

PUBLIC MEETING – 8.5 Square Mile Area Project

Date: Wednesday, 19 November 2008

Location: John D. Campbell Agricultural Center, 18710 SW 288th St., Homestead, FL 33030

Time: Presentation – 7:00 p.m.

The US Army Corps of Engineers, Jacksonville District, is currently in the process of developing an Interim Water Control Plan for the 8.5 Square Mile Area Project. A public meeting will be held to present a Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) on the proposed operating criteria. The meeting will serve to gather public comments on the Draft EA and public input on these proposed water management operations that will be considered in the development of the Interim Water Control Plan.

Summary of Proposed Interim Operating Criteria for the 8.5 Square Mile Area Project

Introduction:

The 8.5 Square Mile Area Project component is the result of the Modified Water Deliveries to Everglades National Park, 8.5 Square Mile Area General Reevaluation Report and Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (July 2000). One of the other components of the Modified Water Deliveries to Everglades National Park Project is the future Tamiami Trail Modifications component which will eventually provide increased water from Water Conservation Area 3 to Northeast Shark River Slough. The 8.5 Square Mile Area features are designed to mitigate for the increased flood risk associated with these planned increased water levels in North East Shark River Slough due the future Tamiami Trail Modifications.

Main Features of the 8.5 Square Mile Area Project:

An exterior levee (L-357W), between Northeast Shark River Slough and the 8.5 Square Mile Area (SMA) acts as a barrier between 8.5 SMA Project Area residents and Everglades National Park. A seepage collection canal (C-357), between L-357W and L-31N is intended to maintain surface and groundwater levels between these two levees. A pump station (S-357), at the most southern point of C-357 pumps seepage water (collected and drawn into C-357) from C-357 into a detention cell which is contained by the L-359 levees. The S-357 pump capacity is 575 cubic feet per second (cfs) and consists of 4 diesel pumps (125 cfs each) and one electric pump (75 cfs).

8.5 Square Mile Area Project Proposed Interim Operating Criteria:

The water management operating criteria proposed below are interim and are subject to change prior to completion of the ongoing long-term construction of the MWD Project and the C-111 Project. The 8.5 SMA Project features will work in conjunction with the existing S-331 pump station which is the flood control structure for the immediate area.

The objective of the proposed operating criteria is to maintain the surface and groundwater levels between L-357W and L-31N (within the 8.5 SMA) at the same levels expected prior to the implementation of any MWD Project components, while preserving hydroperiods near the 8.5 SMA. S-357 pumping operations will be based on C-357 water levels at the Las Palmas gage and the G-3273 gage (located in Everglades National Park). The G-3273 gage defines “wet and dry” conditions as greater than or less than 6.8 feet, National Geodetic Vertical Datum of 1929 (NGVD), respectively. Under both “wet and dry” conditions, S-357 will not pump more than 500 acre-feet per day. S-357 pumps will be turned off to prevent overflow of the detention cell. A summary of the interim operating criteria is shown below:

During “wet” conditions, S-357 may be operated up to 500 acre-feet per day to maintain C-357 at the Las Palmas gage between 5.2 and 4.9 feet, NGVD. The pump(s) will be off when the Las Palmas gage is less than 4.9 feet, NGVD.

During “dry” conditions, S-357 may be operated up to 500 acre-feet per day to maintain C-357 at the Las Palmas gage between 5.7 and 5.4 feet, NGVD. The pump(s) will be off when the Las Palmas gage is less than 5.4 feet, NGVD.