

FACT SHEET
CENTRAL AND SOUTHERN FLORIDA PROJECT
Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan
Overview

Construction General (C)

Congressional Districts: 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27

1. DESCRIPTION

Section 601 of the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 2000 approved the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP or the Plan) as a framework for the restoration, preservation, and protection of the south Florida natural system, while also providing for other water-related needs of the region, including water supply and flood protection. The CERP consists of 68 components grouped into 55 projects with a total estimated cost of \$7.8 billion (1999 price levels). The central goal of the CERP is “getting the water right” in terms of quality, quantity, timing and distribution. The CERP is expected to contribute to restoring the ecological functioning of more than 2.4 million acres of the south Florida ecosystem, while improving regional water quality conditions, providing urban and agricultural water supplies, and maintaining existing levels of flood protection.

The CERP (including operations and maintenance activities) is cost-shared 50-50 with non-federal sponsors. The primary non-federal sponsor is the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD). Implementation of the CERP will occur over approximately 40 years. Detailed planning and design studies are submitted in required Project Implementation Reports (PIRs) and other decision documents for Congressional review and authorization.

Implementation of the CERP is a highly complex undertaking due to the large number of technical, environmental, legal and policy requirements to be addressed, as well as the technological and scientific uncertainties inherent in an ecosystem restoration program of this magnitude. Under the oversight of the South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task Force, over 30 federal, State, local and tribal governmental agencies actively cooperate to implement the CERP. Effective interagency communication, coordination, and collaboration at multiple working levels is essential but remains challenging, given varied agency mission goals, objectives, and policies.

The WRDA of 2007 authorized the following CERP projects: Indian River Lagoon South, Picayune Strand, and Site 1 Impoundment. In addition, new authorized project costs were provided for the Hillsboro and Lake Okeechobee Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR) and the Caloosahatchee ASR pilot projects, and a provision was included establishing Section 902 limits for the Programmatic Authority projects.

The Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014 (WRRDA 2014) authorized four CERP projects for construction: (1) Caloosahatchee River (C-43) West Basin Storage Reservoir; (2) Canal 111 (C-111) Spreader Canal Western; (3) Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands Phase 1; and (4) Broward County Water Preserve Areas.

2. FUNDING

Estimated Total Authorized Cost	\$9,869,332,000
Estimated Federal Cost	4,819,900,000
DOI Other Federal Agency	114,766,000
Allocation thru FY16	1,070,020,000
Carry In for FY17	2,757
Allocation for FY17	75,430,000
President's Budget FY18	TBD

3. SPONSORS

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

Florida Department of Environmental Protection
2600 Blair Stone Road, MS 3570
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Lee County Board of Commissioners
Post Office Box 398
Ft. Myers, FL 33902-0398

Palm Beach County Water Utilities Department
Post Office Box 16097
West Palm Beach, FL 33416-6097

4. STATUS

Program Management: Primary program management tasks include managing and providing direction to program and Project Delivery Teams (PDTs); budgeting, cash flow management and updating program costs, and review of requests for cost-shared credit; preparation of program reports to Congress, the Office of Management and Budget, and to the public; managing and preserving program data, including electronic publication and storage of program information; implementation of the CERP Programmatic Regulations; system-wide coordination efforts of Restoration Coordination and Verification (RECOVER) teams, including adaptive assessment and monitoring activities; outreach activities; Environmental and Economic Equity activities; and operation of an Interagency Modeling Center (IMC).

PROJECTS:

Indian River Lagoon South Project: The plan includes about 170,000 acre-feet (ac-ft) of new water storage in reservoirs (C-44 Reservoir, C-23/24 North/South Reservoirs and C-25 Reservoir) and storm water treatment areas (STAs; C-44 West/East, C-23, C-24, and C-25), additional water storage on about 92,000 acres of natural storage areas (Allapattah, Palmar, and Cypress Creek), removal of 7,900,000 cubic yards of muck from the St. Lucie River and Estuary, and construction of artificial oyster habitat in the lagoon.

