

FACT SHEET  
**SOUTH FLORIDA ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION (SFER)**  
Operations & Maintenance

Congressional Districts: 5, 8, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 25

**1. DESCRIPTION**

The South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Program stretches from the southern Orlando area southward across the Everglades, the Florida Keys, and the contiguous and near-shore waters of South Florida, and across South Florida from east to west including portions of the drainage areas of the Indian River Lagoon and the Caloosahatchee River, as well as population centers along the southeast and southwest coasts. The project area is defined by the political boundaries of the Southwest Florida Water Management District, and includes all of the Everglades. It encompasses an area of approximately 18,000 square miles, which includes all or part of 18 counties in the southeast part of the State of Florida. Principle areas are the Kissimmee River Basin, Lake Okeechobee, Everglades Agricultural Area, Upper East Coast, Lower East Coast, Big Cypress Basin, Water Conservation Areas, Everglades National Park, Southwest Florida, Florida Bay and the Florida Keys.

The Central & Southern Florida project (includes the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan – CERP) was originally authorized for construction under the Flood Control Act of 1948 subsequent WRDA Authorizations for construction were contained in the Water Resources Development Act 1996 (Public Law 104-303), Section 528 (b)(3); The Water Resources Development Act of 1999, Section 208; WRDA 2007 (Section 6006). Authorization for operation and maintenance was contained in WRDA 2000 (Public Law 106-543), Section 601 (e)(4).

The United States Department of the Interior Modified Water Deliveries to Everglades National Park, Florida (MWD) was authorized under Public Law (P.L.) 101-229 of the 1989 Everglades National Park Protection and Expansion Act. P.L. 108-7 was passed in 2003 P.L. 111-8 was passed in March 2009

Everglades & South Florida: Seminole Big Cypress Reservation Water Conservation Plan, part of the Critical Projects Program, Florida authorization for construction was contained in the Water Resources Development Act of 1996 (Public Law 104-303), Section 528 (b)(3); The Water Resources Development Act of 1999, Section 208; WRDA 2007 (Section 6006). Authorization for operation and maintenance was contained in WRDA 2000 (Public Law 106-543), Section 601 (e)(4).

**2. FUNDING (SFER, MWD and SBC all sources)**

Carry In for FY14	\$365,000
Allocation for FY14	7,197,000
President's Budget FY15	9,031,000

**3. SPONSORS**

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

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

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

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

U.S. Department of the Interior  
849 C. St. NW  
Washington, DC 20240

**4. STATUS**

**PROJECTS:**

**Central & Southern Florida Project:** In FY 2015 \$6,134,000 will provide annual water management operation of project features, critical management/maintenance of hydrological and meteorological operations, stream gauging oversight of the entire program for use in annual water management operations; CERP Melaleuca Eradication; CERP Picayune Strand Restoration Project, Merritt Pump Station; CERP Indian River Lagoon South C-44 Troupe Indiantown Intake Canal; Manatee Pass Gates and the C-111 South Dade projects.

**C&SF Programmatic:** Funding in the President's Budget in the amount of \$749,000 for FY 2015 includes O&M Management oversight actions and Cooperative Streamgaging efforts.

South Dade County (C-111): Completed construction includes the following features of the 1994 General Re-evaluation Report (GRR) recommended plan: Pump Station 332D, C-111 Spoil Mound Removal, Taylor Slough Bridge, Interim Pump Station 332B and west detention area, and Interim Pump Station 332C, north detention area, and southern detention area, the S-331 Command and Control Facility and the completion of the full size retention/detention area, which includes extension of the S-332D tieback levee, extension of the L-31W tieback levee, removal of S-332B west southern levee, removal of the northern and southern S-332C detention area levees, removal of the east and west connector levees, construction of the north and south connector levees, and S-332DX1. Funding in the President's Budget in the amount of \$3,773,000 for FY 2015 includes operation and maintenance work on the completed pump stations for freshwater flow maintenance to Florida Bay.

