



C-44 Reservoir

# CERP Construction and Planning Projects

## Progress Report

South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Projects including the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP) are authorized when a planning study is approved by Congress as part of a Water Resource Development Act (WRDA). Responsibility for design and construction of CERP and other restoration projects is shared between the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD), based on coordination between the two agencies, the Integrated Delivery Schedule (IDS), and the Project Partnership Agreement for each project. This document reports on the USACE's progress on CERP efforts for the restoration of the Greater Everglades as directed by Governor DeSantis in Executive Order 23-06, as well as the SFWMD's continued efforts to expedite Everglades restoration projects and improve water quality and quantity.

### Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands – Cutler Wetlands Component

**Lead Agency:** SFWMD

**Anticipated Completion Year:** 2025

**Project Description:** The Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands Project – Cutler Wetlands Component will improve the health of Biscayne Bay, aid in wetland rehydration, build coastal resiliency and improve water quality. The Cutler Wetlands Component is the final component of the Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands Project.

**Status:** Construction.

- Contract 6A – Pump Station S-701 under construction
- Contract 6B – Construction contract awarded in December 2023

### Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands – L-31 East Flowway

**Lead Agency:** USACE

**Anticipated Completion Year:** 2026

**Project Description:** The project restores freshwater flows to southern Biscayne Bay and Biscayne National Park while improving salinity distribution near the shore. It also restores historical freshwater wetland habitat adjacent to the Bay, which acts like a sponge, soaking up water in the wet season and slowly releasing it in a more natural pattern.

**Status:** Construction; Operational Testing and Monitoring Period.

- Contract 4 – Pump Station S-709: Construction is complete. Operation Testing and Monitoring Period is underway.
- Contract 5A – Pump Station S-705: Construction is complete. Permanent power was delivered to pump station on March 5, 2024. Endurance test scheduled for March 11-12, 2024.
- Contract 5B – Pump Station S-703 and Recreational Sites: Construction is in the commissioning phase. Final inspection took place on March 5, 2024 between USACE, SFWMD, FDEP, and contractor. Awaiting permanent power solution from FPL.
- Contract 5C – Pump Stations S-710 and S-711, Seepage Canal C-711W: Piling and auguring are complete for S-711 and S-710. Installation of precast box for spreader canal is underway and sod was installed on spreader canal. Seepage Canal berm construction is substantially complete, sod will be placed. Awaiting permanent power from FPL.

### Biscayne Bay and Southeastern Everglades Ecosystem Restoration (BBSEER)

**Lead Agency:** USACE

**Anticipated Completion Year:** 2026

**Project Description:** The BBSEER Project aims to restore natural areas in southeastern Miami-Dade County, including the Model Lands, Southern Glades, nearshore estuarine habitats of Biscayne Bay, and the associated coastal and freshwater wetlands.

**Status:** Planning: A 3x3x3 planning study waiver request for scope, schedule and budget is in development to complete the study. The project team is in round three modeling process and will continue to refine alternatives. **Next Milestone:** Confirmation of a Tentatively Selected Plan is scheduled June 2024.

### Broward County Water Preserve Areas

**Lead Agency:** USACE

**Anticipated Completion Year:** 2034

**Project Description:** This project will reduce water loss from the Central Everglades. It is designed to perform two primary functions: reduce seepage loss from Water Conservation Area (WCA) 3A/3B to the C-11 and C-9 basins; and capture, store and distribute surface water runoff from the western C-11 basin that has been discharged into WCA 3A/3B.

**Status:** Design.

- Contract 2 – C-11 Impoundment Embankment: Final design is in progress and the construction award is expected in Q4 FY 2024.
- Contract 3 – C-11 Impoundment Pump Station: Design is in progress, and the construction award is expected in late FY 2025.
- Contract 4 – WCA3A Seepage Management Area: Design to start later in FY24.
- Contract 5 – C-9 Impoundment: Design to start later in FY24.



Water Conservation Area 3

## Caloosahatchee (C-43) Reservoir

**Lead Agency:** SFWMD

**Anticipated Completion Year:** 2025

**Project Description:** The project will capture excess C-43 Basin runoff and regulatory releases from Lake Okeechobee during the wet season and release water from the reservoir during the dry season. It includes development of one aboveground reservoir, with a total storage capacity of approximately 170,000 acre-feet. The project will reduce the extreme salinity changes in the Caloosahatchee River Estuary by providing a more consistent flow of freshwater discharging into the estuary.

