

October 2019 EAA Reservoir Project

Technical Progress Report

The Everglades Agricultural Area (EAA) Reservoir Project is an important part of restoring the Everglades and will dramatically reduce the volume of damaging discharges from Lake Okeechobee to the St. Lucie and Caloosahatchee estuaries. The project includes a storage reservoir and stormwater treatment area (STA) and will provide water storage, remove harmful nutrient pollution, and conveyance for an additional 370,000 acre-feet per year on average.

The project is a joint Everglades restoration project between South Florida Water Management District and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. SFWMD is building the water-cleansing STA, which will remove harmful nutrients and move additional water south through the Southern Everglades before the reservoir component is completed. The conveyance improvements and the STA are expected to be completed by 2023. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will construct the storage reservoir component. The reservoir is expected to be completed by 2028.



Status: Expedited, On Track

The South Florida Water Management District continues expediting this important project. SFWMD technical staff are working in close coordination with U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to complete the Everglades Agricultural Area (EAA) Project Follow-Up Report (sometimes referred to as the "19-month report"). The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is currently performing the federally-required National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review to assess the environmental impacts. SFWMD is already conducting geotechnical work on the project site and will begin site preparations as soon as project permits are approved by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The District hopes to have permits from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers between January and May of 2020, and District staff are actively working to expedite these permits. Most of the project site is owned by the District and is currently leased for agricultural use. The District received a lease termination from the lessee that accommodates the District's expedited construction schedule.

Recent Actions Completed to Advance EAA Reservoir Project

- Issued a solicitation for site preparation work for STA component of the project in October 2019.
- Updated the seepage analysis and completed the Potential Failure Mode Analysis (PFMA) for the STA component of the project.
- Expedited site investigations of Miami Canal and North New River Canal Conveyance Improvements.
 - Survey and Geotechnical investigations in December 2018.
 - Hydrology & Hydraulics Modeling in July 2019.
- Expedited design of the STA.
 - Geotechnical Data Report for Inflow/Outflow Canal submitted in September 2019.
 - Draft Survey Drawings and Report completed in October 2019.
 - Inflow/Outflow Canal Preliminary Design on track for October 2019.
 - STA Preliminary Design on track for March 2020.
- Applied for Corps permit for the STA in August 2019.

Next Steps and Upcoming Milestones

- Receive federal permits from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and begin site preparation activity, expected January-May 2020.
- Final design of the STA is expected to be completed by December 2020.
- Construction of the STA is expected to begin by January 2021.
- Continued consultation with the Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida and Seminole Tribe of Florida.
- Construction of the inflow/outflow canal for STA is expected early 2020, pending permits from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.
- A final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will be available by March 2020 for public review. A Record of Decision would follow by May 2020.