

MEETING AGENDA

6:00 PM – Open House

6:30 PM – Welcome & Introductions

6:35 PM – Presentation/Public Comments/Open
House

8:00 PM – Adjourn



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SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT SECTION 203 EVERGLADES AGRICULTURAL AREA SOUTHERN RESERVOIR AND STORMWATER TREATMENT AREA

Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)

Prepared by USACE & SFWMD

For Public Meetings

June 26 – 28, 2018

“The views, opinions and findings contained in this report are those of the author(s) and should not be construed as an official Department of the Army position, policy or decision, unless so designated by other official documentation.”



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PRESENTATION OUTLINE

- Section 203 Study Process
- Project Background
 - Authorized Central Everglades Planning Project (CEPP)
 - Purpose, Need, Goal, Problem and Opportunities
 - Proposed Changes to Authorized CEPP
- Federal Action
- Review and EIS Schedule
- National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)
Overview



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WHAT IS A SECTION 203 STUDY?

- Section 203 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 authorizes non-federal interests to undertake feasibility studies of proposed water resource development projects for submission directly to the Secretary of the Army.
- The Secretary of the Army will evaluate and report whether the project is feasible, providing any recommendations concerning project design or conditions for construction to congressional committees. Congressional approval of this plan will result in a Post Authorization Change Report (PACR) to modify features within the Central Everglades Planning Project (CEPP).



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PROJECT BACKGROUND

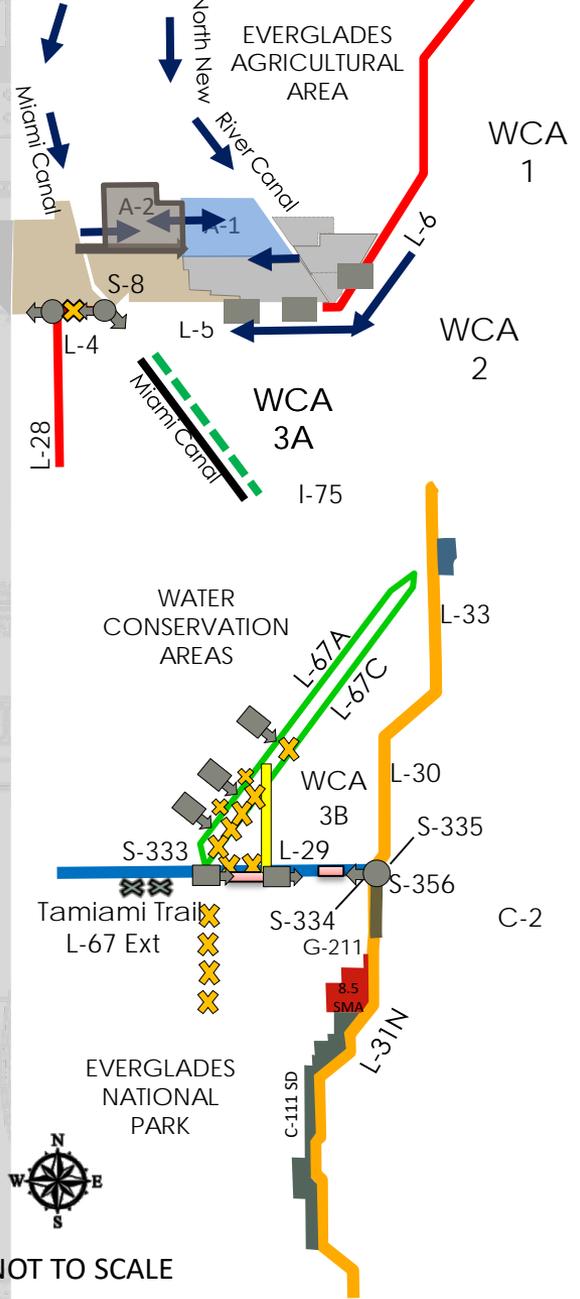
- In December 2014, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Jacksonville District and South Florida Water Management District completed the planning phase of the Central Everglades Planning Project.
- In 2016, Congress authorized Central Everglades Planning Project, which includes construction of a Flow Equalization Basin (FEB) on the A-2 parcel.
- In 2017, the Florida legislature passed Senate Bill 10, which calls for a deep reservoir on the A-2 parcel.
- On March 30, 2018, the South Florida Water Management District submitted the Section 203 report to Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works for Federal participation.