**Status:** Construction.

- Package 1 – Embankment Preloading at 6 critical structures around the dam and demolition of existing infrastructure work is complete.
- Package 2 – S-476 Pump Station replaces the original irrigation pump station located on the header canal that supplied water to existing water users work is complete.
- Package 3 – S-470 Inflow Pump Station which pulls water from the Caloosahatchee River through the Townsend Canal to the Reservoir work is complete. Ribbon cutting event held on December 19, 2023.
- Package 4 – Reservoir: Concrete work at S-473 completed, concrete work at S-471, S-483, site access bridge and local bridge continue, soil cement (buttress) 9.5 of 22 miles completed, soil cement proof of concept (slope) accepted, 1st 1,000 feet of slope placed and completed last week, Townsend Canal sheet pile installation south of power lines completed, Phase II Soil Bentonite Wall completed on west embankment, Phase II SB wall “re-dig” underway proceeding from S-474 west, F5 gap closure embankment completed and Phase II SB wall installed at F5. All three motors/pumps installed at S-479 and functioning (commissioning to follow), M3 embankment north of S-475 near completion, perimeter canal and intake canal work continue, contracts for wave wall and sand column relief manifold (north reach) awarded.

## Central Everglades Planning Project (CEPP) Everglades Agricultural Area (EAA) Reservoir

**Lead Agency:** USACE

**Anticipated Completion Year:** 2035

**Project Description:** CEPP includes four phases of projects that help restore the natural flow of water south from Lake Okeechobee to the Central & Southern Everglades. The CEPP EAA Phase will store, treat and send new water to the Everglades. The EAA Reservoir reduces damaging discharges from Lake Okeechobee to the Northern Estuaries. The 10,000-acre reservoir component includes 240,000 acre-feet of storage and delivers water to the 6,500-acre A-2 STA for water quality treatment. The project provides an additional average annual 370,000 acre-feet of clean water sent to the Everglades.

**Status:** Design; Construction.

- Contract 11B - Embankment, outlet structures and spillway: Final design has been completed, the construction contract was advertised February 23, 2024, and the construction award is expected at the end of FY 2024.
- Contract 11C - S-636 Seepage Pump Station: Design began in March 2023, and the construction award is expected in Sept. 2026.
- Contract 10A - Seepage Inflow/Outflow Canal: Environmental monitoring and pre-construction survey work continues. Dewatering within the footprint of the inflow/outflow canal is ongoing. De-mucking, clearing, and grubbing activities began in March 2023 and are 70% complete. Excavation of the canal footprint continues and is 40% complete.
- Contract 11A - Foundation Preparation & Cutoff Wall: Contractor mobilized to the site in Aug. 2023 and is progressing through submittals. Clearing, grubbing and de-mucking of borrow pit areas 2 and 3 is complete with borrow area 5 being 60% complete. Construction of the access and haul roads on the eastern perimeter is ongoing. Cofferdam installation is 75% complete.
- Contract 12: S-623 Reservoir Inflow Pump Station: In design and will be in construction by SFWMD in mid-2024.



C-43 Reservoir Pump Station.

## Central Everglades Planning Project (CEPP) Everglades Agricultural Area (EAA) Stormwater Treatment Area (STA)

**Lead Agency:** SFWMD

**Anticipated Completion Year:** 2024

**Project Description:** The 6,500-acre STA will clean water stored in the 240,000 acre-foot EAA Reservoir and allow it to be moved south to the Everglades. Stormwater Treatment Areas use aquatic vegetation to remove harmful nutrient pollution from the water. Sending more clean water south will support the ecological health of the Everglades and Florida Bay.

**Status:** Construction.

- Contract 9B - STA Cells: In construction. Initial filling commenced end of January 2024.
- Contract 9B - STA Inflow-Outflow Canal: Construction completed in FY 2023.

## Central Everglades Planning Project (CEPP) Everglades Agricultural Area (EAA) Canal Conveyance Improvements

**Lead Agency:** SFWMD

**Anticipated Completion Year:** 2027

**Project Description:** The North New River Canal Conveyance increases canal capacity by 200 cfs. The Miami Canal Conveyance Improvements increase canal capacity by 1,000 cfs.

