



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers**  
Jacksonville District

# News Release

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*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*

## **U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and South Florida Water Management District host ribbon cutting ceremony for Taylor Creek/Nubbin Slough Water Retention and Phosphorus Removal Project**

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) will hold a ribbon cutting ceremony to mark the completion of construction at the Lake Okeechobee Water Retention and Phosphorus Removal Project at Taylor Creek/Nubbin Slough. Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works, John Paul Woodley, Jr., and Secretary of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Colleen Castille, will be the keynote speakers.

The ceremony will be held on Thursday, April 27, 2006 at 1:00 p.m. at the Taylor Creek site, US Hwy. 441 north of Okeechobee.

The Lake Okeechobee Water Retention and Phosphorus Removal Project at Taylor Creek/Nubbin Slough is a critical restoration project. The purpose of these Stormwater Treatment Areas is to reduce phosphorus loadings into the project's basin and in the water entering Lake Okeechobee.

"This milestone can be likened to one 'small step' and a 'giant leap' forward in our journey to restore America's Everglades," said Woodley. "It's wonderful to see this fruit of our labor and look forward to the day when we will claim victory in this worthy endeavor. Everglades restoration is a national priority, and working together, we expect

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nothing less than total success."

"It is, indeed, an exciting day as we join with our partners to dedicate these stormwater treatment areas into service to improve the water quality of Lake Okeechobee and the estuaries. These projects are an important first step in the state's aggressive program now under way to restore our treasured natural resources," said SFWMD Executive Director Carol Ann Wehle. "We recognize that the issue facing our environment today cannot be solved through a business-as-usual approach. As a result, we have completely committed the district's resources and energies to the turn-dirt construction projects that will get our 'water right.' We challenge other governments and groups to join us in our commitment to less talk and more action!"

"We are here to celebrate the completion of yet another component in our Lake Okeechobee restoration efforts – proof positive that we are committed to getting the job done," FDEP Secretary Castille said. "Improving water quality in Lake Okeechobee is a top priority in the nation's largest ecosystem restoration effort. Not only will the new marshes provide cleaner water, but they will also improve wildlife habitats and expand recreational opportunities for the surrounding communities."

For more information, contact the Jacksonville District Corporate Communication Office at 904-232-1789, or the South Florida Water Management District at 561-682-6197.

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