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L.O. WATER FLOW



NOT TO SCALE

AUTHORIZED CEPP

Storage and Treatment Measures

- Flow equalization basin (shallow reservoir)

Distribution / Conveyance Measures

- Increasing canal capacity and modifying existing pump stations for water conveyance
- Construction of new pump station to maintain water supply
- Levee removal to distribute flow to WCA-3A
- Backfilling of the Miami Canal (~ 13.5 miles)
- Construction of new levees and removal of levees to create a flowway through WCA-3B
- Construction of gated culvert structures to provide inflow to the flowway and outside of the flowway to rehydrate the eastern portions of WCA-3B
- Construction of spillways to provide deliveries directly to eastern Shark River Slough and to maintain flows east of the flowway

Seepage Management Measures

- Construction of a pump station and a seepage barrier wall

Note: System wide operational changes and adaptive management considerations will be included in project



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PURPOSE, NEED, GOAL, AND PROBLEM

- Purpose and Need for the Section 203 Study:
 - To further improve the quantity, quality, timing, and distribution of water flows from Lake Okeechobee to the Northern Estuaries, the Greater Everglades, and Florida Bay while maintaining flood control and water supply for existing legal users.
- Goal of the Section 203 Study:
 - Develop a plan to provide sufficient conveyance, water storage and treatment capacity south of Lake Okeechobee in the Everglades Agricultural Area to further reduce damaging discharges to the Northern Estuaries and deliver additional flow to the Greater Everglades consistent with the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Project goals.
- Problem Identified in the Section 203 Study:
 - Releases from Lake Okeechobee to the Northern Estuaries result in damaging effects to the ecosystem and the disruption of annual hydroperiods in the Everglades as a result of reduced flow.



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OPPORTUNITIES

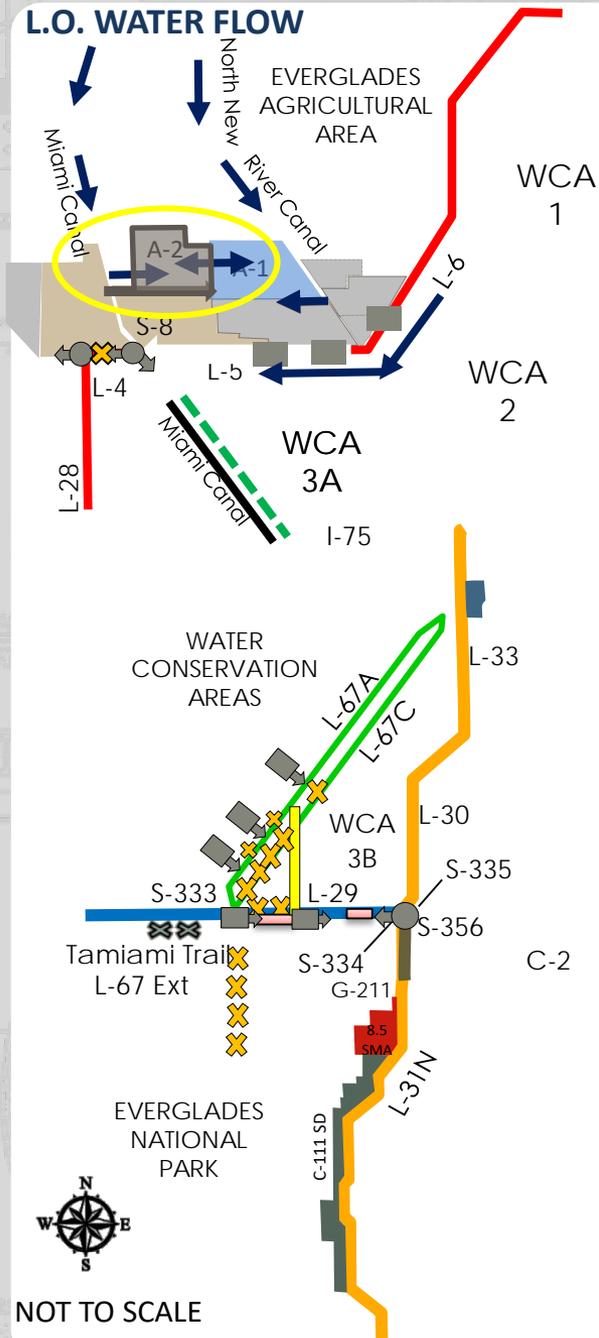
- To further reduce the quantity, frequency and duration of high-volume regulatory discharges of water from Lake Okeechobee to the Northern Estuaries (via the St. Lucie and Caloosahatchee Canals)
- To increase water storage and treatment capacity in the EAA such that more water can flow south into the historic Everglades ecosystem beyond the levels envisioned in the authorized Central Everglades Planning Project plan.
- Recreational Opportunities - A stable and healthy ecosystem would directly benefit the local economy through increases in tourism and dollars generated by the residents who enjoy outdoor activities.



