

# SOUTH FLORIDA ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION (SFER) PROGRAM

Program & Project Update

SFER Working Group / Science Coordination Group  
(WG/SCG)

Howard Gonzales Jr.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Jacksonville District

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# SOUTH FLORIDA ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION PROGRAM

## Purpose and Agenda

The purpose of this briefing is to provide participants with an overview and update on the status of the South Florida Ecosystem Restoration (SFER) program and projects.

### Agenda:

- Program Items
  - ▶ FY20 & FY21 Budget
  - ▶ 2020 Report to Congress
  - ▶ 2020 Engagements
  
- Project Items
  - ▶ C-111 South Dade
  - ▶ Combined Operational Plan (COP)
  - ▶ Central Everglades Planning Project (CEPP)
  - ▶ Loxahatchee River Watershed Restoration Project (LRWRP)
  - ▶ Lake Okeechobee Watershed Restoration Project (LOWRP)
  - ▶ Western Everglades Restoration Project (WERP)



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# SOUTH FLORIDA ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION PROGRAM FY20 & FY21 Budget

CONSTRUCTION		OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE
\$200M	FY20 President's Budget	\$5.454M
\$35M	FY20 Work Plan	\$8.367M
\$235M	FY20 TOTAL	\$13.821M
\$250M	FY21 President's Budget*	\$10.052M

\* = Details of the allocation by project will be made available as soon as the information is releasable.



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# SOUTH FLORIDA ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION PROGRAM

## 2020 Report to Congress

- Section 601(I) of WRDA 2000 requires that the Secretaries of the Army and the Interior jointly submit a report to congress not less than every five years on the implementation of the plan.
- “...the determination of each Secretary, and the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, concerning the benefits to the natural system and the human environment achieved as of the date of the report and whether the completed projects of the plan are being operated in a manner that is consistent with the requirements of subsection (h)...”
- CERP was authorized in December of 2000.



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# SOUTH FLORIDA ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION PROGRAM

## 2020 Report to Congress

2020 REPORT TO CONGRESS - Draft Schedule @ WG/SCG Meeting February 2020			
#	Activity	Due Date	Notes
1	USACE SAJ Brief and Request for Support at WG/SCG	12/4/2019	Follow up written request goes to multiple entities including but not limited to SAJ, SFWMD, FDEP, NPS, FWS, DOI for authors/writers.
2	USACE SAJ receives contact information for 2020 RTC team members (Writers/PDT) and Review Team members (Quality Check Reviewers, direct supervisors or their designee, and OC)	1/27/2020	
3	PDT discusses revision(s) to RTC outline , section assignments, and schedule	1/27/2020	<b>WE ARE HERE :)</b>
4	PDT members <u>update</u> assigned section(s), <u>writeup new section(s)</u> , and provide to Editor	3/28/2020	New section(s) is(are): _____
5	PDT and Agency Reviews and Backchecks Complete. USACE SAJ submits draft 2020 RTC to USACE SAD and HQ	6/18/2020	
6	USACE SAJ Release draft 2020 RTC for public reviews	8/10/2020	30 day review
7	USACE SAJ briefs Task Force WG/SCG	8/31/2020	Subject to TF meeting date
8	Agency Letters of Support	10/4/2020	
9	USACE SAJ submit FINAL 2020 RTC to ASA-CW	11/10/2020	
10	ASA-CW deliver Final Report to Congress	11/17/2020	
	2020 RTC Due Every 5 years from Original Authorization Date	12/12/2020	



1. Draft document sections have been provided by USACE to designated PDT members (complete)
2. Designated PDT members will provide marked up versions of draft document.



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## 2020 Report to Congress

### Project Delivery Team Meetings:

- February 24, 2020 – objective is to discuss report changes and updates
- March 24, 2020 - objective is to discuss report changes and updates
- April 22, 2020 – first draft of compiled report and kickoff review team

Future monthly meetings will be scheduled at a later date.



