

## FACT SHEET

**Everglades & South Florida Ecosystem Restoration,  
Ten Mile Creek  
Construction, General (CG)**

Congressional Districts: 17, 18, 20

**1. DESCRIPTION**

The Ten Mile Creek project is located just south of Ten Mile Creek in St. Lucie County. Ten Mile Creek is the largest sub basin delivering water to the North Fork of the St. Lucie River Estuary (SLE). The SLE discharges into the Indian River Lagoon (IRL), which is the most biologically diverse estuary in North America and has been designated as an Outstanding Florida Water. The entire lagoon is endangered from increased runoff from watershed drainage fluctuations. Excess storm water due to drainage causes fluctuations in the salinity of the SLE resulting in elimination of viable habitat suitable for oysters, sea grasses and marine fish spawning. The federal project involved acquisition of approximately 860 acres of land and construction of a water preserve area to attenuate flows and improve water quality discharge to the SLE/IRL. The project features a two-stage detention system consisting of a Water Preserve Area (WPA) and polishing cell. A series of large pumps deliver water from the Ten Mile Creek into the WPA during high water at a rate of 380 cubic feet per second (cfs). Water is stored in the 500 acre WPA and then metered out through a 40 cfs spillway into a polishing cell of 134 acres. The deep-water storage cell will allow for storage of up to 6,013 acre-feet.

**2. FUNDING**

Estimated Total Cost	\$ 50,000,000
Estimated Federal Cost	25,000,000
Allocation thru FY14	24,969,385
ARRA Allocation	0
Allocation for FY15	0
FY16 President's Budget	0

**3. SPONSOR**

South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD)  
3301 Gun Club Road  
West Palm Beach, Florida 33416-4680

#### **4. STATUS**

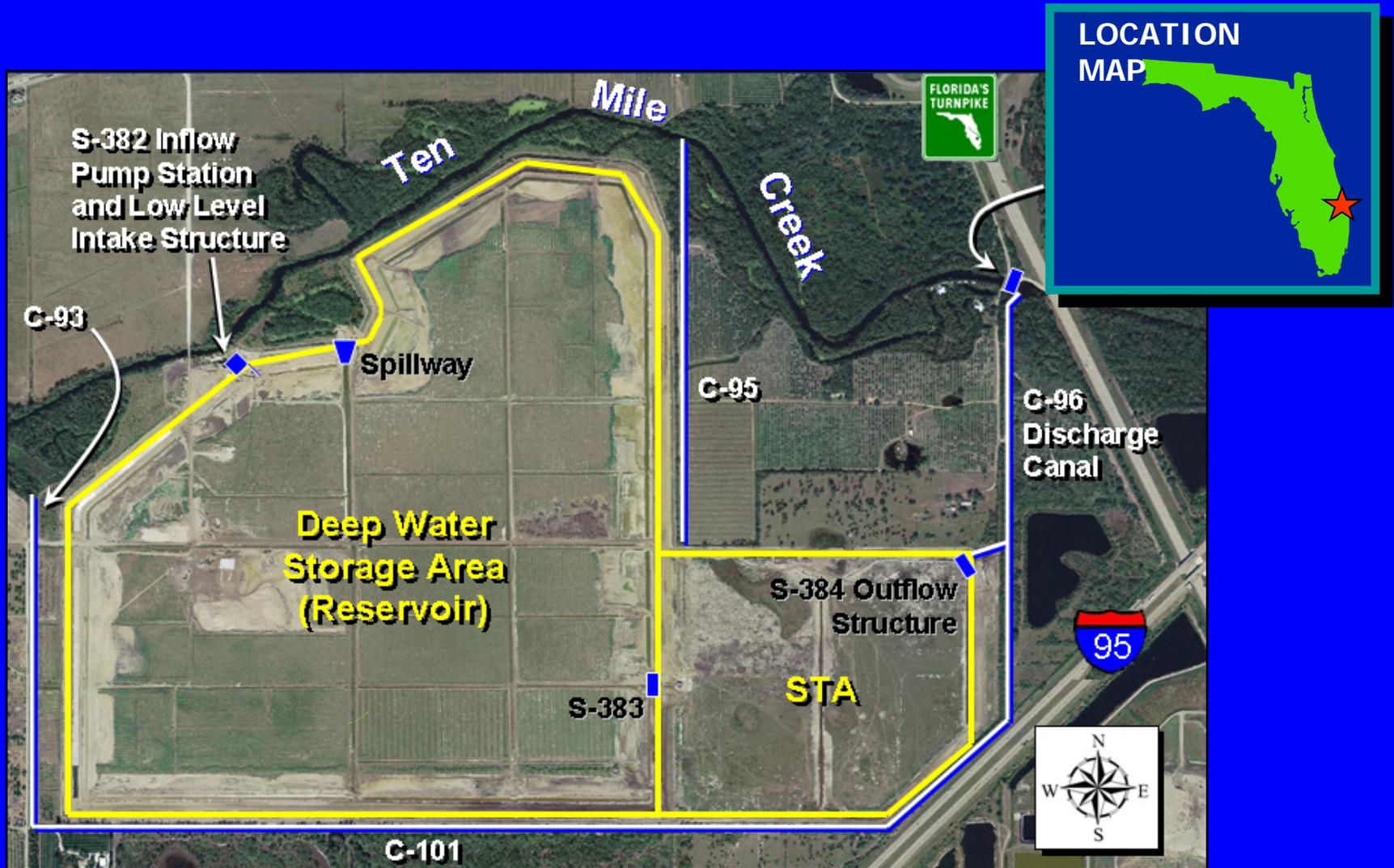
Project construction was completed in 2006. The interim operational testing and monitoring period began following construction completion and prior to project transfer to the non-federal sponsor, the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD). During this period, structural and operational concerns were identified. As a result, efforts to transfer the project to the SFWMD, which would ultimately operate and maintain the project, were halted, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers maintained control of the project. The project has remained in a passive operating state since 2009.

From December 2011 to March 2012, temporary limited operational testing of the reservoir was conducted for data collection purposes to support ongoing litigation between the designer-of-record and the Federal government. The testing was conducted to monitor and evaluate the performance of the reservoir. Upon completion of the limited operations, testing confirmed that the reservoir does not retain water due to identified deficiencies. All water was pumped out of the reservoir and back into the Ten Mile Creek and the project was returned to a passive operating state.

In August 2014, the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) formally requested that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers deauthorize the Ten Mile Creek Project, terminate the Project Cooperation Agreement, and extinguish any real estate certifications associated with the project. Upon deauthorization, they will take full control and responsibility for converting the project into a functional facility designed to provide necessary storage and water treatment.

It has been determined that in order to terminate the Ten Mile Creek project and transfer responsibility to the SFWMD, congressional deauthorization is required. Deauthorization of the project and transfer of responsibility will allow the SFWMD to modify and operate the project to obtain restoration benefits. Senator Marco Rubio introduced a bill to amend the Water Resources Development Act of 1996 to deauthorize the Ten Mile Creek Water Preserve Area on 8 January 2015.

# Everglades & South Florida Ecosystem Restoration



**Ten Mile Creek Water Preserve Area**