The Corps completed construction of the first of four contracts for the construction of the C-44 Reservoir and STA component of the Indian River Lagoon South project in July 2014. The Corps award a \$198 million dollar construction contract for the 50,600 acre-ft C-44 Reservoir in September 2015. The non-Federal sponsor, the SFWMD, awarded the C-44 STA for \$101 million and the C-44 Pump Station contract for \$40 million in Oct 2014 and Apr 2015, respectively. Completion of the entire C-44 Reservoir and STA project feature is scheduled for April 2020. Construction completion of the entire IRL-South project is scheduled for FY30.

Picayune Strand Restoration Project: The purpose of this project is to restore and enhance the wetlands back to pre-development hydrology in a failed housing development, formerly called Southern Golden Gates Estates, of Picayune Strand. The project includes a combination of pump stations, spreader basins, canal plugs, and road removal. Construction contracts were awarded for pump stations Merritt, Faka Union, and Miller in FY2010, FY 2011, and FY2013 respectively. Construction of the Merritt and Faka Union Pump Stations was completed in 2014 and 2016. The Miller Pump Station Contract is scheduled to be physically complete in fall 2017. The South Florida Water Management District constructed the Manatee Mitigation Feature to mitigate for the effect of the project on manatees in the Faka Union Canal. SFWMD completed construction of this feature in April 2016. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers submitted a Limited Reevaluation Report to request a post authorization change to address project cost increases in the spring of 2016. Congress authorized a post authorization change which increased the total project cost in the WIIN Act of 2016.

Site 1 Impoundment Project: The purpose of this project is to supplement water deliveries to the Hillsboro Canal by capturing and storing excess water currently discharged to the Atlantic Intra-coastal Waterway. The 1,660 acre impoundment will store up to 13,280 acre-feet of water.

The Corps awarded the first construction contract for Phase 1 of the project in October 2010 and terminated the contract in July 2012 with approximately 20 percent of the work completed. A second construction contract for Phase 1 was awarded in January 2013. The Site 1 Phase 1 includes L-40 Modifications and miscellaneous features including clearing, grubbing and dewatering activities, miscellaneous demolitions,

establishing onsite borrow and disposal areas, earthwork modifications to approximately 15,000-LF of the existing L-40 levee, installation of dam monitoring instrumentation, placement of turf reinforcement mat and smooth plate soil cement. The project also includes construction of a 6 acre wildlife wetland area. Benefits of phase 1 features will reduce the amount of seepage loss from the adjacent Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge (LNWR), also known as Water Conservation Area 1. This will help maintain the stage of this conservation area, also categorized as an Outstanding Florida Water Body (OFW) which contains pristine water. Reduction in seepage from LNWR will help to increase the amount of water that remains in that natural system, especially during the dry periods. Phase 2 will include construction of the remaining impoundment features including recreational areas. The Corps completed construction of the Phase 1 contract in January 2016. The Corps transferred Phase 1 of the project to the SFWMD for Operation, Maintenance, Repair, Rehabilitation, and Replacement (OMRR&R) in December 2016. Phase 2 of the project is on hold and may require Congressional authorization for a new total project cost.

Central Everglades Planning Project (CEPP): The project will set the foundation for restoring the central portion of the Everglades ecosystem and sending additional water south. CEPP will capture water lost to tide and re-direct water flow south to the central Everglades, Everglades National Park, and Florida Bay. Planning efforts for CEPP utilized a pilot process designed to reduce the overall time allocated for a study of this magnitude. In prior years, plan formulation and review may have taken six years or longer. The CEPP process was completed in half that time. CEPP was included in the recently passed 2016 Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation (WIIN) Act. Authorization makes this project eligible for funding in a future appropriations bill.

C-43 (Caloosahatchee) West Basin Storage Reservoir Project: The project will improve the timing, quantity and quality of freshwater flows to the Caloosahatchee River and Estuary. To restore and maintain the estuary during the dry season, the project will capture and store basin storm runoff, along with a portion of water discharged from Lake Okeechobee, and water will be slowly released into the Caloosahatchee, as needed. The project features include a 10,500 acre storage reservoir, 1,500 cubic feet per second (cfs) pump for fulling the reservoir and 195 cfs for irrigation water supply, perimeter canal to convey drainage off-site, and a recreation component. The South Florida Water Management District began construction of the recommended plan in 2015. Construction is scheduled for completion in FY22. The Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014 (WRRDA 2014) authorized the project.

