



Everglades Agricultural Area Storage Reservoirs Phase 1 Project Implementation Report

Public Workshop
January 21, 2003

Workshop Goals

- To inform the public about the Everglades Agricultural Area (EAA) Storage Reservoirs Phase 1 project
- To familiarize the public with the implementation process
- To solicit initial public comment at an early stage in the study in order to address as many of those comments as possible during the study's public involvement process



Public Participation

- Please speak clearly and concisely. Two to three minutes should be sufficient time to offer a comment or pose a question.
- Please respect the role of the facilitator as a time manager.
- Please do not interrupt others when they have the floor.
- Please listen carefully.
- If you agree with what someone else has said, please say so, but do not repeat what they said.
- Please respect the right of others to differ in their opinions.
- Please consider opportunities to achieve consensus.

Project Team

- **U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, Jacksonville District**
Lead Federal Agency
 - Brad Clark, Project Manager
 - Stuart McLean, Planning Technical Leader
 - Janet Cushing, Biologist
 - Brice McKoy, Outreach Specialist

- **South Florida Water Management District**
Non-Federal Sponsor
 - Angela Prymas, Project Manager
 - Lewis Hornung, Regional Project Manager
 - Tammy Moore, Outreach Specialist



Technical Team Members

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Chappy Young (GCY)

Fouad Masri (Nodarse)

Elie Araj (Berryman & Henigar)



The South Florida Ecosystem

Background

- Too much/too little water for the Everglades/south Florida ecosystem
- Fragmentation of natural areas
- Degradation of water quality
- Population growth and increased demand
- 1.7 billion gallons of water a day lost to tide