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## 2020 Engagements

1. May: RIBBON CUTTING - Modified Water Deliveries / C-111 South Dade. In conjunction with SFER Task Force Meeting in south Florida
2. July: SIGNING CEREMONY - Central Everglades Planning Project (CEPP), Project Partnership Agreement (PPA)
3. October: RIBBON CUTTING - Kissimmee River Restoration (KRR), Backfill Completion
4. December: GROUND BREAKING - CEPP (South) USACE Construction
5. December: SIGNING CEREMONY - CEPP (New Water), PPA Amendment

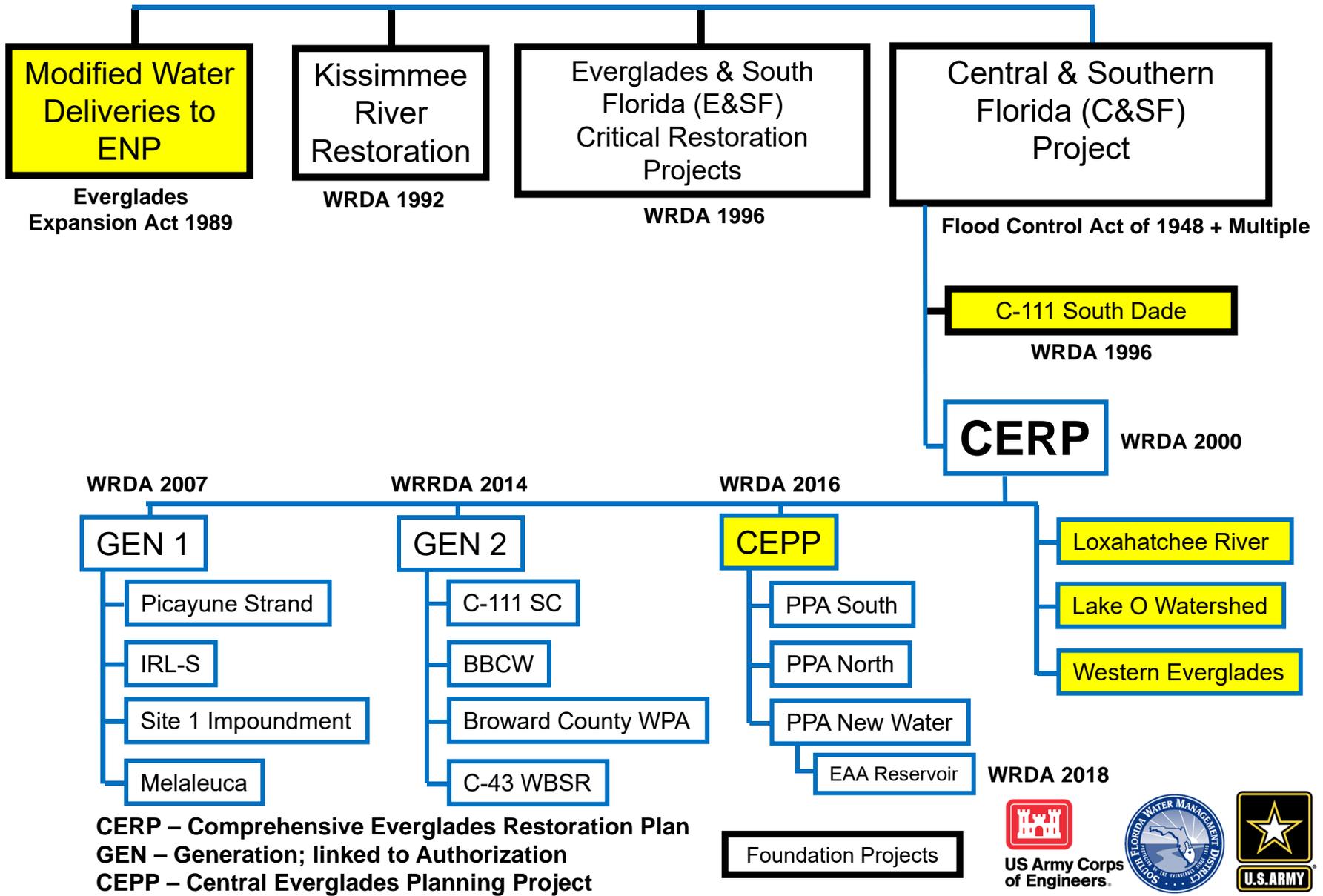


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## Program Structure

