

Martin County Projects Update



Rivers Coalition Meeting May 28, 2015 at 11 a.m., City of Stuart Commission Chambers (Update provided by Deborah Drum, Ecosystem Manager, Ecosystem Restoration & Management Division)

- Lake O currently at 12.87 feet
 - 1 year ago 12.50 feet
 - 2 years ago 13.29 feet
- All American Ditch Project – Martin County and the SFWMD have successfully come to an agreement on a parcel of land on Mapp Road that will allow for the County to construct a stormwater treatment project that will help address one of the most polluted tributaries of the St. Lucie Estuary. We anticipate that this project will reduce current nutrients loads of Total Phosphorus (TP) by an estimated 69%, Total Nitrogen (TN) by 48%, and Total Suspended Solids (TSS) by 91%. We are in the design process now and anticipate starting construction in early to mid-2016.
- The Florida Legislature will hold a special session on June 1-20 to take up the budget and conforming bills. Martin County is advocating for funding for various water quality and water storage projects and we greatly appreciate the support of Representative MaryLynn Magar in sponsoring a multitude of water projects on behalf of the County, Representative Gayle Harrell for sponsoring funding for the St. Lucie River Issues Team and Senator Joe Negron and Senator Denise Grimsley for their support of the projects in the Senate. Martin County is supporting the Governor's Budget for Everglades restoration and his request for a dedicated funding source for Everglades restoration, critical to the advancement of projects and ability to draw down federal dollars. Both Lee and Martin Counties passed a joint resolution in support of the Governor's request. We are also advocating for additional funding for land acquisition and greatly appreciate Senator Joe Negron's support for \$500 million for land acquisition.
- Comprehensive water policy was not included in the call for the special session and will likely be revisited in the next regular session.
- Commissioner Sarah Heard provided comment recently at the federally convened South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task Force in support of the inclusion of other components of the Indian River Lagoon-South project beyond the C-44, including the C-23/C-24, and C-25, in the Integrated Delivery Schedule, the blueprint for the next 15 years of Everglades restoration.
- Approximately \$59 million for the reservoir component of the C-44 project was included in the President's Budget and is currently in the House Energy & Water Appropriations Bill and Senate Energy & Water Appropriations Bill. The total request for Everglades restoration is \$123,742,000 and the bill also includes the language we support to de-authorize the Ten Mile Creek project, which would allow the SFWMD to fix the project. We greatly appreciate the advocacy of Congressman Patrick Murphy, Senator Bill Nelson and Senator Marco Rubio on this funding priority of the County. We are hopeful that construction on the reservoir can begin in the next few months.