



**US Army Corps
of Engineers**
Jacksonville District

News Release

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CORPS OF ENGINEERS TAKES INDIAN RIVER LAGOON PLAN TO NEXT STEP FOR APPROVAL

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Jacksonville District, in cooperation with its co-sponsor, the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD), completed the Corps' district-level phase of the Indian River Lagoon – South (IRL-S) Final Integrated Project Implementation Report (PIR) and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

Col. Robert Carpenter, commander of the Jacksonville District, signed the PIR then forwarded the plan to the Corps' South Atlantic Division Office in Atlanta. BG Randy Castro, the division commander, will review and sign a transmittal letter in a ceremony to be held March 31 at the SFWMD headquarters in West Palm Beach. The plan will then be forwarded to Corps Headquarters in Washington for review and approval by the chief of engineers. The final step in the process is to submit the plan to Congress for consideration of authorization.

The PIR is a culmination of efforts by the Corps of Engineers and the many agencies and stakeholders who have worked together since 1996 to produce this recommended plan. The plan represents a historic step forward in the restoration

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IRL-South 2/2/2

of the Greater Everglades Ecosystem as it provides for the recovery of coastal estuaries, degraded freshwater wetlands and wildlife habitat.

For more information, contact the Corporate Communications Office at 904-232-2568 or 800-291-9405.