Manatee Pass Gates: Improvements to 20 vertical gate structures were completed consistent with the PCA signed in 5 Jan 2001. Four of six gate structures have been completed consistent with the PCA signed in 13 Jan 2005. Construction improvements to S-193 sector gate, and S-79 sector gate were completed in FY 2009. Installation of St. Lucie Lock, S-80, and sensor cartridges were completed in FY 2009 as well. Funding in the President's Budget in the amount of \$230,000 for FY 2015 includes operation and maintenance work on the completed federally owned and operated manatee protection systems.

CERP Melaleuca Eradication: The Melaleuca Eradication and Other Exotic Plants project covers the entire Central and Southern Florida (C&SF) study area, which encompasses approximately 18,000 square miles from Orlando to the Florida Reef Tract. Kissimmee River, Lake Okeechobee and the Everglades are the dominant watersheds that connect a mosaic of wetlands, uplands, coastal areas, and marine areas. The intent of the project is to increase the effectiveness of biological control technologies to manage melaleuca and other invasive exotic species, in south Florida. Funding in the President's Budget in the amount of \$335,000 for FY 2015 includes operation and maintenance work for culture and release of the approved biological control agents at pre-determined field site, testing of those release sites, and monitoring the biological agents.

CERP Picayune Strand Restoration: Construction of the Merritt Pump Station Contract will be completed in the third quarter of FY 2014. Funding in the President's Budget in the amount of \$844,000 for FY 2015 includes operation and maintenance work on this completed pump station.

CERP Indian River Lagoon South: Construction of the C-44 Troupe Indiantown Intake Canal will be completed in the fourth quarter for FY 2014. Funding in the President's Budget in the amount of \$88,000 for FY 2015 includes operation and maintenance work of this completed project feature.

### **Everglades and South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Critical Restoration Projects:**

The Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 1996, Section 528, Everglades and South Florida (E&SF) Ecosystem Restoration, included authorization in 528(b)(3) for implementation of critical restoration projects. Provisions for these projects were modified in WRDA 1999. These critical projects are defined as providing immediate, independent, and substantial restoration benefits; having a local sponsor and not being authorized components of the Central and Southern Florida (C&SF) Project.

**Seminole Big Cypress Water Conservation Plan:** The Seminole Tribe Big Cypress Water Conservation Plan is located in Hendry County, directly north of the Big Cypress National Preserve (BCNP) and west of Water Conservation Area (WCA) 3A. The Big Cypress Reservation is traversed by the L-28 and L-28I canals and the North and West Feeder Canals; all of these conveyances were constructed as part of the Central and Southern Florida (C&SF) project.

East side work consists of conveyance canals, which have been designed and constructed by the Seminole Tribe. West side work consists of four basins, each of which may consist of an irrigation storage cell, water resource area (similar to a stormwater treatment area (STA)), pump stations for transferring water, canals for distribution, and inverted siphons to carry effluent under the West Feeder Canal into the reservation's Native Range. Water will then flow southward into the BCNP. To date, Basin 1 and Basin 4 have been constructed. Basin 2 is currently under construction.

Funding in the amount of \$297,000 for FY 2014 includes for the operation and maintenance of Basin 1 and Basin 4 of the four Western Basins to include equipment maintenance, erosion control and mowing, as well as operation of pump stations associated with two Wetland Resource Areas and six irrigation cells.

### **Modified Water Deliveries to Everglades National Park:**

#### **Conveyance and Seepage Control Features**

The following conveyance and seepage control features as outlined in the 1992 GDM (approved 1993) were completed or constructed. With these features constructed, water will be delivered from WCA-3A to the L-29 canal, under Tamiami Trail (U.S. Highway 41) to Shark River Slough.

- Spillway structures S-355A and B in the L-29 Levee
- S-333 modifications
- Tigertail Camp raised
- Pump Station S-356 between L-31N Canal and L-29 Canal
- Degradation of the L-67 Extension Canal and Levee (4 of 9 miles degraded)
- S-331 Command and Control (complete – added telemetry & remote control of conveyance features)

Funding in the amount of \$1,492,000 for FY 2014 includes operations and maintenance of pump stations 355 A&B; 356; 357; and maintenance of levees under the 8.5 Square Mile Area feature.