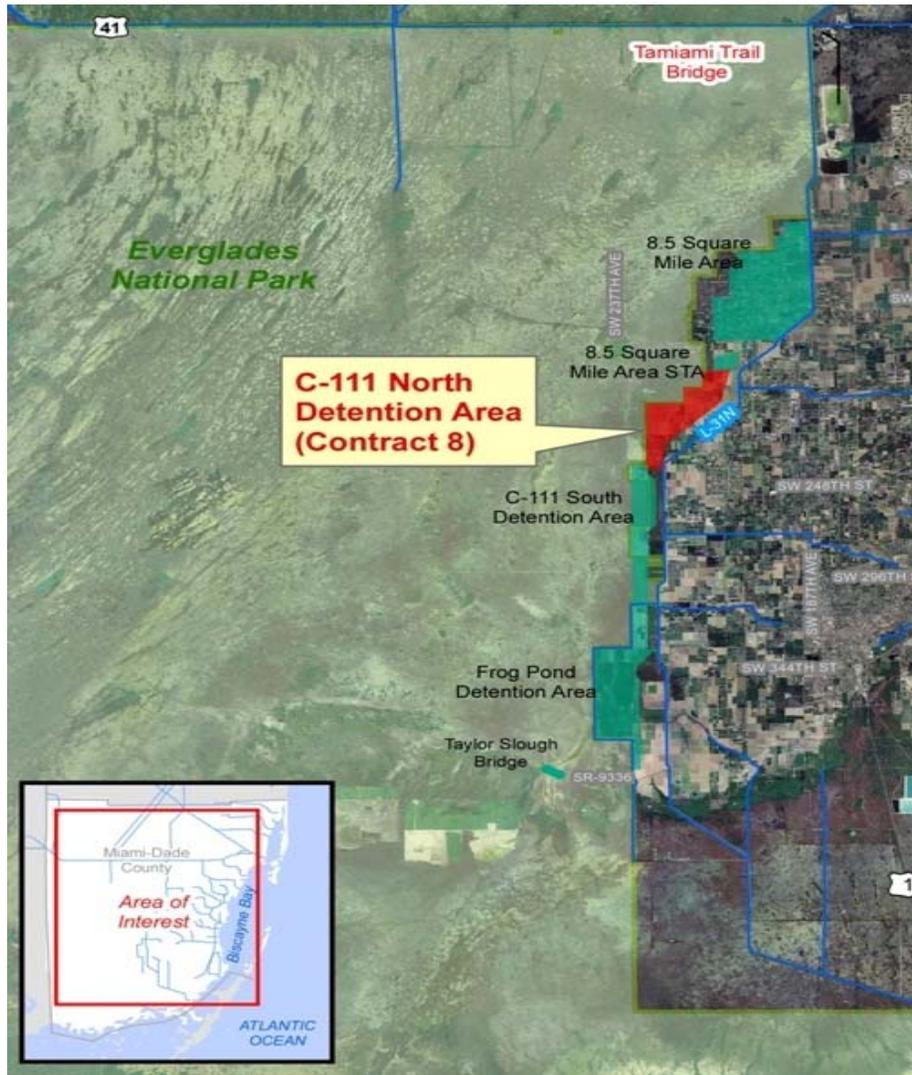


**CERP** – Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan  
**GEN** – Generation; linked to Authorization  
**CEPP** – Central Everglades Planning Project



# SOUTH FLORIDA ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION PROGRAM

## C&SF: Canal 111 (C-111) South Dade



Reduces water losses from Everglades National Park and improves freshwater flow to Taylor Slough and Florida Bay. Provides for 9,500 acre-feet of storage & seepage that reduces damaging canal discharges to Barnes Sound, reduces seepage losses from ENP, and maintains flood protection for commercial, residential, and agricultural properties to the east

