



SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

GET THE FACTS

July 22, 2016

Certain environmental advocates recently posted a note to supporters falsely claiming the State of Florida is delaying Everglades restoration. Their single focus on buying land summarily ignores real progress on critical projects that are under construction or have begun to provide tangible restoration benefits.

The State of Florida and the Governing Board of the South Florida Water Management District have expedited projects, taken over work from federal agencies to ensure it is done right and timely and accomplished things naysayers said would never be done. Everglades restoration progress is real, ongoing and impossible to ignore.

HERE ARE THE FACTS:



CLEAN WATER FOR THE EVERGLADES:

Water in Everglades National Park is cleaner than it has been in generations and meets water quality requirements. Florida invested \$1.8 billion to develop the science and the infrastructure to move clean water into the Park, including 57,000 acres of wetlands that filter water before it reaches the Park and Florida Bay.



PLAN TO SEND MORE WATER TO FLORIDA BAY:

By November, double the amount of fresh, clean water per year will start flowing into Taylor Slough, which connects to the freshwater-

starved Florida Bay. The new plan approved by the Governing Board will send an average of 6.5 billion gallons more fresh water per year to Florida Bay, in wet and dry seasons alike.



ENSURING CLEAN WATER FOR THE FUTURE:

Under Gov. Rick Scott's Restoration Strategies plan, an additional \$880 million is being invested to construct another 6,500 acres of treatment wetlands, along with several vast storage areas and other projects, to allow more water to be cleaned and sent south. Key projects include:

- **A-1 FEB - COMPLETE:** The reservoir is complete and already attenuating peak stormwater flows, temporarily storing water so it can be delivered at a steady rate to Everglades Stormwater Treatment Areas to improve their water-cleaning performance.
- **L-8 FEB - NEARING COMPLETION:** The 53-foot deep reservoir will be capable of storing 45,000 acre-feet, or 15 billion gallons, of water.



KEEPING CLEAN WATER IN EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK:

The C-111 Spreader Canal - Western Project is complete and operating to ensure clean water does not seep out of the Park and stays within the natural system where it is most needed.



REHYDRATING BISCAYNE BAY COASTAL WETLANDS:

The Deering Estate Flow-way is complete and rehydrating crucial coastal wetlands to improve nearshore salinity and habitat in a portion of Biscayne Bay.



RESTORATION SUCCESS AT THE KISSIMMEE RIVER:

Science has already shown major restoration achievements, including the return of wildlife, in the project to return flow to 40 miles of the river's historic channel and restore about 40 square miles of river/floodplain ecosystem. The project is in the final phase of construction and is projected to be complete by 2019.



PROGRESS FOR THE CALOOSAHATCHEE RIVER AND ESTUARY:

The Governing Board approved the start of early construction on the C-43 Reservoir, which will hold approximately 170,000 acre-feet of fresh water from local stormwater runoff and releases from Lake Okeechobee. The reservoir's primary purpose is to store fresh water during the wet season and release it to the Caloosahatchee River and Estuary during drier months.



PROGRESS PROTECTING THE ST. LUCIE RIVER AND ESTUARY:

The Governing Board approved expediting construction of the C-44 Reservoir and Stormwater Treatment Area, which will capture and clean basin stormwater runoff before it reaches the river and estuary.



TAKING OVER TEN MILE CREEK WATER PRESERVE:

The Governing Board took control of this failed project and in July approved a construction contract to repair the Ten Mile Creek Water Preserve Area and increase its capacity to provide water storage and treatment for the St. Lucie River and Estuary by the beginning of the 2017 wet season.

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The South Florida Water Management District is a regional governmental agency that manages the water resources in the southern part of the state. It is the oldest and largest of the state's five water management districts. Our mission is to protect South Florida's water resources by balancing and improving flood control, water supply, water quality and natural systems.