



## Central Everglades Planning Project (CEPP) Post Authorization Change Report Update

South Florida Ecosystem Restoration  
Task Force Meeting

July 25, 2018

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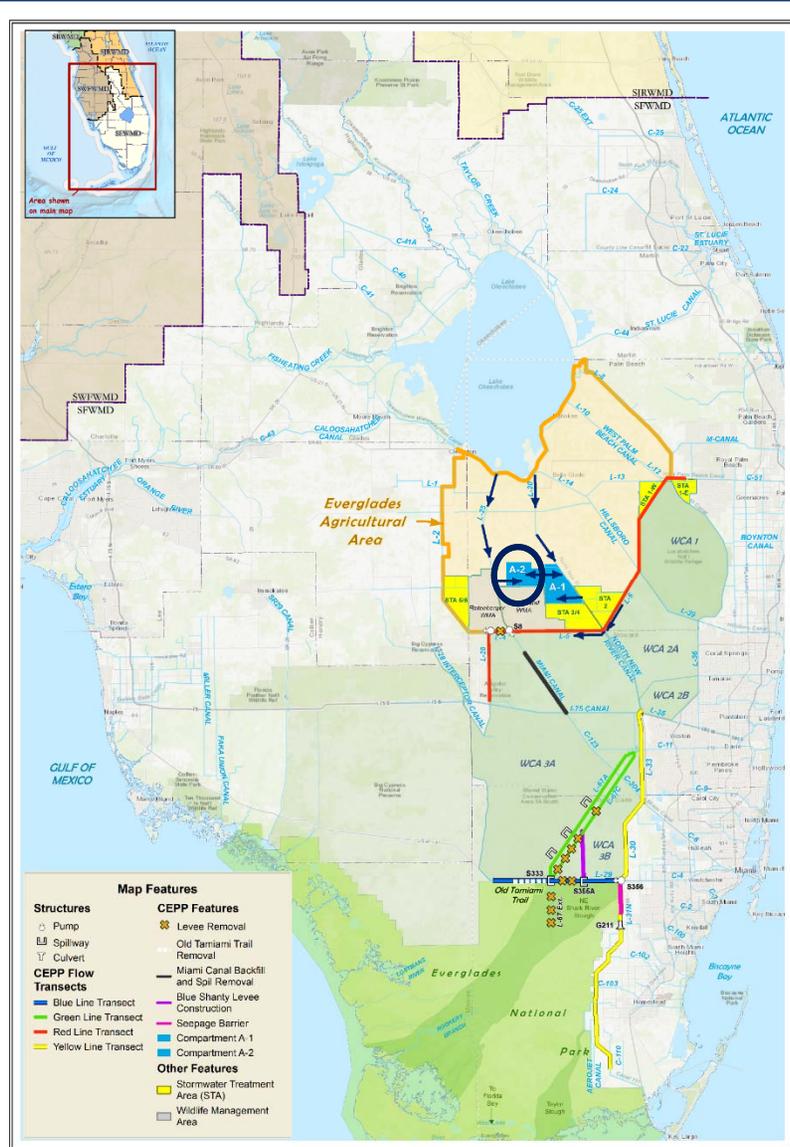
# Everglades Restoration

The Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP) was authorized by Congress in 2000 to restore, preserve, and protect the south Florida ecosystem

- 18 CERP projects being planned, designed or under construction
- Despite the progress of restoration, challenges still persist:
  - Damaging discharges to the northern estuaries
    - Environmental,
    - Socioeconomic
  - Reduced flows to the Everglades
    - Dry outs,
    - Impacts to fish and wildlife habitat
  - Reduced storage in the Everglades system