**Status:** Design.

- Contract 9A - EAA North New River Canal Improvements: Construction contract awarded in December 2023.
- Contract 9A - EAA Miami River Canal Improvements Phase 1: Design is ongoing and construction award by end of FY 2024.
- Contract 9A - EAA Miami River Canal Improvements Phase 2: Design is ongoing and construction award in early FY 2025.

## Central Everglades Planning Project (CEPP) New Water Seepage Barrier Wall Project

**Lead Agency:** SFWMD

**Anticipated Completion Year:** 2024

**Project Description:** The CEPP New Water Seepage Barrier Wall Project extends the successful underground wall that was built as part of the 8.5 Square Mile Area Seepage Wall Project. The project supports ongoing restoration efforts to move water south through the Everglades and into Florida Bay while mitigating potential flooding impacts in communities outside of Everglades National Park.

**Status:** Construction.

- Contract 13 - CEPP Seepage Wall: In construction. Trenching is complete. Concrete bentonite pouring is 100% complete. Permanent capping is 99% complete.



## Central Everglades Planning Project (CEPP) North Phase

**Lead Agency:** SFWMD

**Anticipated Completion Year:** 2030

**Project Description:** CEPP North will restore water levels in the northern portion of the Central Everglades and improve our water resource resiliency in South Florida. The features within the CEPP plan include a reservoir, a stormwater treatment area and water flow improvements.

**Status:** Design; Construction.

- Contract 7A - L-6 Diversion: A groundbreaking for S-620 was held in May 2023. S-622 is in design and contract award is in Q1 FY2025.
- Contract 7A - L-4 Canal Improvements & Distribution Features & S-8A Modifications are in design.
- Contract 7B - S-8 Pump Station Modifications is in design and Phase 1 construction contract award is in Q2 FY2024.
- Contract 8A - L-5 Canal Improvements is in design to be constructed in 2 packages.
- Contract 8B - Miami Canal Backfill and Vegetated Hammocks survey is ongoing.

## Central Everglades Planning Project (CEPP) South Phase

**Lead Agency:** USACE

**Anticipated Completion Year:** 2031

**Project Description:** CEPP South removes water flow barriers to allow natural flow of water south into Everglades National Park. Components include the construction of a pump station, the installation of culverts and spillways and the removal of a roadway and levees that will all help increase the flow of clean water south from WCA 3A to Everglades National Park.

**Status:** Design; Construction.

- Contract 1AR - L-67A Culverts: The contractor has mobilized the processing equipment to S-631 and cofferdam construction is 99% complete. Geogrid placement is ongoing at S-632. Contractor coordination of submittals with USACE is nearing completion.
- Contract 2A - Pump Station S-356E and S-334E Gated Spillway: Final design is complete with Contract Award rescheduled from June 2024 to September 2024. Delay was due to time required to complete coordination with FDOT to execute a construction agreement. Execution of the construction agreement with FDOT occurred in December 2023. Construction contract advertisement is scheduled for end of March 2024.
- Contract 3B - S-355W Gated Spillway in L-29 Canal: Final design is complete. The contract award has been rescheduled from March 2024 to August 2024 and possible risk of further delay due to additional time required to complete coordination with the FDOT to execute a construction agreement. Execution of that agreement is expected in March 2024 with the construction contract advertisement scheduled for April 2024.
- Contract 5 - Blue Shanty Flowway: Final design is scheduled to be complete in FY 2026, and the contract award is scheduled for FY 2026.
- Contract 6 - L-29 Levee Removal: Design is scheduled to begin in FY 2024, and the contract award is scheduled for FY 2028.

## Indian River Lagoon South – C-23 Estuary Discharge Diversion Canal

**Lead Agency:** SFWMD

**Anticipated Completion Year:** 2025

**Project Description:** This interconnect canal project will divert harmful discharges from the C-23 Canal and send it south to the C-44 Reservoir. It improves water quality in the St. Lucie Estuary and helps bring flows to the Estuary closer to its natural pattern.

**Status:** Construction; S-457 Pump Station foundation pour is complete, canal excavation in Segment 1 is 65% and Segment 3 is 95% complete,

Segment 2 Clearing & Grubbing has begun, and Coca Cola Box Culvert excavation is 33% complete.

