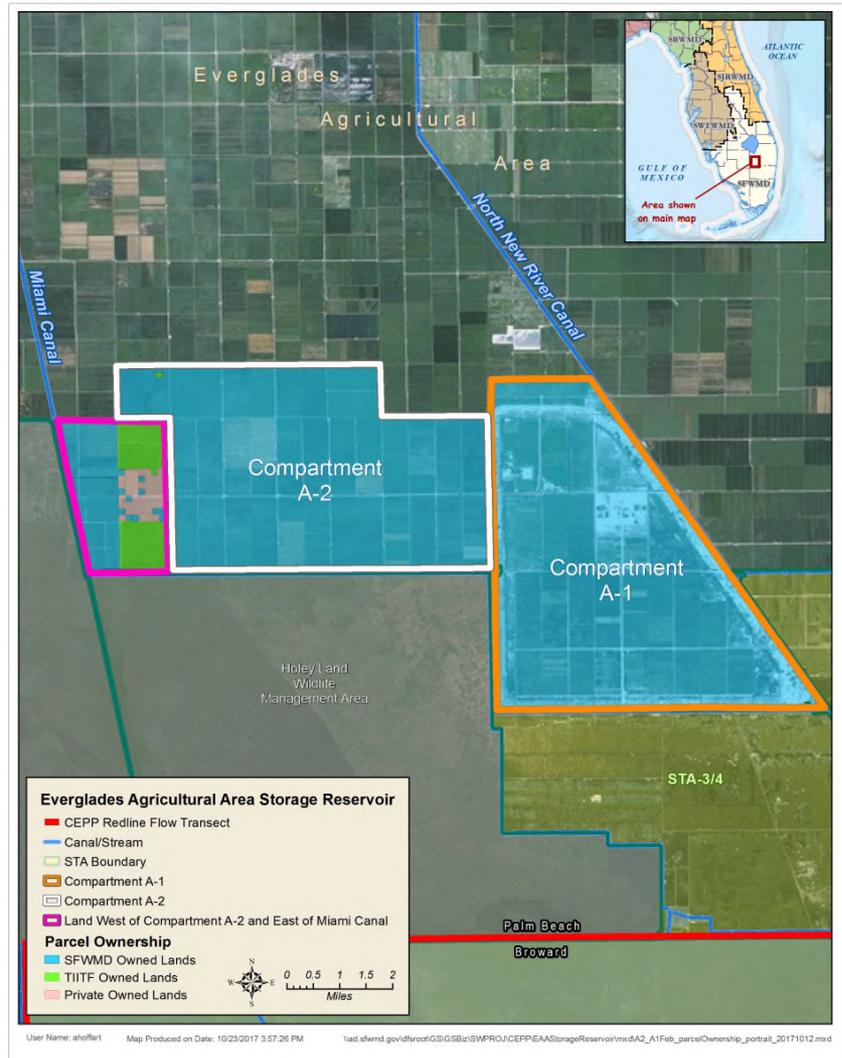
- WRDA 2000 Sec. 601(h)(5); Sec. 373.1501, F.S.
  - Elimination or transfer of existing legal sources of water must be addressed
  - Maintain existing level of flood protection
- Meet applicable water quality standards
  - Will not cause or contribute to a violation of state water quality standards, 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 and Project Schedule

- 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



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



# Public Participation Process

NEPA Process &  
Public Comment

Governing Board  
Meetings

Water Resources  
Advisory Commission  
(WRAC)

Additional Public  
Meetings &  
Workshops



# Public Comment Opportunities

- Public Comments Cards
- Email Address [EAareservoir@sfwmd.gov](mailto: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](http://www.sfwmd.gov/EAareservoir)



Planning Process

# **UPCOMING PUBLIC MEETINGS**



# Public Meetings

- October 23<sup>rd</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> - Project scoping meetings - Clewiston & West Palm Beach
- October 31<sup>st</sup> - Project scope, features, planning assumptions, tools and plan formulation - West Palm Beach
- November 2<sup>nd</sup> - Water Resources Advisory Committee (WRAC) meeting - West Palm Beach
- November 9<sup>th</sup> - Governing Board Meeting – Doral
- **NOTE:** Regularly scheduled Project Delivery Team Meetings with governmental agencies will begin in November



# Everglades Agricultural Area Storage Reservoir Feasibility Study

## Discussion

[www.sfwmd.gov/EAAreservoir](http://www.sfwmd.gov/EAAreservoir)