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L.O. WATER FLOW



PROPOSED CHANGES TO AUTHORIZED CEPP

Storage and Treatment Measures

- **Replace A-2 FEB with a Deep Reservoir**
- **Addition of A-2 Stormwater Treatment Area (STA)**

Distribution / Conveyance Measures

- **Increasing canal capacity** and modifying existing pump stations for water conveyance
- Construction of new pump station to maintain water supply
- Levee removal to distribute flow to WCA-3A
- Backfilling of the Miami Canal (~ 13.5 miles)
- Construction of new levees and removal of levees to create a flowway through WCA-3B
- Construction of gated culvert structures to provide inflow to the flowway and outside of the flowway to rehydrate the eastern portions of WCA-3B
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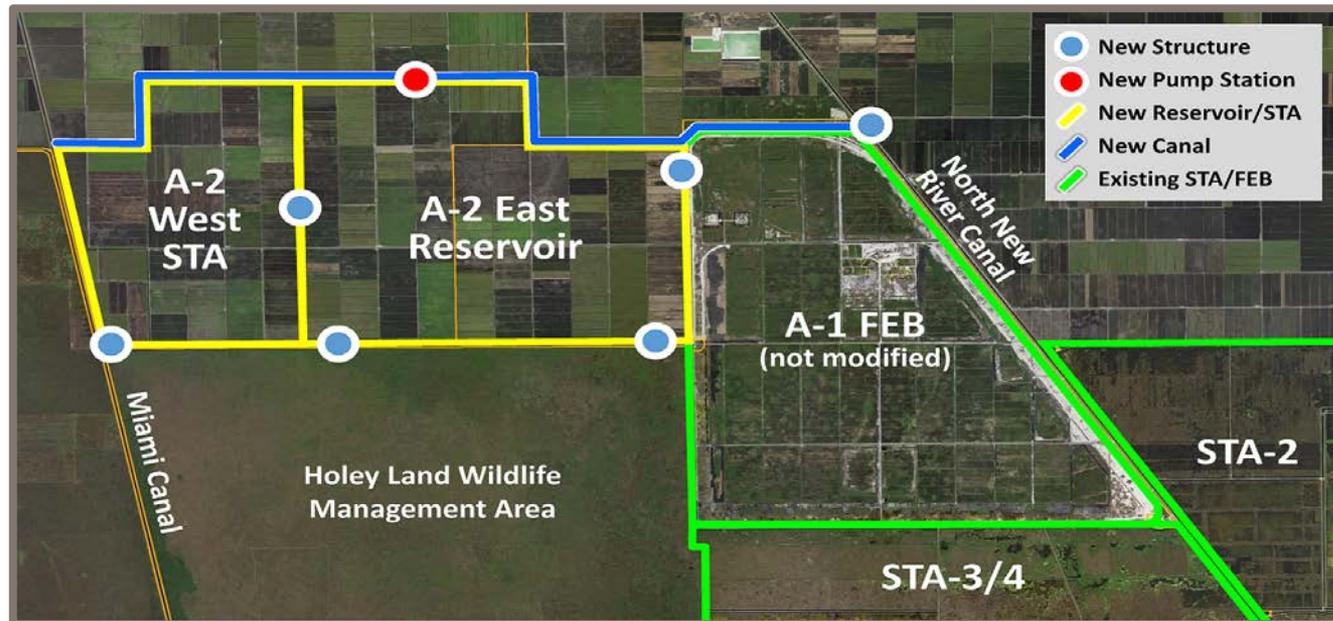
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SFWMD PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE

Alternative C240A:

- 240,000 acre-foot reservoir
- Reservoir ~ 10,500 acres and ~ 23 feet deep
- Stormwater Treatment Area (STA) ~ 6,500 acres
- Multiple purpose operations consistent with CERP – environmental benefits and other water related needs
- Alternative preserves the A-1 FEB identified in “Restoration Strategies” which is consistent with CEPP



Plan Capital Cost \$2.044B⁽¹⁾ – CEPP New Water Component \$0.743B⁽²⁾ = **Capital Cost to Implement Plan \$1.301B**

⁽¹⁾Includes Reservoir + Stormwater Treatment Area + Real Estate, Canal Conveyance Improvement, and Recreation Plan Costs