# Central Everglades Planning Project

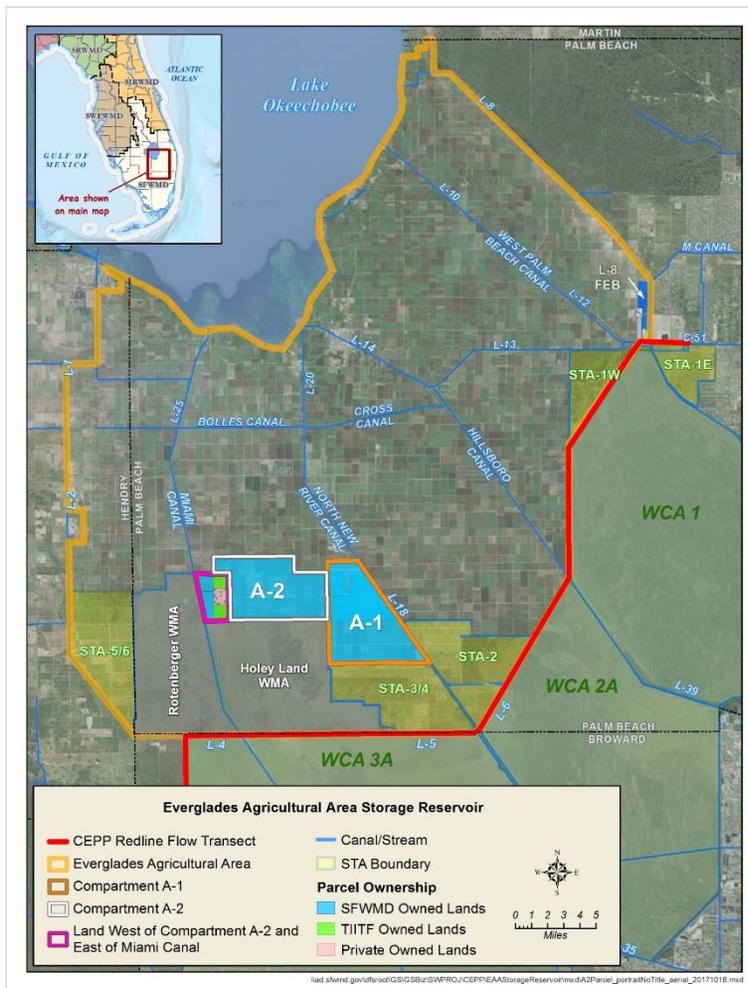


- Authorized in the 2016 Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation (WIIN) Act
- Provides the first increment of restoration in the central Everglades:
  - Reduces damaging discharges to the northern estuaries
  - Provides ~210K ac-ft of additional flow to the central Everglades on an average annual basis
- Comprised of 3 Project Partnership Agreements (PPAs): South, North and New Water
- PPA New Water includes:
  - A-2 Flow Equalization Basin (FEB)
  - Seepage Barrier, L-31N Levee
- Everglades Agricultural Area Storage Reservoir Feasibility Study
  - Includes the A-2 component of PPA New Water

# Florida Statute 373.4598 Water Storage Reservoir

- Directs the expedited design and construction of a water storage reservoir in the Everglades Agricultural Area (EAA)
- Increases southern storage features to reduce high-volume discharges from Lake Okeechobee
- Modifies the congressionally authorized Central Everglades Planning Project (CEPP) as part of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP)
- Includes reservoir storage capacity of at least 240,000 acre-feet, and necessary water quality treatment and conveyance features
- Directs SFWMD to develop a CEPP Post Authorization Change Report jointly with USACE for submission to Congress for approval
- Requires the South Florida Water Management District meet certain timelines for implementing the project

# Everglades Agricultural Area Storage Reservoir Feasibility Study



- Last increment of storage and necessary treatment to meet the goal of CERP
- Continue to improve the quantity, quality, timing and distribution of water flows to the Northern Estuaries and central Everglades
- Be consistent with federal program and policy requirements to maintain eligibility for federal cost share
- Meet applicable water quality standards

# Project Opportunities and Objectives

- Reduce the high-volume freshwater discharges from Lake Okeechobee to the Northern Estuaries
- Identify storage, treatment and conveyance south of Lake Okeechobee to increase flows to the Everglades system
- Reduce ongoing ecological damage to the Northern Estuaries and Everglades system



