



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers**  
Jacksonville District

# News Release

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*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*

## **U.S. Army Corps of Engineers holds public meeting on Everglades Agricultural Area project**

**Jacksonville, Fla.** -- The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Jacksonville District, will hold a public meeting on the Everglades Agricultural Area (EAA) Storage Reservoirs Project, Wednesday, March 15, 2006, 6:30 p.m. at the Everglades Research and Education Center of the University of Florida / IFAS. The facility is located on County Road 880 (also known as 3200 E. Palm Beach Road), 2.5 miles southeast of Belle Glade.

The meeting will begin with an open house for the public to view displays and to meet project team members. Beginning at 7 p.m., Corps staff members will give presentations on the project's revised Draft Integrated Project Implementation Report (PIR) / Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and the proposed Draft Project Operating Manual. A public comment period will follow the presentations.

Phase I of the EAA Storage Reservoirs project is just one of more than fifty projects of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP). The purpose of the EAA Storage Reservoirs project is to capture, store and redistribute fresh water previously lost to tide and to regulate the quantity, timing and distribution of water for environmental deliveries. The benefits of the project include a reduction of Lake Okeechobee flood control releases to the St. Lucie and Caloosahatchee estuaries; improved timing of environmental water deliveries to the Water Conservation Areas (WCAs), including reducing damaging flood releases from the EAA to the WCAs and back pumping to Lake Okeechobee; and to provide an alternate source of water other than Lake Okeechobee to meet agricultural irrigation demands.

All interested individuals, groups and agencies are invited to attend and will be given an opportunity to make public comments following the presentations. Spanish translators will be available throughout the presentations and to provide assistance for those wishing to make public comments. Written comments will also be accepted during the 45-day public comment period. Comments must be received or postmarked by midnight Monday, April 10, 2006 at the following address:

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or by e-mail to: [EAAComments@evergladesplan.org](mailto:EAAComments@evergladesplan.org)

For information on the public meeting, please call 561-683-1577, extension 24. To view or receive a copy of the project documents, please visit the official website of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan at [www.evergladesplan.org](http://www.evergladesplan.org).

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