### Status:

- Construction scheduled for completion in May
- Conducting post authorization change report (PACR) to address temporary pump stations and O&M Cost Share
  - Public Review currently underway
  - Report scheduled for completion in May
  - WRDA 2020 Consideration



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## Modified Water Deliveries to Everglades National Park



Restores water deliveries to Northeast Shark River Slough in Everglades National Park. Storage, conveyance and seepage management improve natural water flows to Everglades National Park, provide flood mitigation for residential areas, re-connect freshwater flows, and reduce seepage losses

### Status:

- Construction complete!
- Combined Operational Plan (COP)
  - Scheduled for completion in August
  - Draft EIS published in the Federal Register on January 31 for agency and public review
  - Public meetings conducted February 18-20
  - Final EIS scheduled for completion in June
  - Progress and completion required to support CEPP implementation

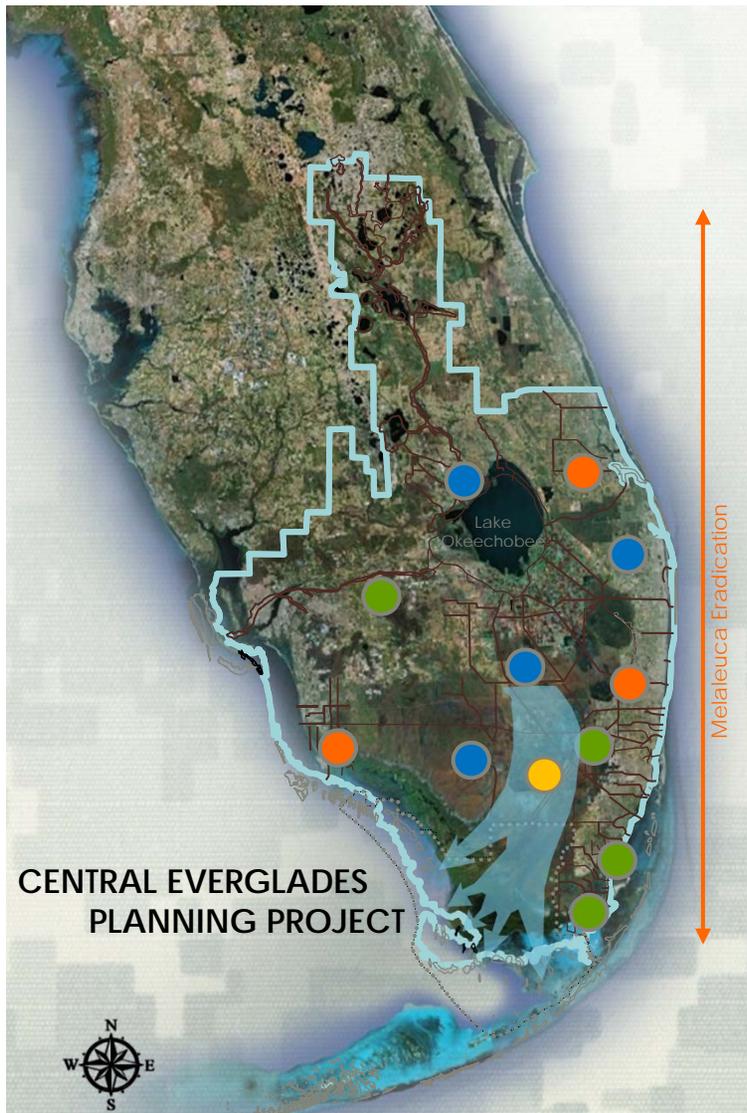


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## Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP)



### 1<sup>st</sup> Generation

Site 1 Impoundment  
Indian River Lagoon – South (IRL-S)  
Picayune Strand Restoration Project  
Melaleuca Eradication and Other Exotic Plants

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Generation

C-43 West Basin Storage Reservoir  
C-111 Spreader Canal Western Project  
Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands  
Broward County Water Preserve Area

