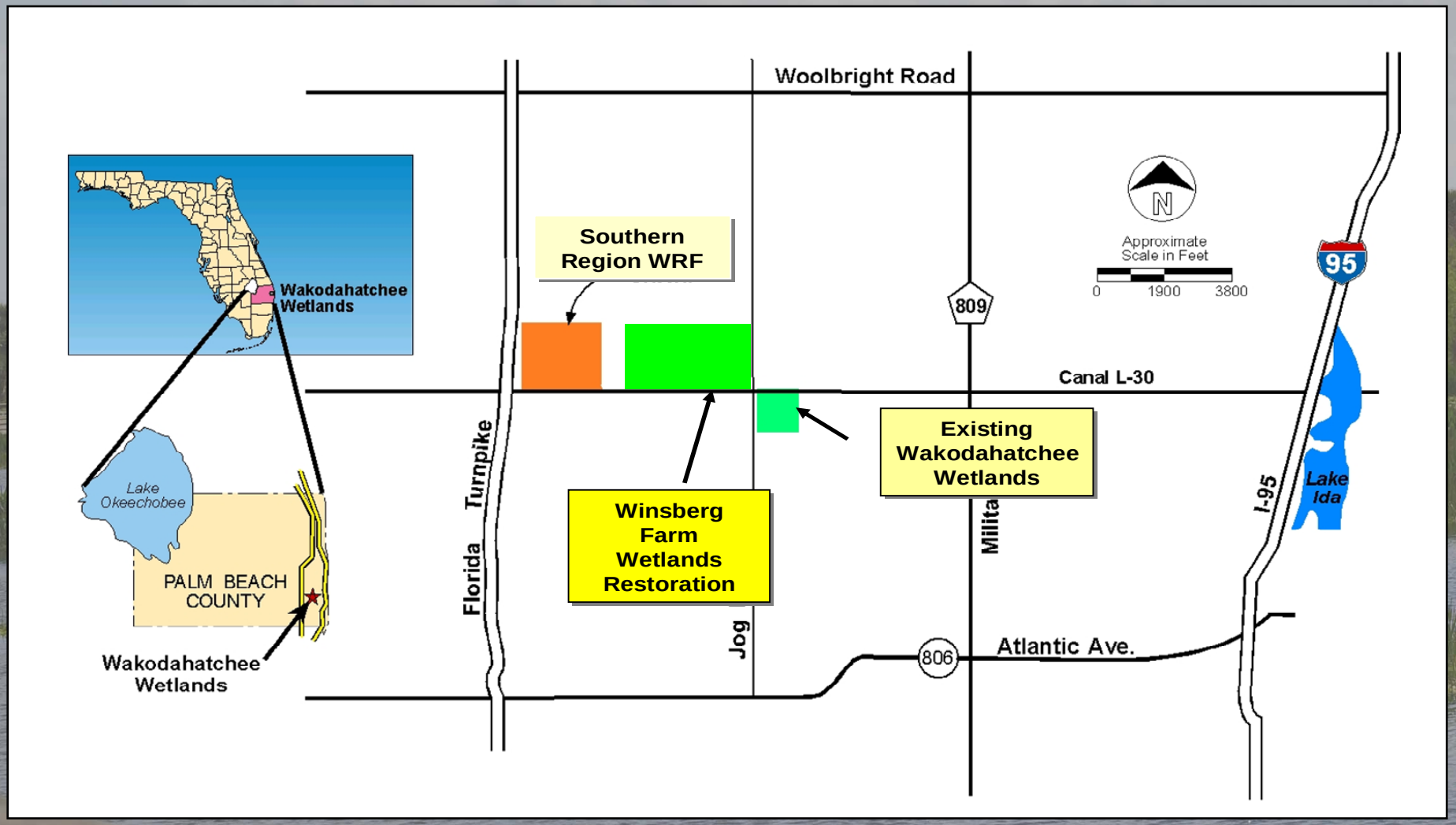
Winsberg Farm (Green Cay) Wetland Restoration

Briefing for
SFERTF Working Group

28 April 2008

Project Location



Project Authorization

- **The Winsberg Farm Wetlands Restoration project was authorized under Section 601(c)(3) of WRDA 2000 (Additional Program Authority).**
- **Section 601 of WRDA 2000 (PL-106-541) States :**

  "(c) ADDITIONAL PROGRAM AUTHORITY-

  (1) IN GENERAL – To expedite implementation of the Plan, the Secretary may implement modifications to the Central and Southern Florida Projects that-

