

DRAFT Restoration Strategies Program Update

September 2018

The South Florida Water Management District's (SFWMD) \$880 million Restoration Strategies Program includes the design and construction of a suite of regional water storage, treatment and conveyance improvement projects that will improve water quality in America's Everglades. The program also includes a robust Science Plan consisting of research activities focused on investigating the critical factors that influence phosphorus (P) reduction and better understanding the sustainability of P removal performance at low P concentrations. The strategies also feature implementation of additional sub-regional source controls – where pollution is reduced at the source – in areas where P levels in stormwater runoff have been historically higher. Through August 2018, total program expenditures are approximately \$299 million and all projects are scheduled to be complete by December 2025.

Eastern Flowpath

Stormwater Treatment Area 1 West (STA-1W) Expansion #1

Construction is 84 percent complete; Completion expected December 2018

Stormwater Treatment Area 1 West (STA-1W) Expansion #2

Design activities will begin by October 2018

G-341 Related Conveyance Improvements

Bolles East Canal Segment 3 (~3.2 miles) construction is 77 percent complete and expected to be complete by February 2019; Design of Segment 4 is ongoing and construction is expected to start by February 2019; A construction contract to replace the Jet Farms Bridge was approved at the August 2018 Governing Board meeting

Central Flowpath

A-1 Flow Equalization Basin (FEB)

Operational testing and monitoring was completed and routine operations began in July 2018

Western Flowpath

Design activities for STA-5/6 Internal Improvements began in April 2018; Design activities for the C-139 FEB will begin by October 2018

Additional Components

Stormwater Treatment Area (STA) Science Plan

Of the nine initial studies, three have been completed, others are nearing completion and two new studies have been initiated; The 2018 Science Plan Update was completed in July 2018; Preliminary results to date are as follows:

- STA soil amendments could potentially reduce P, however costs are high and impacts to downstream systems are uncertain
- STA canals do not appear to significantly affect inflow or outflow P concentrations
- Periphyton-based STA performance appears resilient despite higher flow pulses and extended periods of high flow
- increases in P were detected in STA outflow regions, however the source of increase continues to be studied
- deficiencies and biases were determined for existing P sampling methods; other validation activities will continue

Sub-Regional Source Controls

Development of sub-regional source control concepts and coordination with stakeholders is ongoing

Mecca Impoundment

Included as part of CERP's Loxahatchee River Watershed Restoration Project tentatively selected plan that was presented at the August 2018 Governing Board meeting; On August 9, 2018, the Governing Board approved a letter of support for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers request for a waiver for an extension of time and an increase in budget to complete the planning process for the project

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Consent Order¹ Milestones
(with deadlines or completion dates ranging from October 2017 through September 2019)

| Project: Activity | Deadline | Date Completed | Days +/- ² |
|---|------------|----------------|-----------------------|
| Eastern Flowpath | | | |
| STA-1W Expansion #1: Construction Status Report | 3/1/2018 | 2/23/2018 | +6 |
| STA-1W Expansion #1: Complete Construction | 12/31/2018 | | |
| STA-1W Expansion #2: Complete Land Acquisition | 3/31/2018 | 1/31/2018 | +59 |
| STA-1W Expansion #2: Initiate Design | 10/1/2018 | | |
| L-8 Divide Structure: Complete Construction | 9/30/2018 | 7/7/2016 | +815 |
| S-375 Expansion: Complete Construction | 12/31/2018 | 4/3/2017 | +637 |
| Central Flowpath | | | |
| A-1 FEB: Operational Monitoring and Testing Period Complete | 7/29/2018 | 7/29/2018 | 0 |
| Western Flowpath | | | |
| C-139 FEB: Initiate Design | 10/31/2018 | | |
| STA-5/6 Internal Improvements: Initiate Design | 10/31/2019 | 4/27/2018 | +552 |

1: FDEP Consent Order 12-1148 (associated with National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit No. FL0778451-001-FL7A/RA) and FDEP Consent Order 12-1149 (associated with Everglades Forever Act Permit No. 0311207)

2: + = days ahead; - = days behind

Photo of the Month



STA-1W Expansion #1 – Outflow Canal and Cell 8 – looking north (August 2018)