



**US Army Corps
of Engineers**

Jacksonville District

News Release

Release No. 0203
For Release: January 9, 2003
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CORPS, SFWMD TO HOST WORKSHOP ON EVERGLADES AGRICULTURAL AREA STORAGE RESERVOIRS, PHASE 1 PROJECT

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. -The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), Jacksonville District, and the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) will host a public workshop to provide information and to gather public input on the Everglades Agricultural Area (EAA) Storage Reservoirs Phase 1 project. The workshop will be held on Tuesday, January 21, 2003, at the Lake Shore Middle School, 465 West Canal Street, Belle Glade, Florida. The workshop will have an open house from 6:30 to 7:00 pm with the presentations beginning at 7 pm.

The workshop is being held in order to gather public input for the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). This workshop is part of the scoping phase of the EIS process. The workshop will have an open house from 6:30 to 7:00 pm with the presentations beginning at 7:00 pm. During the workshop, the Corps and SFWMD staff will describe the EAA project and then seek public comments on the project. More information can be obtained at: www.evergladesplan.org/pm/projects/proj_08.cfm. Spanish and Creole translation will be available at the workshop. If there are special needs for other language translations, or if sign language is needed for anyone planning to attend this workshop, please contact Mr. Brice McKoy at 561-683-1577 ext. 17, or e-mail peter.b.mckoy@usace.army.mil, by January 13, 2003, so arrangements can be made.

This project is the first part of the EAA Storage Reservoirs component of the Comprehensive Everglade Restoration Plan (CERP). It includes above ground reservoirs located on land associated with the Talisman Land purchase in the EAA.

The project is located in western Palm Beach County and Hendry County on lands purchased with Department of Interior Farm Bill funds. The area presently consists of land that is mostly under sugar cane cultivation. The project goal is to build reservoirs and increase canal capacities to provide for: environmental deliveries of water to the Water Conservation Areas; storage of regulatory releases from Lake Okeechobee; irrigation requirements in the EAA; increased flood protection within the EAA; and optimize performance of the Storage Treatment Areas within the EAA.

The CERP will restore the Everglades through a series environmental restoration projects and improvements implemented over 25-30 years.

For more information or to provide comments, please contact Mr. Brad Clark, Corps, at 904-232-3302 or Ms. Angela Prymas, SFWMD, at 561-682-6629 or visit the website www.evergladesplan.org. Information may also be obtained from Ms. Tammy Moore, SFWMD, 561-985-3700.

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