  (A) are described in the Plan; and

  (B) will produce a substantial benefit to the restoration, preservation and protection of the South Florida ecosystem."
- **WRDA 2000 limited total project funding to $25 million**
- **WRDA 2007 allows cost increases up to Section 902 limit without additional authorization.**

Objectives

- Restore approximately 150 acres of wetlands in Palm Beach County
- Increase the quantity of water in the natural system
- Increase spatial extent of fish and wildlife habitat

Project Background

- Winsberg Farm Project is a CERP – Other Project Element (OPE) in the 1999 Yellow Book.
- Palm Beach County Water Utilities Dept. (PBCWUD) is the local sponsor
- Wetlands receive treated effluent from PBCWUD. (effluent was deep well injected.)
- Mr. Winsberg sold a portion of his farm to Palm Beach County with several conditions.
  - The property must be turned into wetlands similar to the Wakodahatchee Wetlands (adjacent to the Winsberg property).
  - Construction had to begin by 12/03, or the property ownership would revert to Winsberg.
  - PBCWUD completed Phase 1 in 2005

Project Background- Yellow Book Description

Yellow Book (pg. 9-15):

9.1.8.5 Winsberg Farms Wetland Restoration (OPE)

- ***"This feature includes the construction of a 175-acre wetland east of Loxahatchee Wildlife Preserve in Palm Beach County. The feature will reduce the amount of treated water from the South Region Water Reclamation Facility (SRWRF) wasted in deep injection wells by further treating and recycling the water. The purpose of this facility is to create a wetland from water, which would be normally lost to deep well injection and any future beneficial use. The wetland will reuse a valuable resource, recharge the local aquifer system, create a new ecologically significant wildlife habitat and extend the function of the nearby Wakodahatchee Wetland."***

Project Background- Yellow Book Description

Breakdown of project acreage:

- 175 total acres purchased
- 7 acres ~ Future fire station, future and existing retention ponds
- 168 acres ~ Total project footprint
  - 19 acres ~ Nature center, parking lot, access/perimeter maintenance roads
  - 149 acres ~ Wetlands, interior berms and exterior embankments
    - 114 acres ~ Hydrated wetlands
    - 35 acres ~ Interior berms and exterior embankments
- 114 acres total project wetlands
  - 72 acres Phase 1 (Completed 2005)
  - 42 acres Phase 2

Winsberg Farm Wetland Restoration Tentatively Selected Plan (PIR)

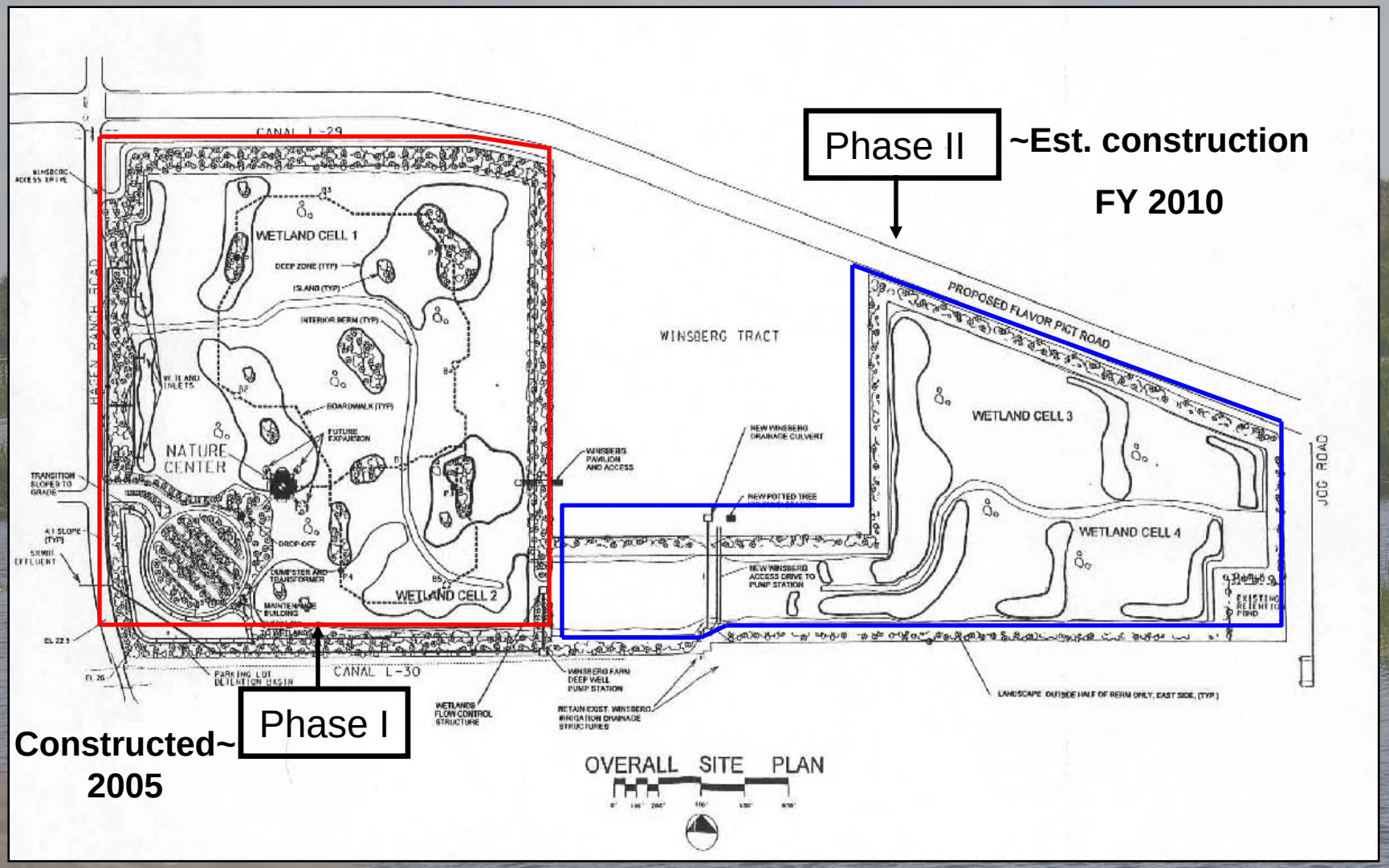
Project Features:

