



Reviving  
*THE river OF grass*

## River of Grass Phase I Planning

Water Resources Advisory Commission Issues Workshop  
February 19, 2009



# Reviving

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## Vision Statement

Kenneth G. Ammon, P.E.,  
Deputy Executive Director, Everglades Restoration

# River of Grass - Vision Statement



- Maximize restoration opportunities for the South Florida ecosystem by acquiring strategically located lands, establishing a managed system of water storage and treatment, and restoring a historic hydrologic connection to benefit America's Everglades, Lake Okeechobee, and the St. Lucie and Caloosahatchee rivers and estuaries.

# River of Grass Goals

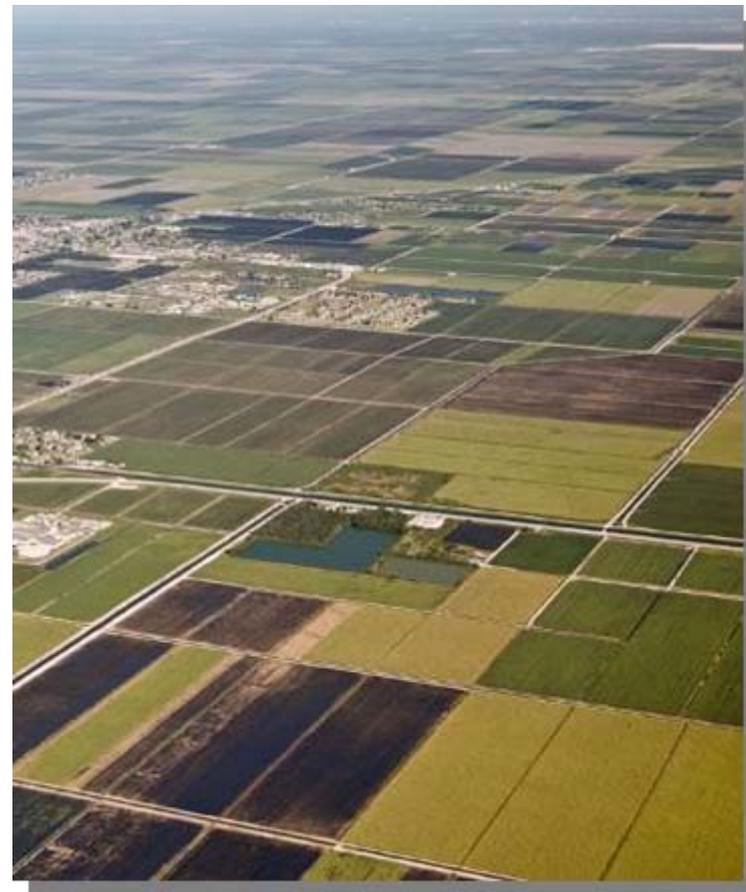
- Increase the availability of water storage to reduce harmful freshwater discharges from Lake Okeechobee to Florida's coastal rivers and estuaries and to redistribute more water to the south to restore the southern Everglades.
- Increase the availability of storage and treatment to enhance the delivery of cleaner water to the Everglades.
- Prevent harmful phosphorus flows from entering Lake Okeechobee and the Everglades.
- Eliminate the need for "back-pumping" water into Lake Okeechobee.

