



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers**

Jacksonville District

# News Release

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

October 15, 2002

## **FIRST EVERGLADES PLAN GOES TO WASHINGTON, PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD OPENS**

Jacksonville, FL- A detailed plan for the first of 68 projects slated for the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP) has been forwarded to Washington and is now available for public review and comment, according to a new listing in the Federal Register. The Jacksonville District U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the South Florida Water Management District issued the plan as part of a Final Feasibility Report and Environmental Impact Statement for restoration of the southern Indian River Lagoon and the St. Lucie River and Estuary ecosystem.

The recommended plan consists of five features:

- Four above ground reservoirs for 135,000 acre-feet of fresh water storage
- Five storm water treatment areas for removal of phosphorus, nitrogen, pesticides, and soil sediment
- More than 90,000 acres of natural areas, restored wetlands and buffer areas around the wetlands
- Changes to the C-23, C-24 and C-44 canal discharges to mimic more natural storm water flow patterns
- Removal of 5,500,000 cubic yards of muck followed by river and estuary habitat restoration for oysters, mussels, barnacles and other benthic organisms.

“Successful Everglades Restoration is all about partnerships. The southern Indian River Lagoon effort is a perfect example of how effective partnerships lead to better projects,” said Colonel Greg May, Commander of the Jacksonville District U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. “Our inclusive and adaptive approach resulted in a plan that has tremendous support from local government and grassroots organizations. We need, and invite, active and consistent community participation on every CERP project.”

The plan to restore the southern Indian River Lagoon and St. Lucie River and Estuary is now undergoing a policy review at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers headquarters in Washington.

As part of the review process, comments from the public will be carefully evaluated if received by November 11, 2002 at the following address:

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Deputy Commanding General for Civil Works  
ATTN: CECW:B  
441 G Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20314-1000

State agency review and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) reviews will also be conducted and considered in the Corps policy review. Upon completion of the Corps policy review, the Chief of Engineers will issue a final report, which will be forwarded for consideration by Congress.

The estimated cost for the Indian River Lagoon-South projects is \$995,935,000 and construction is scheduled to begin in November of 2004. The project features will be located primarily in Martin and St. Lucie Counties.

The Integrated Feasibility Report and Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement are available for review at the following libraries:

Blake Library in Stuart  
Belle Glade Public Library  
Broward County Library System  
Charlotte County Library System  
Clewiston Public Library  
Collier County Public  
Colorado State University Libraries  
Florida Atlantic University  
Florida Legislative Library  
George Washington University Gelman Library  
Glades County Public Library  
Hendry County Library System  
Highlands County Library System  
Homestead Public Library  
Indiantown Public Library  
Key Largo Public Library  
Labelle Public Library  
Lee County Library System  
Martin County Library System  
Miami-Dade Public Library System  
Monroe County Library System

The main Volume of the report can be viewed on the Internet at [www.evergladesplan.org](http://www.evergladesplan.org). Look under "Programs and Projects" and follow the links to the Indian River Lagoon-South Feasibility Study. Copies of the Feasibility Report and Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement are available upon request from:

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