Central Everglades Planning Project  
--EAA Storage Reservoir

### CERP Planning/Design

Loxahatchee River Watershed Restoration  
Lake Okeechobee Watershed Restoration  
Western Everglades Restoration

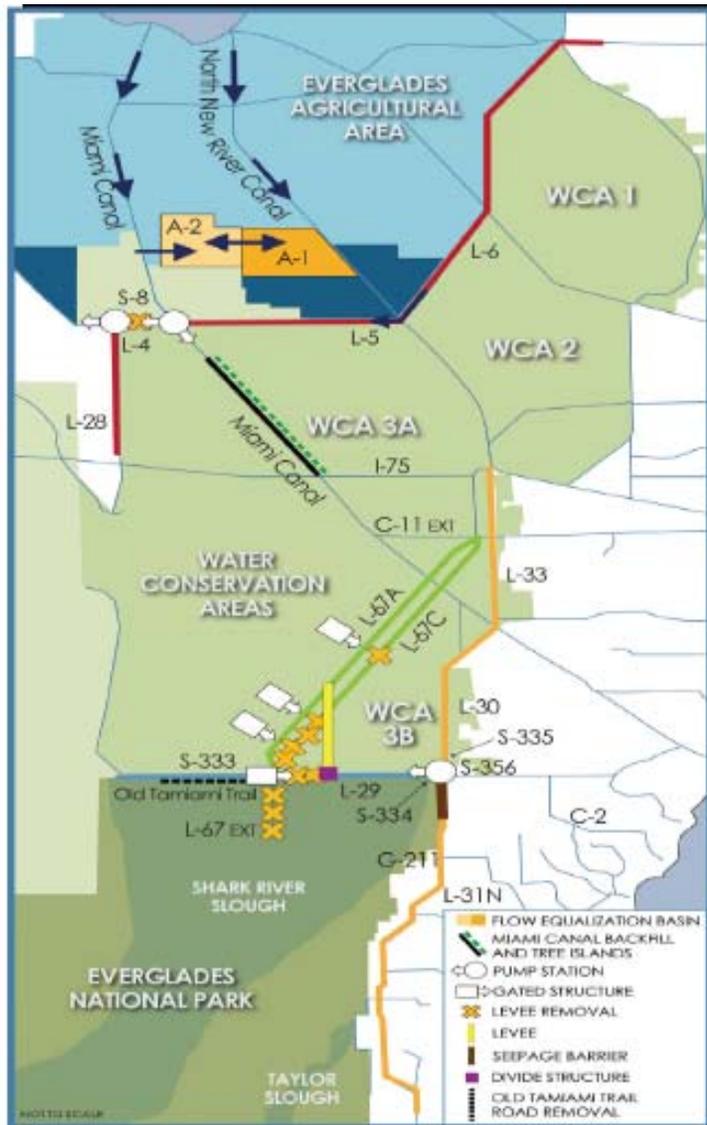


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## CERP: Central Everglades Planning Project (CEPP)



CEPP focuses restoration on more natural flows into and through the central and southern Everglades by increasing storage, treatment and conveyance of water south of Lake Okeechobee; removing canals and levees within the central Everglades, and retaining water within Everglades National Park

### Status:

- CEPP PPA execution in July 2020
- CEPP South
  - SFWMD engaging design and construction of features
  - SAJ construction contract award in September
- CEPP New Water
  - EAA Reservoir authorized by WRDA 2018 (Section 1308) as a part of CEPP New Water; SAJ completing Section 1308 Follow-up Report in May
  - Design of features ongoing
- SAJ scheduled to award construction contracts in 2020, 2021, and 2022
- COP progress and completion required for implementation



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## CERP: Loxahatchee River Watershed Restoration Project

### Recommended Plan – Alternative 5R



Restore and sustain the overall quantity, quality, timing, and distribution of fresh waters to the federally designated “National Wild and Scenic” Northwest Fork of the Loxahatchee River. This project also seeks to restore, sustain, and reconnect the wetlands and watersheds that form the historic headwaters for the river and its tributaries.