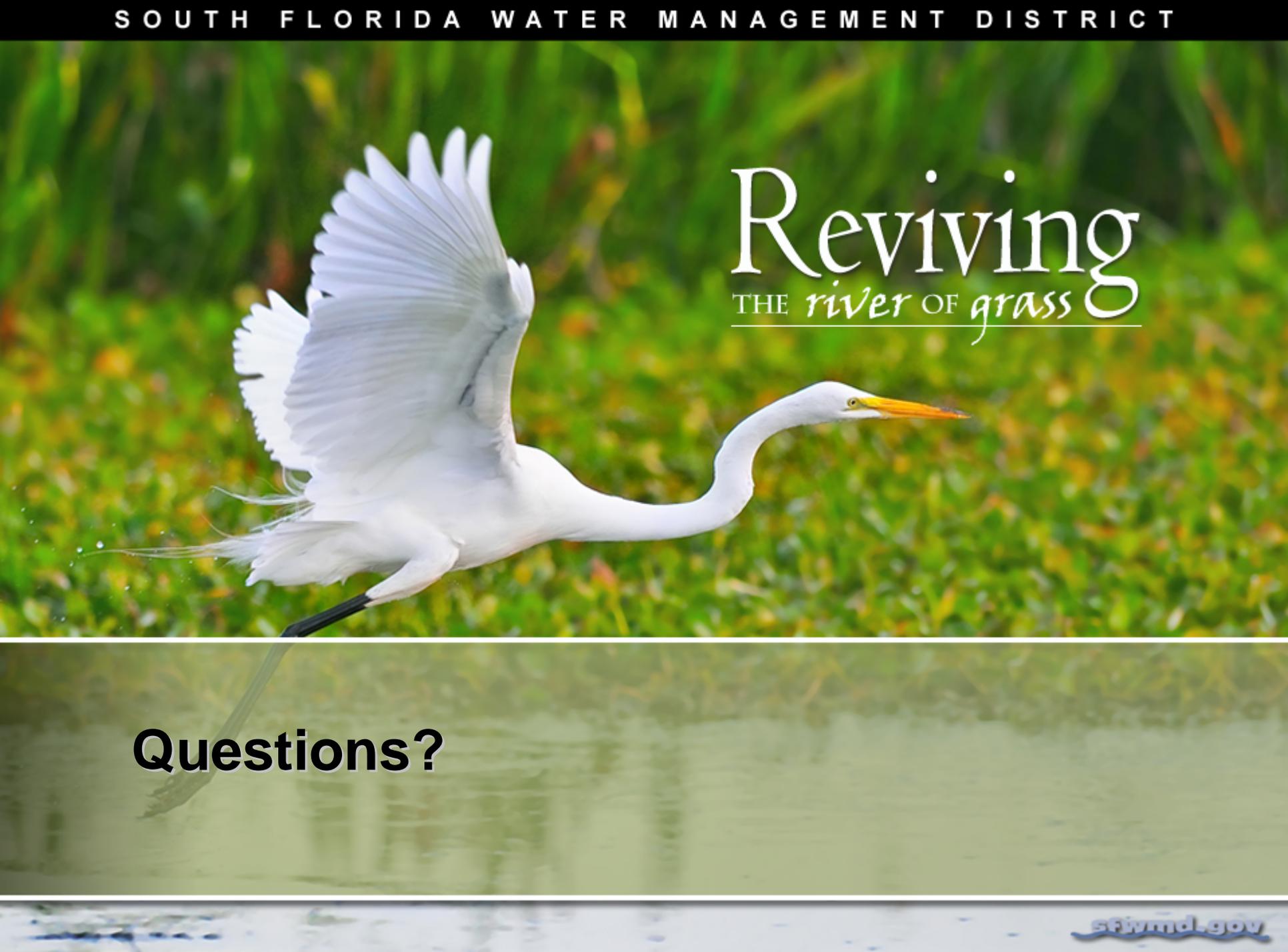
## River of Grass Goals, *cont.*

- Improve the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' options for managing Lake Okeechobee within a more desirable ecological range.
- Provide additional water storage alternatives to relieve some pressures on the Herbert Hoover Dike while continuing to pursue timely ~~during its~~ rehabilitation.
- Support continued regional agriculture, as well as economic diversification, where viable.

# Phase I Planning Process Scope

- Determine the range and general location of acreage needed north of the Everglades Protection Area for storing, treating and delivering the water flows needed to restore the Everglades, while enhancing ecological values conditions in Lake Okeechobee and the northern estuaries.





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**Questions?**

A white egret is captured in mid-flight, its wings fully extended, against a background of lush green grass. The bird's long neck is curved forward, and its yellow beak is pointed. The overall scene is bright and natural.

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## **Problems, Objectives and Constraints**

Tommy B. Strowd, P.E.,  
Assistant Deputy Executive Director, Everglades Restoration

A white egret is captured in mid-flight, its wings fully extended, against a background of lush green grass. The bird is positioned on the left side of the frame, facing right. The text 'Reviving THE river OF grass' is overlaid on the right side of the image.

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## **Next Meeting/Future Meeting Topics**

Temperince Morgan, River of Grass Project Liaison/Northern Everglades Program Implementation Manager

# Next Meeting- Date and Location

## Next WRAC Issues Workshop

**March 4, 2009**

**South Florida Water Management District**

**Auditorium**

**West Palm Beach, FL**

**10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.**

# Next Meeting- Meeting Topics

## Meeting Topics

- Modeling Tools
  - Performance Measures and Indicators
  - Performance Relationships
- GIS Coverage's
- Presentations
  - Audubon

# Phase I Planning

## Future Meetings and Topics

### Future Meetings

(10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.)

- March 20, IFAS, LaBelle
- March 31/April 1, Royal Palm Beach Cultural Center, Royal Palm Beach, FL

### Future Meeting Topics

- Local Governments Presentations
- Identification and Evaluation of Alternative Configurations
- Modeling Assessments
- Cost Estimating
- Presentations and Topics as Identified by Participants

# Phase I Planning

## www.sfwmd.gov/riverofgrass



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### Restoration Project Planning

On December 16, 2008, the South Florida Water Management District Governing Board voted to accept a contract with the United States Sugar Corporation to acquire more than 180,000 acres of agricultural land for Everglades restoration. This historic transaction provides water managers with the unprecedented opportunity to store and treat water on a scale never before envisioned for the benefit of America's Everglades, Lake Okeechobee and the St. Lucie and Caloosahatchee rivers and estuaries.

