



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers**  
Jacksonville District

# MEDIA ADVISORY

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**MA-06-33      Status:** IMPORTANT      **Phone:** 904-232-2236  
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**FOR:            MEDIA OUTLETS IN SOUTH FLORIDA**

**TO:             ALL NEWS DIRECTORS, ASSIGNMENT EDITORS**

**EVENT:        Groundbreaking for the Lake Okeechobee Aquifer  
Storage and Recovery Pilot Project**

**WHEN:        Thursday morning, June 29, 9 a.m.**

**WHERE:        Okeetantee Park, Florida**

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Jacksonville District, in partnership with the South Florida Water Management District, will host a groundbreaking ceremony to mark the start of the Lake Okeechobee Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR) pilot project on Thurs., June 29 at 9 a.m. at Okeetantee Park. Dennis Duke, the Corps' Chief Restoration Program Division and program manager for ecosystem restoration; Chip Merriam, Deputy Executive Director for water resources at SFWMD and Clif Betts, Jr., Okeechobee County Commissioner, are among the participants.

The pilot project is part of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan, and will help engineers determine the feasibility of the technology in contributing to successful ecosystem restoration. ASR will store large quantities of fresh water, up to five million gallons per day, where it can be treated to meet federal and state water standards, and later used to meet ecological and other water resource needs. The pilot phase will be completed over a six year period and will cost an estimated \$19 million.

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Directions to the ceremony: From I-95, take Exit 129 (Rte. 70W). Turn left onto US 441 S – US 98 E – FL 15 S – FL 7005 for 3 miles. Turn right onto FL 78 for 4.6 miles. Ceremony site is located on the left at 10430 State Road 78W, Okeechobee.