- **114 acres of the site will be hydrated using treated wastewater from the SRWRF (5 MGD)**
- **Constant inflow of water, with levels fluctuating seasonally within a 1 to 2 foot range in response to rainfall**
- **The project site includes a variety of emergent marsh, wet prairie and hardwood hammock habitats.**

Winsberg Farm Wetland Restoration Tentatively Selected Plan (PIR)

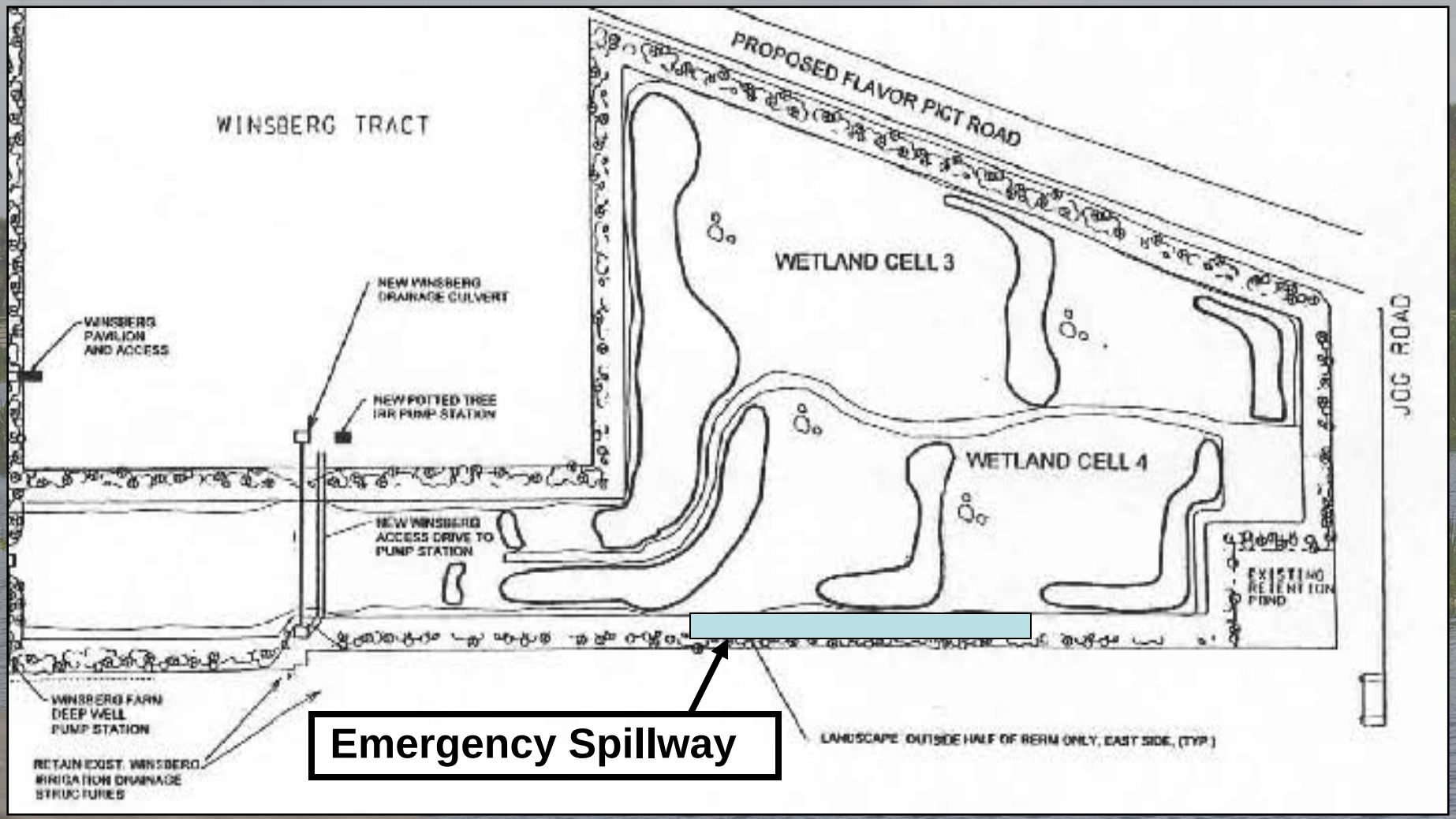
- Control structures allow water to flow from Phase I to Phase II, and re-circulate back into Phase I or to deep well injection during high rainfall events.
- An emergency spillway is planned for Phase II to meet Federal Dam safety requirements
- Project captures 100-yr storm event without discharge into L-30 canal