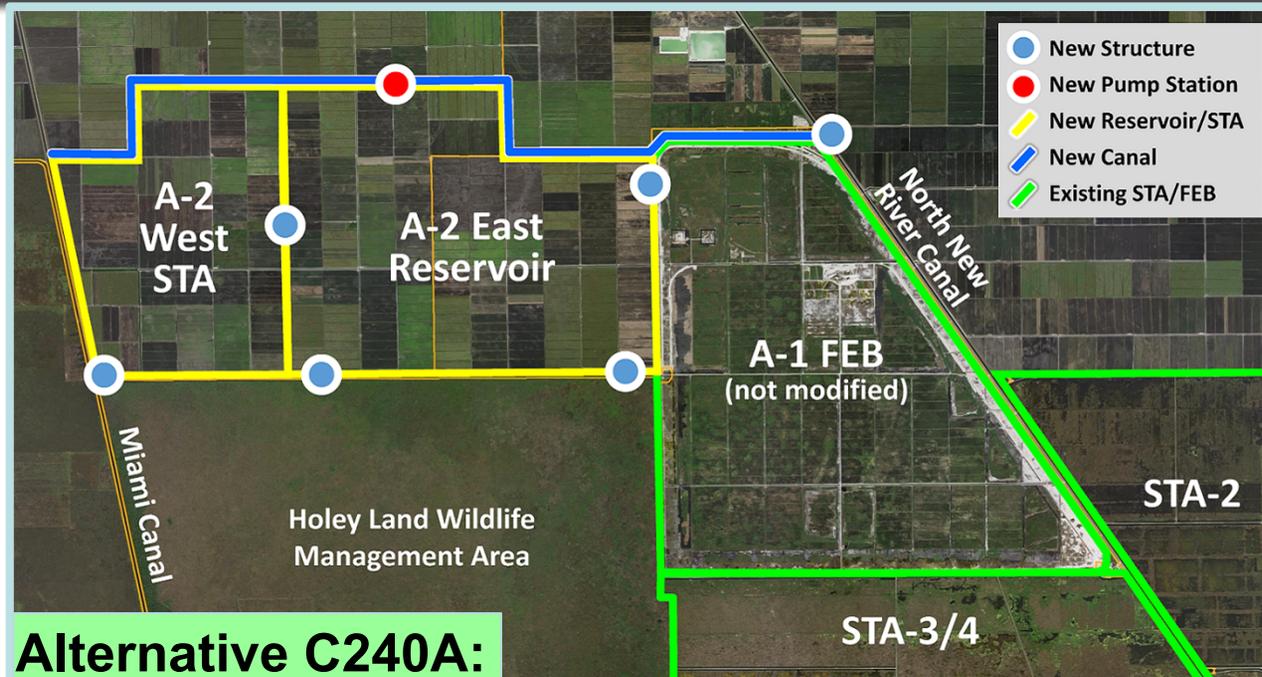
Water Conservation Area 3A

# Array of Alternatives

- Five alternatives were formulated consisting of either 240,000 or 360,000 ac-ft reservoirs and an STA
  - 360,000 ac-ft reservoir alternatives conflicted with the State's Restoration Strategies Program
  - System-wide operations were optimized to obtain the greater benefits
- Alternatives were evaluated for effectiveness, acceptability, completeness and efficiency



# Tentatively Recommended Plan



- 240,000 acre-foot reservoir
- Reservoir ~ 10,500 acres and ~ 23 feet deep
- Stormwater Treatment Area (STA) ~ 6,500 acres

- Multiple purpose operations consistent with CERP – environmental benefits and other water related needs
- Preserves the A-1 FEB as identified in Restoration Strategies, consistent with CEPP

# Tentatively Recommended Plan Benefits

- Promotes Sustainability:
  - Improves amount of time lake is in preferred ecological stage envelope
  - Decreases the number of extreme low lake events
- Promotes Resiliency:
  - Approaches CERP goal in reducing damaging discharges from Lake Okeechobee
  - Reduces high flow discharge events to northern estuaries
  - Improves salinity conditions in the northern estuaries
- Promotes Flow:
  - Increases flows to approximately 370,000 ac-ft (average annual)
  - Restores vegetative communities and habitat for fish and wildlife
  - Reduces dry-outs



## Submitted for Federal Approval

- March 8, 2018 - CEPP Post Authorization Change Report Approved by SFWMD Governing Board
- March 28, 2018 - CEPP Post Authorization Change Report Submitted to Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works
- March 30, 2018 - CEPP Post Authorization Change Report Published on SFWMD website
- May 30, 2018 – ASA(CW) determined project feasible and transmitted the report to the Office of Budget and Management (OMB)
- July 10, 2018 – OMB completed its review and provided clearance to submit to Congress
- July 11, 2018 – ASA(CW) submitted the report to Congress



# Discussion