

FACT SHEET
**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR MODIFIED WATERS TO
EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK**
Construction General (C)
Congressional Districts: 25, 26, 27

1. DESCRIPTION

Public Law (P.L.) 101-229 authorized the 1989 Everglades National Park Protection and Expansion Act. A General Design Memorandum (GDM) describing the plan for modifying the flow of water to Everglades National Park (ENP) was approved in 1993. The Project Cooperation Agreement (PCA) was executed in 1994 with the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD), and construction was initiated in 1995. In 2000, a General Reevaluation Report (GRR)/Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) was completed for the 8.5 Square Mile Area (8.5 SMA), modifying the original plan, and in 2001, the first amendment to the PCA was executed. After a district court ruling stopped project implementation efforts, P.L. 108-7 was passed in 2003 directing the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to immediately proceed with efforts in accordance with the 2000 Report. In 2005, a Revised GRR/Supplemental EIS was completed recommending modifications to Tamiami Trail (U.S. Highway 41) to address the higher water levels under the authorized plan. The high costs of the 2005 plan led to a Limited Re-evaluation Report (LRR) of the Tamiami Trail project in 2007-2008. The second amendment to the PCA was executed in 2008. After a preliminary injunction stopped Tamiami Trail efforts, P.L. 111-8 was passed in March 2009 directing immediate construction of the 2008 LRR/EA plan with addendum. The preliminary injunction was dissolved in June 2009. The National Park Service funding cap imposed in November 2010 enables the completion of the 8.5 SMA and the modifications to the Tamiami Trail.

The purpose of this project is to make modifications to the existing Central and Southern Florida (C&SF) project to improve the natural water flows to Shark River Slough, the lifeline of the ENP. The project will enable restoration of more natural hydrologic conditions using three dimensions: timing, location and volume of water. The project consists of four major components: 1) 8.5 SMA Flood Mitigation Plan; 2) Conveyance and Seepage Control Features; 3) Tamiami Trail Modifications; and 4) Project Implementation Support. The 8.5 SMA Flood Mitigation plan includes acquisition of approximately 4,320 acres of land (2,040 acres under the original authorization and 2,280 acres under the 8.5 SMA authorization) and construction of a levee, seepage canal, pump station, and detention area to prevent additional flooding due to construction and operation of the Modified Water Deliveries (MWD) project. The Conveyance and Seepage Control Features are necessary to facilitate flow through the system from Water Conservation (WCA) 3A and limit seepage eastward from ENP, including the re-establishment of the historic Shark River Slough flowways. Also included is raising the Tigertail Camp, part of the Miccosukee Tribe of Indians, for flood protection. The Tamiami Trail Modifications component involves constructing a one-mile eastern bridge,

allowing L-29 Canal stage to reach 8.5 feet National Geodetic Vertical Datum (NGVD), and reinforcing the road to mitigate for road impacts from the 8.5-foot stage. Project implementation support includes efforts to develop a final operating plan, provide staff support, complete required monitoring and conduct necessary regulatory activities.

2. **FUNDING**

Estimated Total Authorized Cost	\$417,000,000
Estimated Federal Cost (USACE)	77,493,000
DOI Other Federal Agency	339,507,000
Allocation thru FY14(USACE)	77,493,000
Allocation for FY15	0
President's Budget FY16	0

3. **SPONSOR**

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

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

4. **STATUS**

(1) **Flood Mitigation for the 8.5 Square Mile Area**

All lands were acquired and initial construction was completed in 2008. The Corps has transferred all lands to the DOI and the SFWMD. The features are currently being operated under an Interim Water Control Plan. Initial operation of the features showed an area of concern in the southwest corner of the Las Palmas community. A construction solution to ensure the proper level of mitigation was identified. Construction of the S-357N Pump Station will begin in FY 15 and complete in FY 16. All constructed features have been turned over to the Sponsor for OMRR&R.

(2) **Conveyance and Seepage Control Features**

Available funds are fully allocated to other components of the Modified Water Deliveries Project. It is expected that no further modifications to levees and canals will be completed under the MWD project. 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)

The following conveyance and seepage control features as outlined in the 1992 General Design Memorandum will not be completed.

- Structures S-345 A, B, and C through the L-67A and C Levees
- Structures S-349 A, B, and C in the L-567A Borrow Canal
- Degradation of the L-67 Extension Canal and Levee (remaining 5 miles)

(3) Tamiami Trail Modifications

The USACE issued a construction contract to Kiewit Southern on 25 September 2009. The notice to proceed was accepted on 11 November 2009, and a groundbreaking ceremony took place on 4 December 2009. Construction of the bridge and road reinforcement was completed in December 2013. Project transfer to the Florida Department of Transportation is underway.

(4) Project Implementation Support

This component is ongoing. It includes project and program management support, hydrological stream gage monitoring, operational plan development and project closeout. As part of the operational plan, development a series of field tests will be performed to better understand the impacts to additional flows to North East Shark River Slough. Increment 1 of the G-3273 Relaxation and S-356 Field Test is expected to be implemented in May 2015 for 1-2 years. Increment 1 eliminates the constraint at the gage 3273 (G-3273) while the L-29 canal stage is limited to 7.5 feet NVGD. Increment 2 will raise the L-29 canal stage above 7.5 feet NGVD. Flowage easements for the properties along the Tamiami Trail will be needed to fully implement Increment 2. Increment 3 is the final operating plan and will incorporate the MWD and C-111 South Dade County Projects.

