BACKGROUND

The Site 1 Impoundment / Fran Reich Preserve Project, a component of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP), will capture and store excess surface water runoff from the Hillsboro watershed, as well as releases from the Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge (LNWR) and Lake Okeechobee. Located in the Hillsboro Canal Basin in southern Palm Beach County, the project will supplement water deliveries to the Hillsboro Canal by capturing and storing excess water currently discharged to the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway. These supplemental deliveries will reduce demands on the LNWR. The 1,660-acre impoundment will also provide groundwater recharge, reduce seepage from adjacent natural areas, and prevent saltwater intrusion by releasing impounded water back to the Hillsboro Canal when conditions dictate.

The non-federal sponsor, South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD), acquired land for this project and participated in conceptual design. The lead role for project design and construction is with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The project includes a 1,660-acre aboveground reservoir, an inflow pump station, gated discharge culvert, emergency overflow spillway, an seepage control canal with associated features.

PROJECT SPLIT INTO TWO

The original acquisition strategy for the Site 1 project involved only one contract. However, in order to use funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009, a standalone and usable portion of the project was identified for construction. The standalone features are the D-525N embankment (L-40 modifications) and the S-530 spillway.

The first contract (Phase 1), D-525N (L-40 Modifications) an Miscellaneous Features, was awarded to Lodge Construction, Inc., of Fort Myers, Fla., on 24 August 2010. This contract used $44,125,000 in ARRA funds; it included clearing, grubbing, and dewatering activities; demolition work; establishing onsite borrow and disposal areas; earthwork modifications to about 15,000 linear feet of the existing L-40 levee; installing dam monitoring instrumentation; and placing turf reinforcement mat and soil cement. The project also includes construction of a six-acre wildlife wetland area. The Phase 1 contract was transferred to SFWMD for operations and maintenance in December 2016.

These Phase 1 features will reduce the amount of seepage loss from the adjacent LNWR, also known as Water Conservation Area I. This will help increase the amount of water that remains in the natural system, especially during dry periods. Maintaining additional water will allow for ecological habitat improvements in the LNWR.
A second contract (Phase 2) will complete the Site 1 Impoundment project. Work will include additional site clearing; grubbing; miscellaneous demolitions; excavations and filling; construction of inflow and seepage pump stations associated impoundment structures, canal improvements, and D-525 embankment; embankment instrumentation; placement of geocells on embankment exterior and smooth, flat, plate soil cement on embankment interior; and other miscellaneous work. The Corps will finalize features during design. Phase 2 advertisement and award cannot occur until the project becomes congressionally re-authorized; this is necessary due to increased costs of Phase 1 efforts.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

MICHAEL DROG
USCE Project Manager
P.O. Box 4970
Jacksonville FL  32232-0019
904-232-1548
michael.j.drog@usace.army.mil
www.saj.usace.army.mil

JENNIFER LEEDS
SFWMD Project Manager
3301 Gun Club Road
West Palm Beach FL  33406
561-682-6088
jleeds@sfwmd.gov
www.sfwmd.gov