



JULY 2019

The Caloosahatchee River (C-43) West Basin Storage Reservoir project will improve the timing, quantity, and quality of freshwater flows to the Caloosahatchee River and Estuary.

South Florida's flood reduction system stores water in Lake Okeechobee during the annual wet season. When excess water is released, the resulting unnatural surges of freshwater to the Caloosahatchee River reduce estuarine salinity levels. During the dry season, when irrigation demands are high, little to no water is released to the river. This causes an increase in salinity levels. Both high and low salinity levels can trigger die-offs of sea grasses and oysters, species that are indicators of the estuary's overall health.

On June 10, 2014, the project received congressional authorization in the Water Resources Reform and Development Act (WRRDA) of 2014. This makes the project eligible for funding during the appropriations process.

PROJECT PURPOSE

The C-43 West Basin Storage Reservoir will help ensure a more natural, consistent flow of fresh water to the estuary. To restore and maintain the estuary during the dry season, the project will capture and store basin stormwater runoff, along with a portion of water discharged from Lake Okeechobee, and water will be slowly released into the Caloosahatchee, as needed. Project features include:

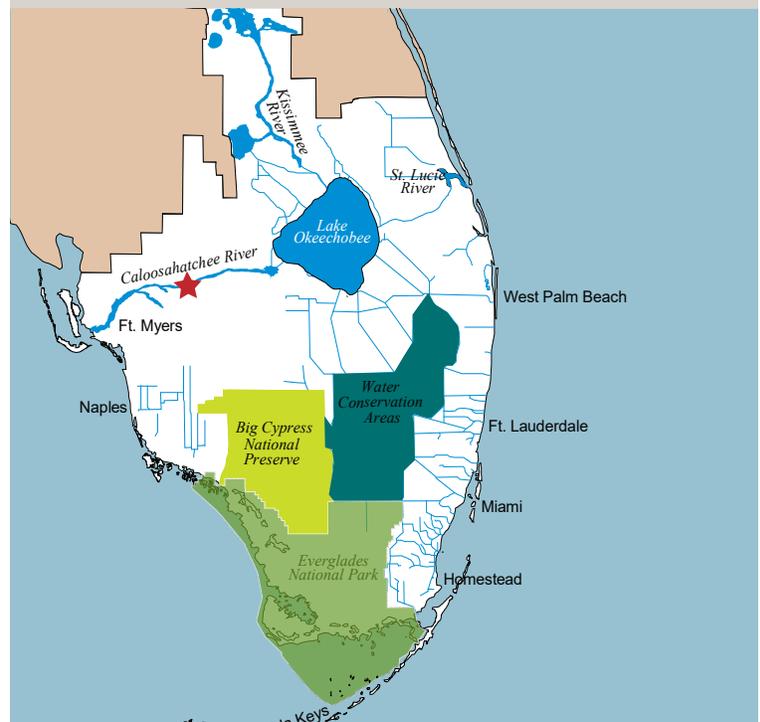
- 10,500-acre storage reservoir.
- 1,500 cubic feet per second (cfs) pump for filling the reservoir and 195 cfs pump for irrigation water supply.
- Perimeter canal to convey flows to Banana Branch and Fort Simmons Canal, as well as permitted irrigation water to adjacent landowners.
- Recreation component.

PROJECT STATUS

In advance of congressional appropriations, the local sponsor, the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD), is constructing the project under four construction contracts. All four contracts (soils preload, 195 cfs pump station, 1,500 cfs pump station, and embankment) have been awarded. Project completion is scheduled for July 2024.

PROJECT LOCATION

The C-43 West Basin Storage Reservoir project is located in Hendry County, Fla.



CALOOSA HATCHEE RIVER (C-43) | WEST BASIN STORAGE RESERVOIR

PROJECT BENEFITS

The C-43 West Basin Storage Reservoir project is vital for the restoration of the Caloosahatchee River Estuary. It will improve the quantity and timing of freshwater flows to the estuary, which will improve salinity balance and increase spatial extent of estuarine habitat. It also provides some new flexibility for managing and restoring Lake Okeechobee, which is often referred to as the “liquid heart” of the greater Everglades ecosystem.

