

FACT SHEET

C&SF O&M

Operations & Maintenance

Congressional Districts: 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 14, 15, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27

1. DESCRIPTION

The project, covering an area of some 16,000 square miles, lies generally within the southeasterly 18 counties of Florida. It is comprised of the upper St. Johns River Basin, located in the northeastern section of the project; the Kissimmee River Basin, in the central section above Lake Okeechobee; the Lake Okeechobee-Everglades area in the central and southwestern section; and the East Coast-Everglades in the southeastern section. The project is for flood risk management and water conservation and provides principally for: an East Coast Protective Levee extending from the Homestead area north to the eastern shore of Lake Okeechobee near St. Lucie Canal; three conservation areas for water impoundment in the Everglades area west of the East Coast Protective Levee, with control structures to effect transfer of water as necessary; local protection works along the lower east coast; encirclement of the Lake Okeechobee agricultural area by levees and canals; enlargement of portions of Miami, North New River, Hillsboro, and West Palm Beach canals; enlargement of existing Lake Okeechobee levees and construction of new levees on the northeast and northwest shores of the lake; increased outlet capacity for improved control of Lake Okeechobee; floodway channels in the Kissimmee River Basin, with suitable control structures to prevent over drainage; an interrelated system of canals, levees, pumping stations and structures in the southwest Dade County to control water levels; and facilities for risk management of floods in the upper St. Johns River Basin. The project will provide water control and protection from the recurrence of devastating floodwaters from the Everglades and local sources, for the highway-developed urban area along the lower east coast of Florida, and for the productive agricultural areas around Lake Okeechobee (including the towns around the lake), in the upper St. Johns and Kissimmee River Basins, and in south Dade County. Project also provides for navigation improvement suitable for recreational craft, consisting of locks and channel dredging in the upper Kissimmee and St. Johns River Basins. The project includes a total of 89 miles of levees, 954 miles of canals, 30 pumping plants, 192 floodway control and diversion structures, 26 navigation locks, and 57 railroad relocations (bridges). There are many diverse recreational user groups that utilize these Water Conservation Areas, Canals and levees for hunting, fishing, bird watching, boating (motorized and non-motorized), hiking, and biking.

2. FUNDING

Allocation for FY 15	\$ 20,066,000
President's Budget FY 16	\$ 21,246,000

3. SPONSOR

South Florida Water Management District
3301 Gun Club Road
West Palm Beach, Florida 33406

4. STATUS

The completed portion of the project is maintained under the annual operations and maintenance budget. The completed portions include the St. Lucie Canal, the Caloosahatchee River, and the Herbert Hoover Dike around Lake Okeechobee. The O&M funding allocated for FY 2015 will be expended for the annual operation and routine maintenance of 144-mile Herbert Hoover Dike, 21 water control structures, 75 secondary drainage culverts, 250 miles of flood control channels, 2 navigation locks, and 2 recreation areas. Also included are meteorological and water management activities, stream gauging stations, water quality management, etc., required for proper regulation of Lake Okeechobee and the storage of water in conservation areas 1, 2, and 3.

Funding for FY 2016 will be used as described above. Specifically, annual routine operations and maintenance of the HHD and supporting water control structures, flood control structures, navigation locks and recreation areas. Also, meteorological and water management activities including stream gauging and water quality management required for regulating Lake Okeechobee and conservation areas 1, 2, and 3. Additionally monitoring of the Cape Sable Sparrow, Apple Snails, and Snail kites will also continue to be supported.