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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CORPS OF ENGINEERS, SEMINOLE TRIBE OF FLORIDA HOST GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONY FOR BIG CYPRESS PROJECT

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. – The Corps of Engineers, Jacksonville District, along with the Seminole Tribe of Florida will host a groundbreaking ceremony for the Seminole Tribe of Florida's Big Cypress Reservation Water Conservation Plan on January 15, 2002 at 3:00 p.m. The ceremony will be held at the Seminole's Big Cypress Reservation, County Road 833 (Snake Road) across from the reservation's rodeo fairground.

The Seminole Tribe Big Cypress Reservation Water Conservation Plan is a comprehensive watershed management system designed to achieve environmental restoration on the Reservation, the Big Cypress National Preserve, and the Everglades Protection Area (EPA). In addition the project will reduce flood damage and promote water conservation.

The groundbreaking ceremony will kickoff the portion of the project to be completed by the Seminole Tribe. The Seminole Tribe will construct an expansion of conveyance canals in the eastern basin of the Big Cypress Reservation to transport water from Confusion Corner, where the SFWMD will deliver the Tribe's water entitlement through a new SFWMD pump station. The canals will carry the water to the Reservation's west basin, where the Corps will construct water storage cells and

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Groundbreaking ceremony 2/2/2

water resource areas.

This phase of the project is expected to be completed in January 2003. The completion date for the entire project is April 2006.

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