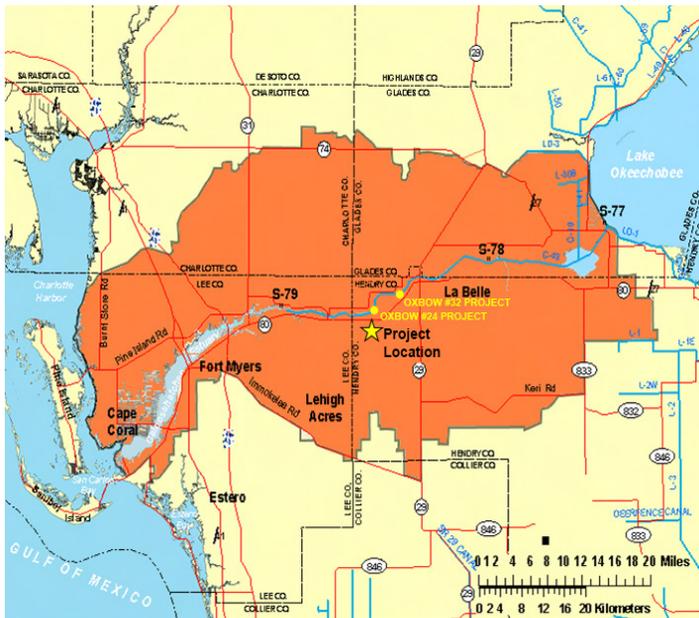
PROJECT COST

The total project cost (FY2019) is now estimated at approximately \$1 billion. This exceeds the current 902 limit of \$850 million. A Post Authorization Change Request and congressional authorization are necessary in order to increase the authorized project cost.

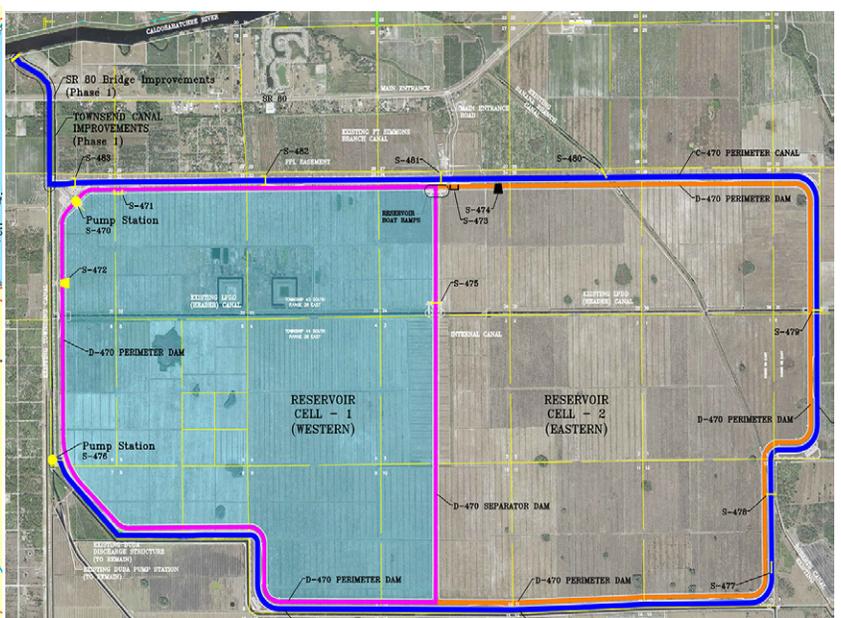
The SFWMD will also complete an additional \$2.9 million recreation component for the project. Construction is estimated to take approximately five years.



CALOOSA HATCHEE RIVER (C-43) WEST BASIN STORAGE RESERVOIR



Caloosahatchee Watershed



C-43 Project

FOR MORE INFORMATION



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