⁽²⁾Includes CEPP A2 FEB and A2 Recreation Plan

ALTERNATIVE C240A BENEFITS

Promotes Sustainability

- Improves amount of time Lake Okeechobee is in preferred ecological stage envelope
- Decreases the number of extreme low lake events
- Improves water shortage cutback performance

Promotes Resiliency (Northern Estuaries)

- Approaches CERP goal in reducing damaging discharges from Lake Okeechobee
- Provides a 40% reduction in high-flow discharge events lasting longer more than 60 days in the Caloosahatchee Estuary
- Provides a 55% reduction in high-flow discharge events lasting longer more than 42 days in the St. Lucie Estuary
- Provides a 55% reduction in discharge volumes from Lake Okeechobee to the Northern estuaries with authorized projects
- Provides a 63% reduction in discharge events from Lake Okeechobee to the Northern estuaries with authorized projects
- Improves the salinity conditions in the St. Lucie Estuary by reducing the number of Lake Okeechobee events that exceed the preferred salinity envelope by 39%
- Improves the salinity conditions in the Caloosahatchee Estuary by reducing the number of Lake Okeechobee events that exceed the preferred salinity envelope by 45%



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ALTERNATIVE C240A BENEFITS

Promotes Preferred Flow Patterns and Sheet Flow South to the Central Everglades

- Increases flow to approximately 370,000 acre-feet (average annual)
- Improves slough depths and durations
- Restores vegetative communities and habitat for fish and wildlife
- Reduces dry-outs
- Increases overland flow into ENP
- Provides some benefit to salinity in Florida Bay



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FEDERAL ACTION

- **Assistant Secretary of the Army – Civil Works Role:**
 - Reports the results of the Army's evaluation of the Section 203 study to Congress
 - Determines whether or not the study complies with Federal laws and regulations applicable to feasibility studies of water resources development projects
 - Determines whether the proposed project is feasible
 - Report on any recommendations concerning the Section 203 study or the design, and on any conditions that the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works may require for construction

- **Jacksonville District's Role:**
 - To prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to evaluate and document effects on the human environment of South Florida Water Management District's recommended plan.
 - Tribal Consultation
 - Endangered Species Act
 - Section 106 under the National Historic Preservation Act



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OVERVIEW OF THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT

- The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) is a Federal law that requires federal agencies to consider the environmental impacts of a proposed project that are:
 - Major Federal Actions that may have significant affect on the quality of the human environment



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GOALS OF NEPA

- Solicit and consider public views on proposals
- Consult with Tribal, state, and local governments concerning plans
- Provide agencies with a mechanism to coordinate overlapping, jurisdictional responsibilities