With full public involvement, the first phase of *River of Grass* restoration project planning is under way. Through a series of [Water Resources Advisory Commission](#) Issues Workshops, the Phase 1 planning process will determine viable configurations for constructing a managed system of water storage and treatment to support ecosystem restoration efforts.

Inform  
decision  
planning

#### RELAT

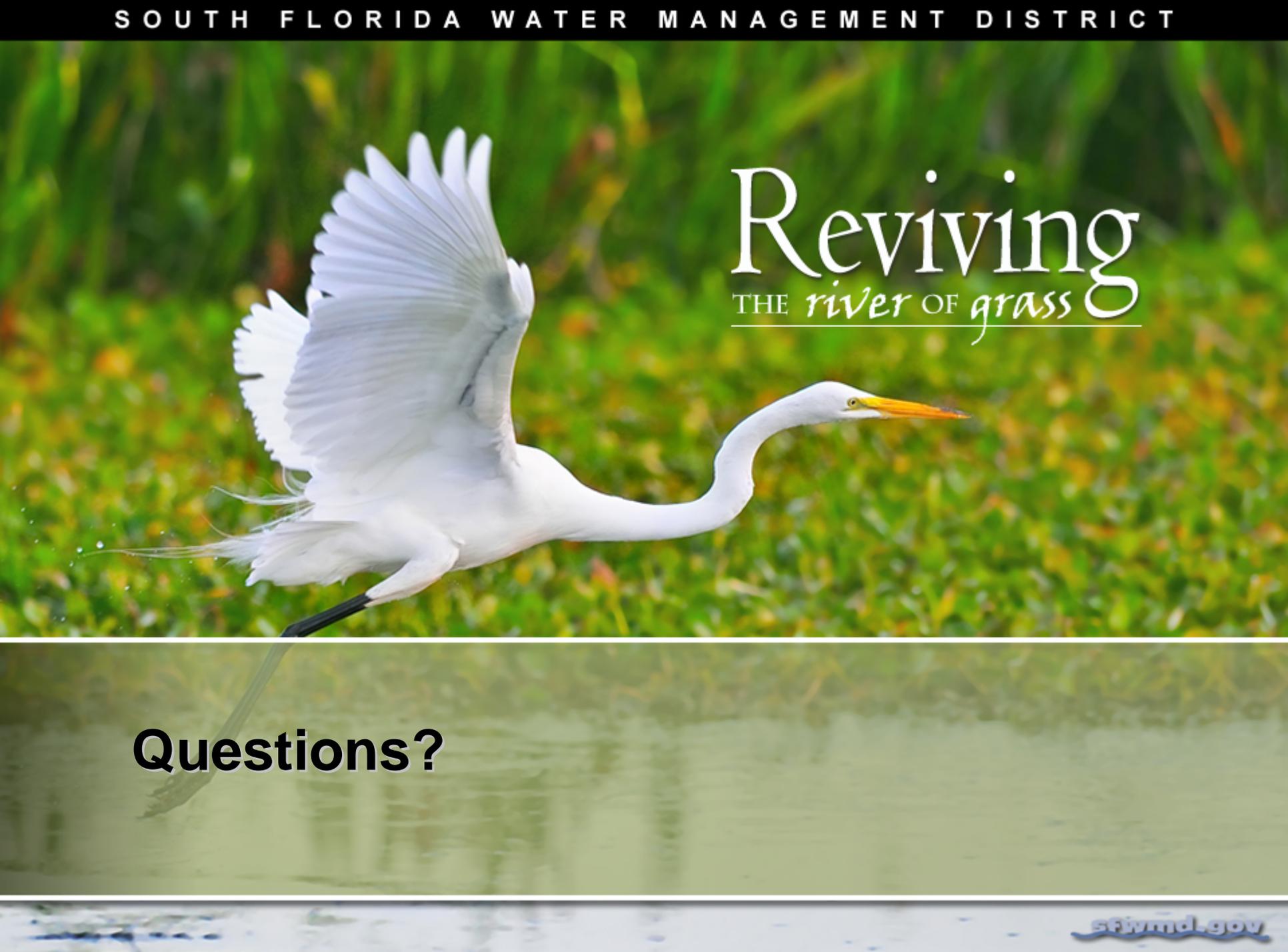
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#### RELATED MATERIALS

- ☞ [Public Workshops: Dates, Agendas, Presentations, Minutes](#)
- ☞ [News, Fact Sheets, Public Information](#)
- ☞ [Reservoir Sizing and Operations Screening \(RESOPS\) Model](#)



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**Questions?**