Broward County Water Preserve Areas Project: The project includes two reservoirs (C-11 impoundment and C-9 impoundment) and a seepage management feature in Broward County, Florida. These components will provide various function including: reducing seepage from Water Conservation Area (WCA) 2, reducing phosphorous leading to WCA 3A, capturing water lost to tide, and providing conveyance features for urban and natural system water deliveries. On June 10, 2014, the project received congressional authorization in the Water Resources Reform and Development Act

(WRRDA) of 2014. The Project Partnership Agreement (PPA) was executed on August 25, 2016 and design of the C-11 Impoundment project feature is underway.

Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands Project: Portions of this project are included in South Florida Water Management District's (SFWMD's) Expedited Construction Plan. The SFWMD's Expedited Construction Plan includes the Deering Estates, Cutler Wetlands, and L-31E Flow/North Canal Flowway. The Deering Estate features include spreader canal, plugging of ditches, additional culverts, and weirs that were completed February 2012. Construction of the Cutler Wetland features include 3 pump stations, a 6,000-ft levee, spreader canal, plugging of mosquito ditches, and 3 culverts are currently under design. The SFWMD is scheduled to complete the Cutler Wetlands features in 2022. The SFWMD portion of L-31E Flowway includes addition of 4 culverts that were completed in June 2012. The Corps is currently designing and constructing the L-31E Flow-way components. Culverts S-712A and S-712B are scheduled to be complete in late summer 2017. The Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014 (WRRDA 2014) authorized the project.

C-111 Spreader Canal Project: The purpose of this project is to modify existing flow of water to more closely resemble that of historical pre-drainage conditions. The proposed modifications will improve deliveries and enhance the connectivity and sheetflow in the Model Lands and Southern Glades areas, reduce wet season flows in C-111, and decrease potential flood risk in the lower south Miami-Dade County area. The Project Implementation Report was completed in early FY2010, the Chief's Report was signed in January 2012 and the Record of Decision (ROD) was signed in July 2012. The Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014 (WRRDA 2014) authorized the project.

The C-111 Spreader Canal project is one of the South Florida Water Management District's (SFWMD's) Expedited Construction Projects (formerly known as Acceler8). The SFWMD broke ground on construction of the recommended plan in January 2010 and completed construction in February 2012. The Corps has been coordinating with the SFWMD regarding the potential effects of project operations on lands adjacent to the project. The SFWMD will provide modeling analysis of operations in Fiscal Year 2017 (FY17) to support requirements for a real estate takings analysis as required by the Chief's Report. The Corps will review the analysis to meet the requirements prior to entering into a Project Partnership Agreement.

Water Conservation Area-3 Decompartmentalization and Sheetflow Enhancement

Project: The purpose of this project is to restore sheetflow and reduce unnatural discontinuities in the Everglades landscape. The Decomp project includes the modification or removal of levees, canals, and water control structures in WCA 3A located in western Broward County. The team has documented all work completed to date for PIR 1. The work completed in the PIR was incorporated into the Central Everglades Planning Project (CEPP). The Corps awarded a construction contract for the DPM in May 2012. Construction of the DPM began in May 2012 and was completed in November 2013. The DPM was successfully operated November -

December 2013 (FY14), November - December 2014 (FY15), November 2015 - January 2016 (FY16), and October 2016 - January 2017 (FY17). Fifth and sixth operational cycles with extended testing periods for FY18 and FY19 are scheduled with sponsor concurrence. Necessary operational strategy, NEPA and water quality permits are under development. Identification of funding will be required to move forward. Information gained will be used to guide future restoration efforts.

Loxahatchee River Watershed Restoration Project: The project includes approximately 753 square miles located in central and northern Palm Beach County. The primary objective of the project is to improve the quantity, quality, timing, and distribution of flows to the Loxahatchee Slough, River and Estuary and the Lake Worth Lagoon. Headquarters U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (HQUSACE) approved the Jacksonville District to proceed with preparation of a Project Implementation Report (PIR) under the requirements of the USACE's SMART planning process in December 2015. PIR efforts started in January 2016 and the PDT is scheduled to complete the PIR in January 2019. On April 2016, the team received approval to move forward with five alternative plans. The team is currently modeling, evaluating, and estimating the costs for these alternatives to identify a Tentatively Selected Plan (TSP) in FY17.