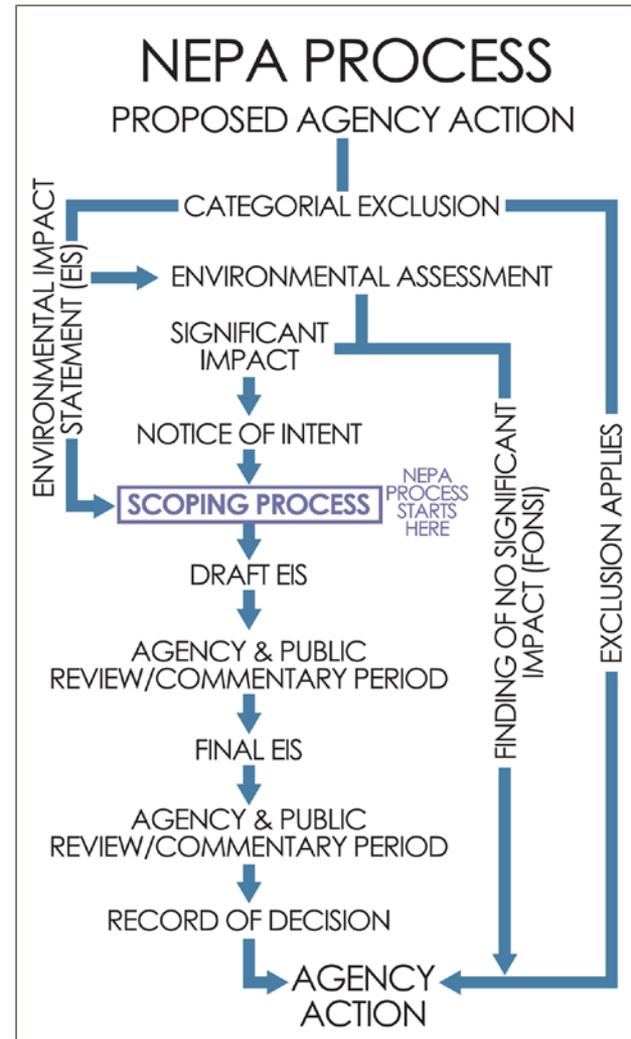


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NEPA REQUIREMENTS

- Under NEPA, Federal agencies must prepare detailed statements addressing the potential environmental effects related to a major Federal action:
 - Categorical Exclusion (CAT-EX)
 - Environmental Assessment (EA)
 - Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)
- Requires Federal Agencies to consider environmental consequences before making final decisions.



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NEPA REQUIREMENTS

NEPA analysis evaluates a proposed action using 10 significant factors to measure the intensity of potential impacts on the surrounding environment (context of action)

- Adverse effects associated with “Beneficial Projects”
- Effects on public health and safety
- Unique characteristics of the geographical area
- Degree of controversy
- Degree of uncertain effects, unique or unknown risks
- Precedent-setting effects
- Cumulative effects
- Effects on scientific, cultural or historical resources
- Effects on endangered or threatened species, habitat
- Violations of Federal, state or local environmental law



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EIS SCHEDULE

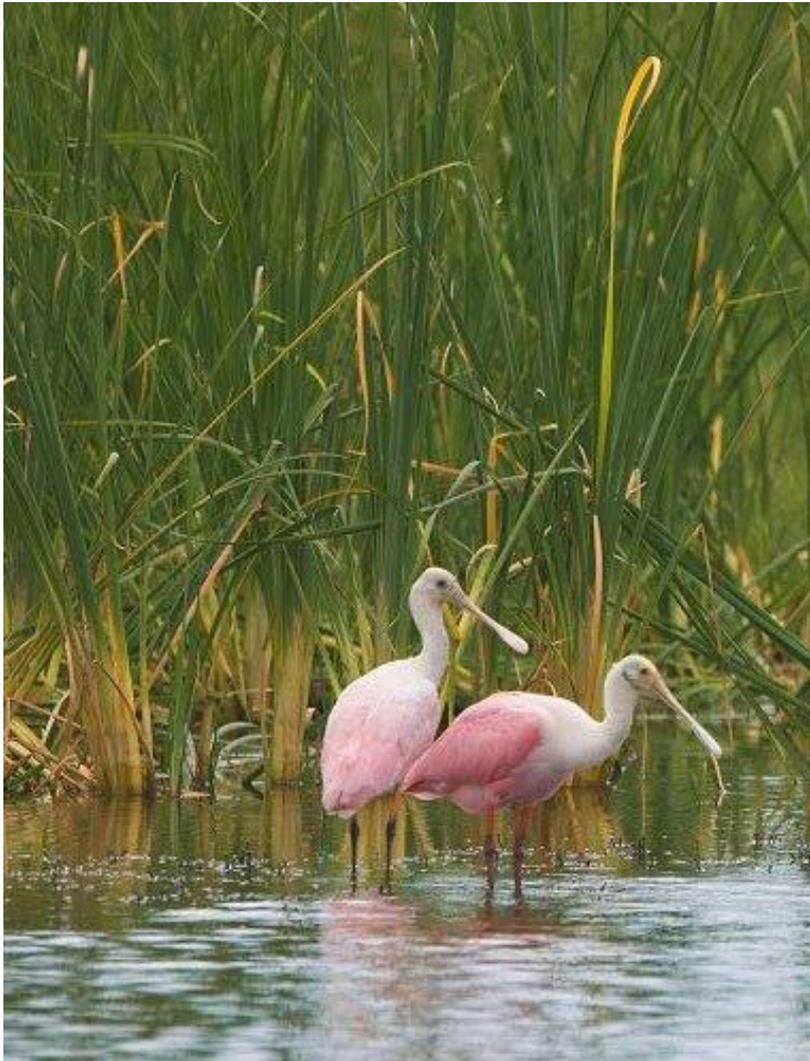
EIS Schedule	Date
Draft EIS Review Period (45 days)	June 8 – July 24, 2018
Draft EIS Public Meetings	June 26 – 28, 2018
Final EIS Review Period	August 2018
Record of Decision (ROD)	September 2018
Section 106 Consultation	To be completed during design and construction



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COMMENT OPPORTUNITIES



Comments Due: **July 24, 2018**

Public Comment Cards

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