## Indian River Lagoon South – C-23/24 North Reservoir

**Lead Agency:** USACE

**Anticipated Completion Year:** 2030

**Project Description:** The C-23/24 North Reservoir is a component of the IRL South Project, encompassing more than 2,000 acres. Once completed, it will store approximately 32,000 acre-feet of water.

**Status:** Design.

- Contract 4A – S-426 Pump Station, Afterbay, S-245 Culvert, PC-37 Canal and Structure: Nearing completion of final design, construction contract advertisement scheduled for May 2024 with contract award scheduled for September 2024.
- Contract 4B – S-425 Sag Culvert, S-426 Afterbay, and Reservoir Embankment Construction: The draft final design is expected November 2024.

## Indian River Lagoon South – C-23/24 South Reservoir

**Lead Agency:** SFWMD

**Anticipated Completion Year:** 2030

**Project Description:** The C-23/24 South Reservoir is a component of the IRL South Project, encompassing more than 3,500 acres. Once completed, it will store approximately 57,000 acre-feet of water.

**Status:** Design is ongoing by the SFWMD. Package 1 - Canal and Structure construction contract will be awarded in FY 2024, and Package 2 - Reservoir construction contract will be awarded in FY 2025.

## Indian River Lagoon South – C-23/24 STA

**Lead Agency:** USACE

**Anticipated Completion Year:** 2026

**Project Description:** The 2,700-acre C23/24 STA is designed to treat water from the C-23 and C-24 Basins. Its purpose is to reduce the sediment, phosphorus, and nitrogen going to the St. Lucie River Estuary and the southern portion of the Indian River Lagoon.

**Status:** Construction; Stormwater treatment areas (STA) Cells 1 and 2 are near 100% complete. Cell 3 clearing and grubbing is 90% complete. Cell 4 clearing and grubbing is 75% complete. Cell 5 clearing and grubbing is 97% complete. All water control structures are 50% complete.

## Indian River Lagoon South C-25 Reservoir and STA

**Lead Agency:** SFWMD

**Anticipated Completion Year:** 2028

**Project Description:** The C-25 Reservoir and STA will capture, store and treat local stormwater runoff from the C-25 Canal. The project reduces the rate of harmful flows to downstream estuaries and improves water quality in the estuary and lagoon. Project features include an 803-acre reservoir with 5,176 acre-feet of storage, a 532-acre STA, and a 250 cfs pump station.

**Status:** Design. Package 1 for Site Preparation estimated contract award in Q4 FY 2024.

## Indian River Lagoon South – C-44 Reservoir

**Lead Agency:** USACE

**Completion Year:** 2021

**Project Description:** The C-44 Reservoir will store 50,000 acre-feet of water, including local basin runoff and Lake Okeechobee releases. This will reduce harmful releases reaching the St. Lucie Estuary that can fuel harmful algal blooms.

**Status:** Construction Complete, in Operational Testing and Monitoring Period (OTMP). Repairs to S-402 complete. Designing additional seepage management feature to be constructed under separate contract starting in 2024.

## Indian River Lagoon South – C-44 STA

**Lead Agency:** SFWMD

**Completion Year:** 2019

**Project Description:** The 6,400-acre C-44 STA will remove harmful nutrients and provide regional water quality benefits. It will treat the water stored in the reservoir before it is released into the estuary.

**Status:** Construction Complete, in Operational Testing and Monitoring.

## Indian River Lagoon South Natural Water Quality Storage Areas and Muck Removal

**Lead Agency:** SFWMD

**Anticipated Completion Year:** TBD

**Project Description:** This project is part of Indian River Lagoon – South Phase II and will work together with other IRL-South components to protect and restore the lagoon and estuary. It will create natural storage by preserving and restoring lands in the contributing basins of the north and south forks of the St. Lucie River and the estuary.

**Status:** Planning; Acquiring Lands.

## Lake Okeechobee System Operating Manual (LOSOM)

**Lead Agency:** USACE

**Anticipated Completion Year:** 2024

**Project Description:** The USACE is updating the Lake Okeechobee operations manual to reevaluate and define operations for the Lake Okeechobee regulation schedule that takes into account additional infrastructure that will soon be operational.

**Status:** Planning; The Water Control Plan (WCP) will go into effect once it is signed by USACE, South Atlantic Division. Additional coordination is still underway within USACE to complete the Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The Final WCP will be released when the Final EIS is complete.