### Status:

- Project Implementation Report (PIR) in final stages of development.
- State & Agency Review – February 2020
- Chief’s Report – May 2020
- WRDA 2020 Consideration



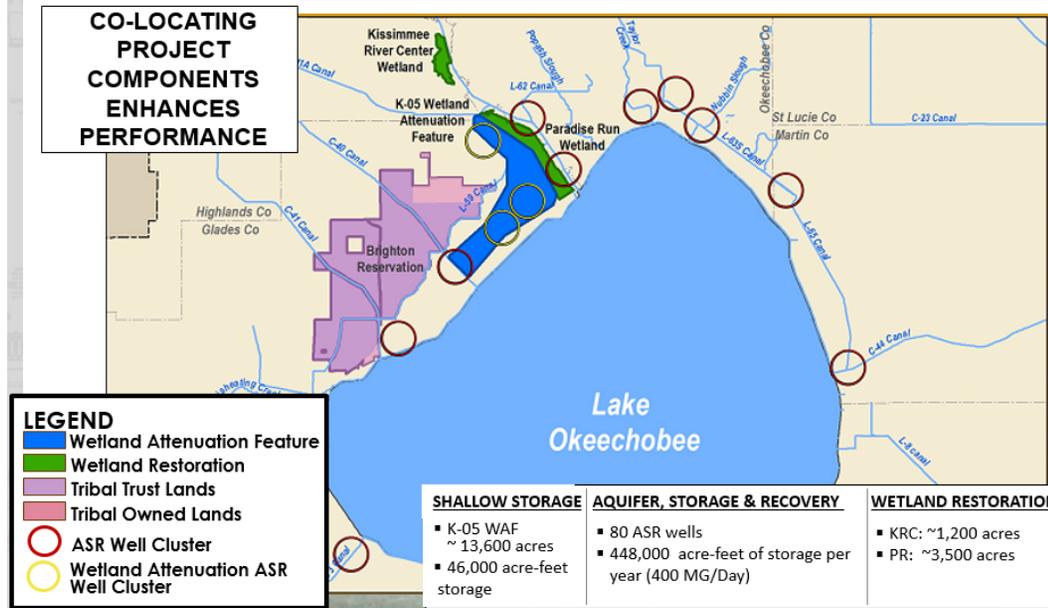
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## CERP: Lake Okeechobee Watershed Restoration Project

### Recommended Plan – Alternative 1BWR



Improve water levels in Lake Okeechobee; improve the quantity and timing of discharges to the St. Lucie and Caloosahatchee estuaries; restore degraded habitat for fish and wildlife throughout the study area; and increase the spatial extent and functionality of wetlands.

### Status:

- Project Implementation Report (PIR) in final stages of development
- Senior Leaders' Panel – February 2020
- State & Agency Review – March 2020
- Chief's Report – May 2020
- WRDA 2020 Consideration



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## CERP: Western Everglades Restoration Project

### LEGEND

-  Seminole Tribe of Florida Reservation
-  Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida Reservations

### Measures

-  Water Treatment
-  Weir
-  Adjustable Control Structure
-  Pump
-  Culvert
-  Plug
-  Spreader
-  Treated Water
-  Runoff
-  Backfill
-  Backfill/Degrade Levee
-  Vegetation Restoration
-  Existing Culverts
-  Existing Structures
-  Embankment
-  Pipe

Note: All alternatives assume STA 5/6 modifications will be constructed prior WERP implementation.



Improve the quantity, quality, timing, and distribution of water in the western Everglades. Reestablish sheetflow across the Big Cypress Seminole Indian Reservation and into Big Cypress National Preserve while maintaining existing levels of flood protection and water quality standards.

### Status:

- Project briefed to SFER Task Force on 29 October 2019 with notification of SAJ's intention to terminate
- Letters of study support received from SFWMD, FDEP, DOI, NPS, STOF, and MTOIF; follow-up meeting conducted February 21, 2020
- Reinitiating study efforts, including preparation of 2<sup>nd</sup> SMART Planning Waiver request; TSP Milestone Meeting in summer 2020



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