Winsberg Farm Wetland Restoration Plan

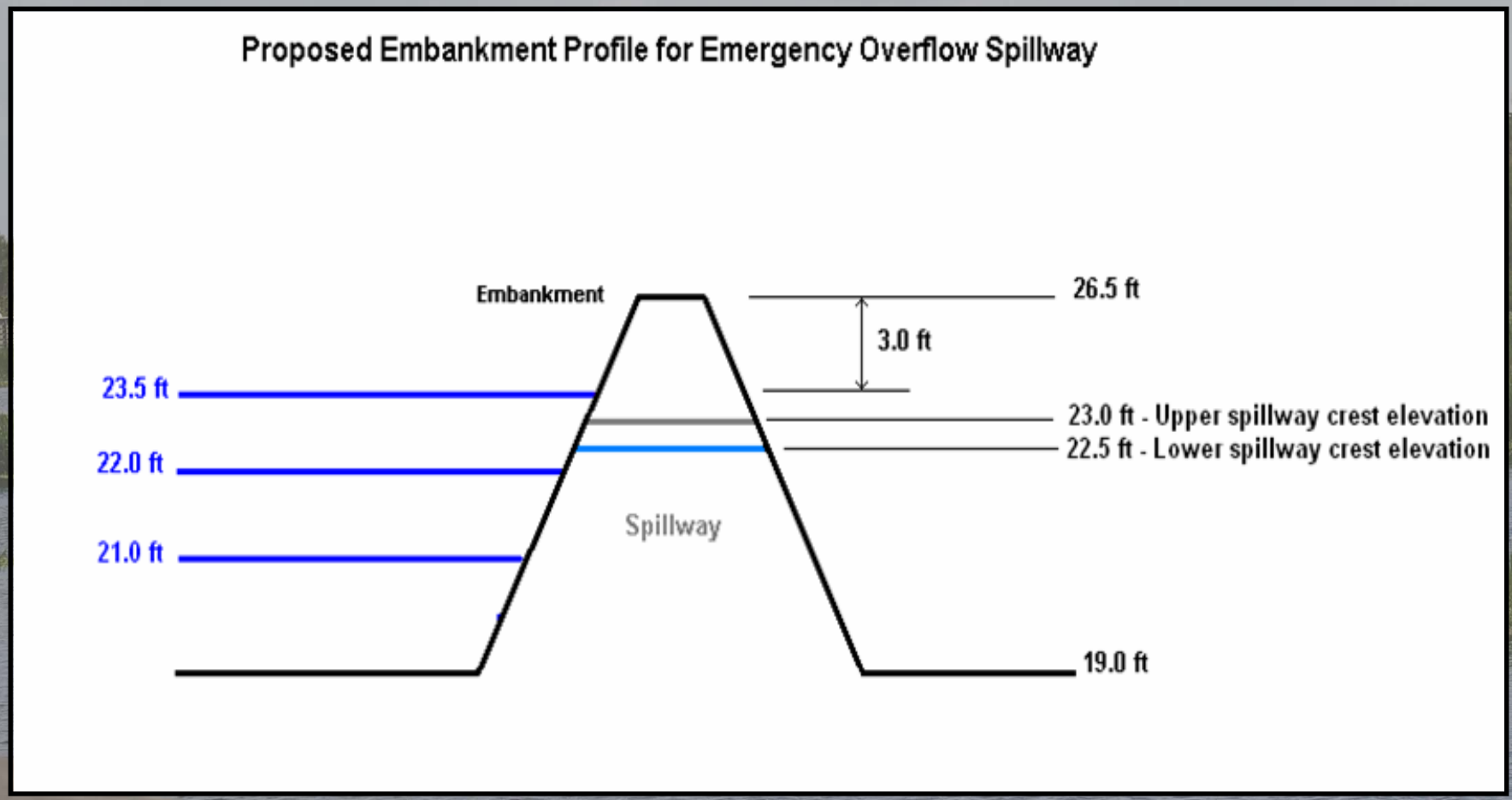


Phase I – Winsberg Farm Wetland Restoration

Phase I I– Winsberg Farm Wetland Restoration



Phase I I– Winsberg Farm Wetland Restoration



Winsberg Farm Wetland Benefits

- Restores wetlands in Palm Beach County.
- Reduces the amount of SRWRF treated water discharged to deep injection wells.
- Local aquifer recharge creates additional fish and significant wildlife habitat.
- Extends the function of the nearby Wakodahatchee Wetland.

Current Project Status

Currently the project is in the Draft Project Implementation Report (DPIR) stage. After being concurrently reviewed by public, resource agencies and Corps HQ. Comments are forthcoming. Following the external review of the DPIR events are as scheduled:

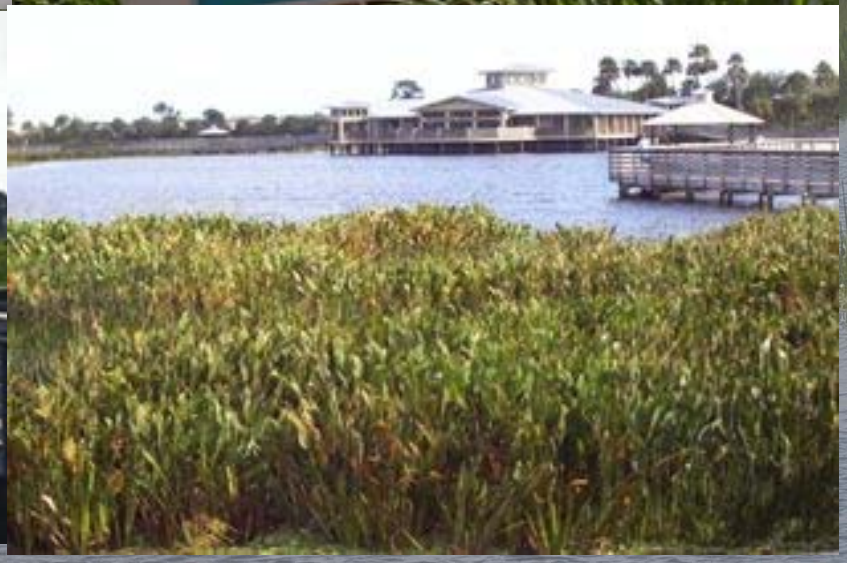
- In-Progress review of DPIR by PDT ~ April 08
- Respond to public comment period ~ May 08
- Project Guidance Memo (PGM) ~ May 08
- Final Draft PIR Complete ~ June 08
- Independent Technical Review (ITR) on Final PIR ~ Sep 08
- Final FWCA Report ~ Sep 08
- Final PIR Complete ~ Oct 08

Current Cost Estimate

WORK PHASE	TOTAL	USACE	PBCWUD
PMP	$60,000	$30,000	$30,000
PIR	$2,300,000	$1,150,000	$1,150,000
Plans and Specs	$850,000	$425,000	$425,000
Real Estate	$2,648,000	$57,000	$2,591,000
Construction (Ph.1)*	$8,500,000	$3,500,000	$5,000,000
Construction (Ph. 2)	$4,800,000	$2,400,000	$2,400,000
Sub-Total Cost		$7,500,000	$11,600,000
Total Cost		**$19,100,000**	

**Regulation on cost sharing prevents some tasks from being a 50/50 split*

Current Project Status




Questions