## Lake Okeechobee Watershed Restoration Project (LOWRP)

**Lead Agency:** SFWMD

**Anticipated Completion Year:** TBD

**Project Description:** LOWRP is an Everglades restoration planning effort that will 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.

The Florida Legislature appropriated a total of \$150 million for the LOWRP during the previous three legislative sessions. During the 2021 legislative session, the Florida Legislature also passed Senate Bill 2516 to further support and expedite the implementation of LOWRP. This funding was provided to the SFWMD for the design, engineering and construction of specific LOWRP components designed to achieve the greatest reduction in harmful discharges to the Caloosahatchee and St. Lucie Estuaries.

**Status:** Planning; Design, Well Testing and ASR Science Plan. The USACE is targeting a Chief's Report for the wetlands restoration in Summer 2024.

## Loxahatchee River Watershed Restoration Project

**Lead Agency:** SFWMD

**Anticipated Completion Year:** 2032

**Project Description:** The Loxahatchee River Watershed Restoration Project will restore and sustain the overall quantity, quality, timing and distribution of fresh water to the federally designated "National Wild and Scenic" Northwest Fork of the Loxahatchee River for current and future generations. This project also seeks to restore, sustain and reconnect the wetlands and watersheds that form the historic headwaters for the river. These areas include Jonathan Dickinson State Park, Pal Mar East/Cypress Creek, DuPuis Wildlife

and Environmental Management Areas, J.W. Corbett Wildlife Management Area, Grassy Waters Preserve, Loxahatchee Slough, the Northwest Fork of the Loxahatchee River and the Loxahatchee River Estuary.

**Status:** Design.

- Flowway 1: Anticipated to execute design contract in FY 2024.
- Flowway 2 and 3: In design, survey and geotechnical work underway.

## Picayune Strand Restoration Project

**Lead Agency:** USACE

**Anticipated Completion Year:** 2025

**Project Description:** This project restores the natural water flow across 85 square miles in western Collier County that were drained in the early 1960s in anticipation of extensive residential development. The restoration involves plugging 48 miles of canals, removing 260 miles of crumbling roads, and constructing three major pump stations, all of which will restore more than 55,000 acres of natural habitat.

**Status:** Construction. All three Picayune pump stations and Miller Tram and Road Removal are complete.

- Southwest Protection Feature Levee: Four of six lifts for the full seven miles are complete and the fifth and sixth lifts are underway with expected completion by December 2024.
- Conveyance Features (Design/Build Contract): U.S. 41 culverts construction completed January 2024. CR-92 construction underway and expected completion by November 2024.

## Southern Everglades

**Lead Agency:** USACE/SFWMD

**Anticipated Completion Year:** TBD

**Project Description:** The Southern Everglades project aims to provide substantial amounts of freshwater to improve the quantity, timing, and distribution of freshwater in the Greater Everglades and Everglades National Park wetlands and Florida Bay.

**Status:** Planning; The 2023 Integrated Delivery Schedule (IDS) indicates the study will kick off in 2025.

## Western Everglades Restoration Project (WERP)

**Lead Agency:** USACE/SFWMD

**Anticipated Completion Year:** TBD

**Project Description:** The Western Everglades Restoration Project is an Everglades restoration planning effort that aims to improve the quantity, quality, timing, and distribution of water in the western Everglades. The study area covers approximately 1,200 square miles, bounded by the L-1 Canal to the north; the L-2 Canal, Stormwater Treatment Area (STA) 5/6, and the eastern boundary of the Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida Reservation to the east; a natural watershed boundary to the west; and portions of U.S. Highway 41, Loop Road, and the southern Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida Reservation area to the south.

**Status:** Planning, Design & Construction; The 3x3x3 planning study waiver request, for schedule and budget to complete the study, was approved by the Assistant Secretary of the Army, for Civil Works, January 2024. The draft Planning Implementation Report (PIR) and draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) were released for public comment 15 Dec 2023. A series of "open house" public meetings were held in December to discuss the project. In-person and virtual National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Public Meetings were held January 17 & 18, 2024. The final reports (PIR and EIS) are currently being prepared. The Agency Decision Meeting is scheduled for March 18 2024. The USACE is targeting a Chief's Report in September 2024 for inclusion in WRDA 2024.

- Region 4 early work - L-28 Culverts construction contract awarded in December 2023. Modeling complete and Geotechnical work ongoing for 11-Mile Road, US-41 and Loop Road Culverts.