

Project Name: C&SF: CERP Central Everglades Planning Project (CEPP)
Project ID: 1103
Lead Agency: USACE / SFWMD
Authority: WRDA 2000
Funding Source: Federal/State

Strategic Plan Goal(s) Addressed: Primary: 1-A.1 Secondary: 1-A.3

Measurable Output(s): Improve the quantity, quality, timing and distribution of water flows to the Northern Estuaries; the central Everglades including Water Conservation Area 3 and Everglades National Park, in order to restore the hydrology, habitat and functions of the natural system.

April 1999 (Restudy) Project Synopsis:

The CEPP project is part of the National Pilot Program for Feasibility Studies which will provide an opportunity to test principles that have been outlined in the USACE *Recommendations for Transforming the Current Pre-Authorization Study Process* (January 2011).

The study area for the CEPP encompasses the Northern Estuaries (St. Lucie River and Indian River Lagoon and the Caloosahatchee River and Estuary), Lake Okeechobee, a portion of the Everglades Agricultural Area, the Water Conservation Areas; Everglades National Park, the Southern Estuaries (Florida Bay and Biscayne Bay), and the Lower East Coast. Utilizing the Incremental Adaptive Restoration approach recommended by the National Research Council and new information gained to date, the project will be composed of increments of project components that were identified in the CERP Comprehensive Review Study (Yellow Book), reducing the risks and uncertainties associated with project planning and implementation.

The scope of the CEPP includes increments of the following components that were part of the Yellow Book Plan:

- Everglades Agricultural Storage Reservoirs (G)
- Modified Holey Land Wildlife Management Area Operation Plan (DD)
- Flow to Northwest and Central Water Conservation Area 3A (II)
- Water Conservation Area 3 Decompartmentalization and Sheet flow Enhancement (AA, QQ and SS)
- Dade-Broward Levee/Pennsuco Wetlands (BB)
- Bird Drive Recharge Area (U)
- L-31N Improvements for Seepage Management and S-356 Structures (V and FF)
- Everglades Rain-Driven Operations (H)

Current Project Synopsis: This new pilot process diverts from the standard USACE planning process and requires greater, more interactive and concurrent involvement from the vertical team including the USACE South Atlantic Division, Headquarters, and Assistant Secretary of the Army's office; at multiple points throughout the study to provide input and decision making. The pilot study is divided into four phases, each with a key Decision Point and associated In-Progress Reviews in order to achieve a Project Implementation Report (PIR).

The project was kicked off November 2011. CEPP Decision Point 1 (DP-1) was completed in January 2012; where the project received concurrence on the Determination of Federal Interest and approval to move forward with the study as outlined in the January 2012 CEPP Scoping Plan. The scoping plan identified the formulation strategy to analyze the project study area and prepare the PIR. Selection of the TSP was completed in August 2013 at CEPP Decision Point 2 (DP-2). Public review of the draft PIR/EIS and the Independent External Peer Review (IEPR) was completed November 2013. The Civil Works Review Board was held April 2014 and again in May 2014. The CEPP pilot study is currently in the Final Phase of the study. Current work underway includes responding to and incorporating comments from the HQ Policy Review and revising the final PIR/EIS. The Final PIR/EIS will be published in the Federal Register for State and Agency Review and the Chief's Report will follow.

The goal of the CEPP is to improve the quantity, quality, timing and distribution of water in the Northern Estuaries, Water Conservation Area 3, and Everglades National Park in order to restore the hydrology, habitat and functions of the natural system.

Current Status: Final revisions to the PIR/EIS are underway.

Est. Cost of PIR: \$ 10,519,000

Project Schedule:

08 Aug 2014 Publish in Federal Register

24 Oct 2014 Chief of Engineers Report

Detailed Project Budget Information (rounded):

MWD	Obligations Thru FY 2013
USACE	\$8,280,000
SFWMD	\$0
Total	\$8,280,000

Hyperlinks: http://www.evergladesplan.org/pm/projects/proj_51_cepp.aspx

<http://www.sfrestore.org/cepp/cepp.html>

Contact: Donna S George, Project Manager, Ecosystem Branch, Programs and Project Management Division, USACE
Donna.S.George@usace.army.mil

Matt Morrison, Lead Project Manager, SFWMD
mjmorris@sfwmd.gov

Source: Original project description summarized from the *Central and Southern Florida Project Comprehensive Review Study (Restudy) (1999)*.