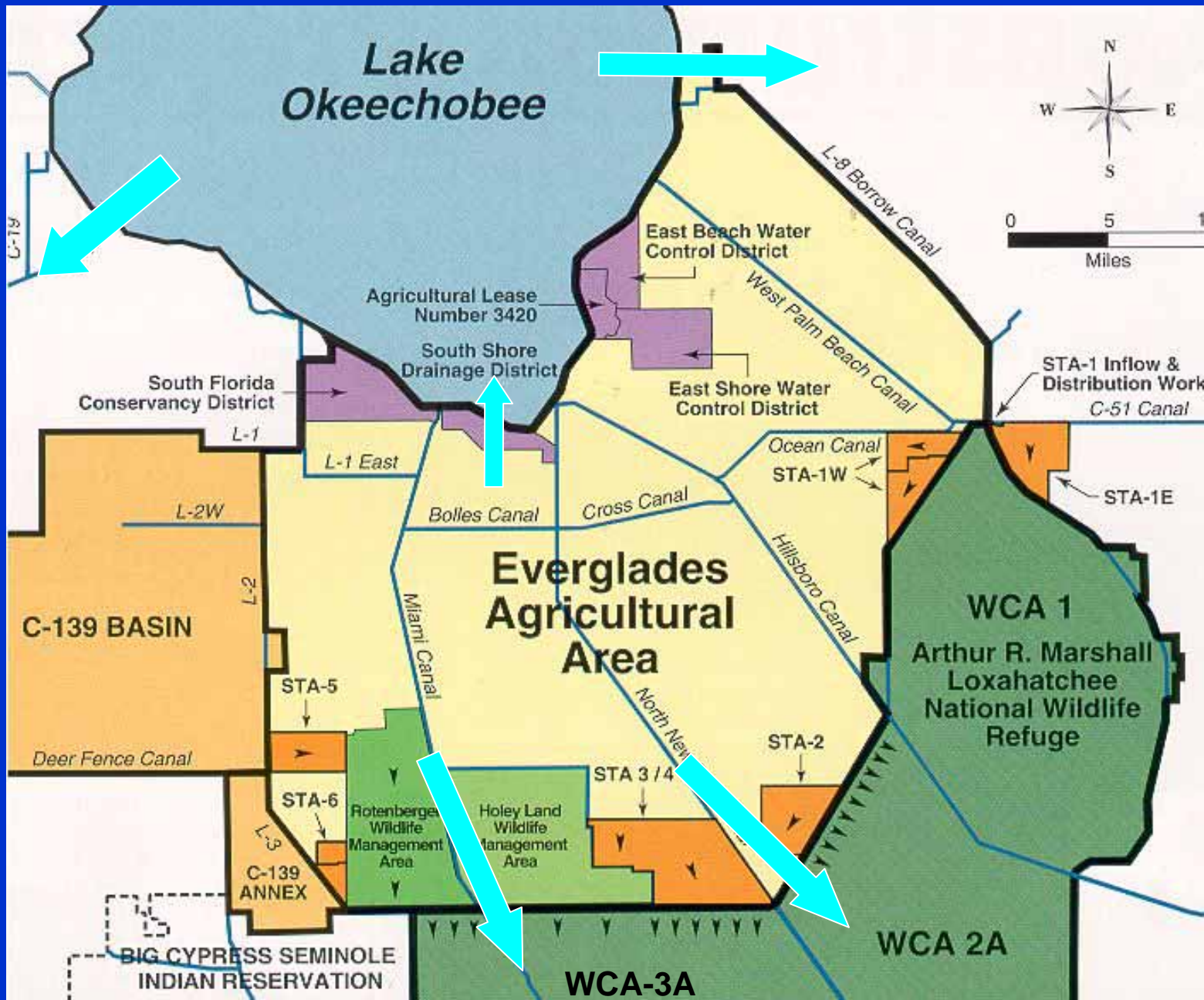


The Restudy

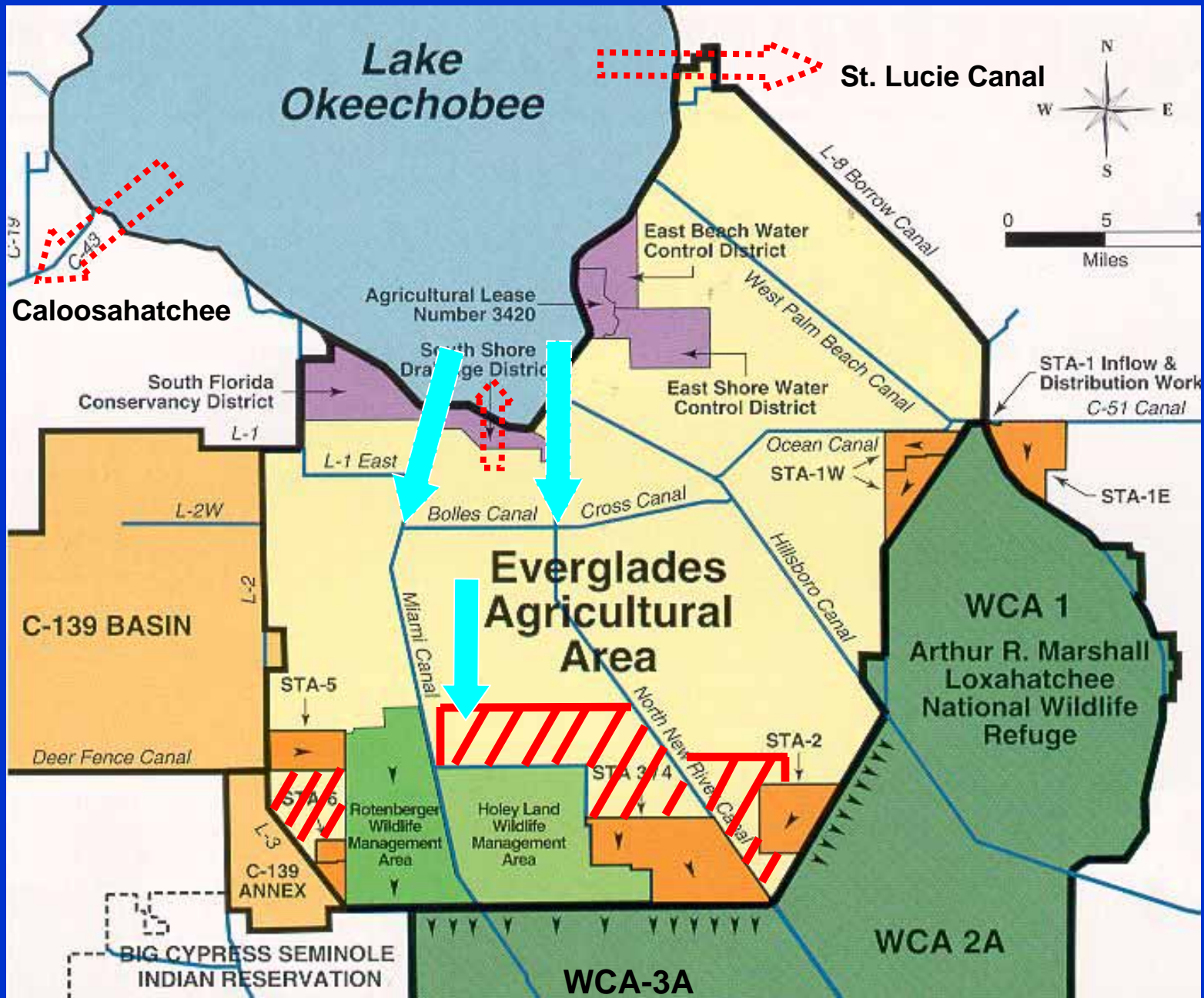
- Study first authorized by Congress in 1992; amended in the WRDA of 1996
- Reexamination of C&SF Project to:
 - Restore south Florida ecosystem
 - Enhance water supplies
 - Maintain flood control
- Utilized inter-disciplinary / inter-agency team approach including USEPA, USFWS, and Everglades National Park
- WRDA of 2000 was signed by President Clinton in Dec 2000, authorizing the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP)

Goals and Objectives of EAA Storage Reservoirs Phase 1

- **Reduction of the Lake Okeechobee regulatory releases to the estuaries by sending the water south and into the reservoirs**
- **Improve environmental releases through storage of water during the wet season and release of the water during the dry season**
- **Improve overall efficiency of Stormwater Treatment Area 3/4 by capturing peak storm event discharges within the Reservoirs for slow release to STA's**
- **Flood control and irrigation for the agricultural community currently served by the EAA canals**

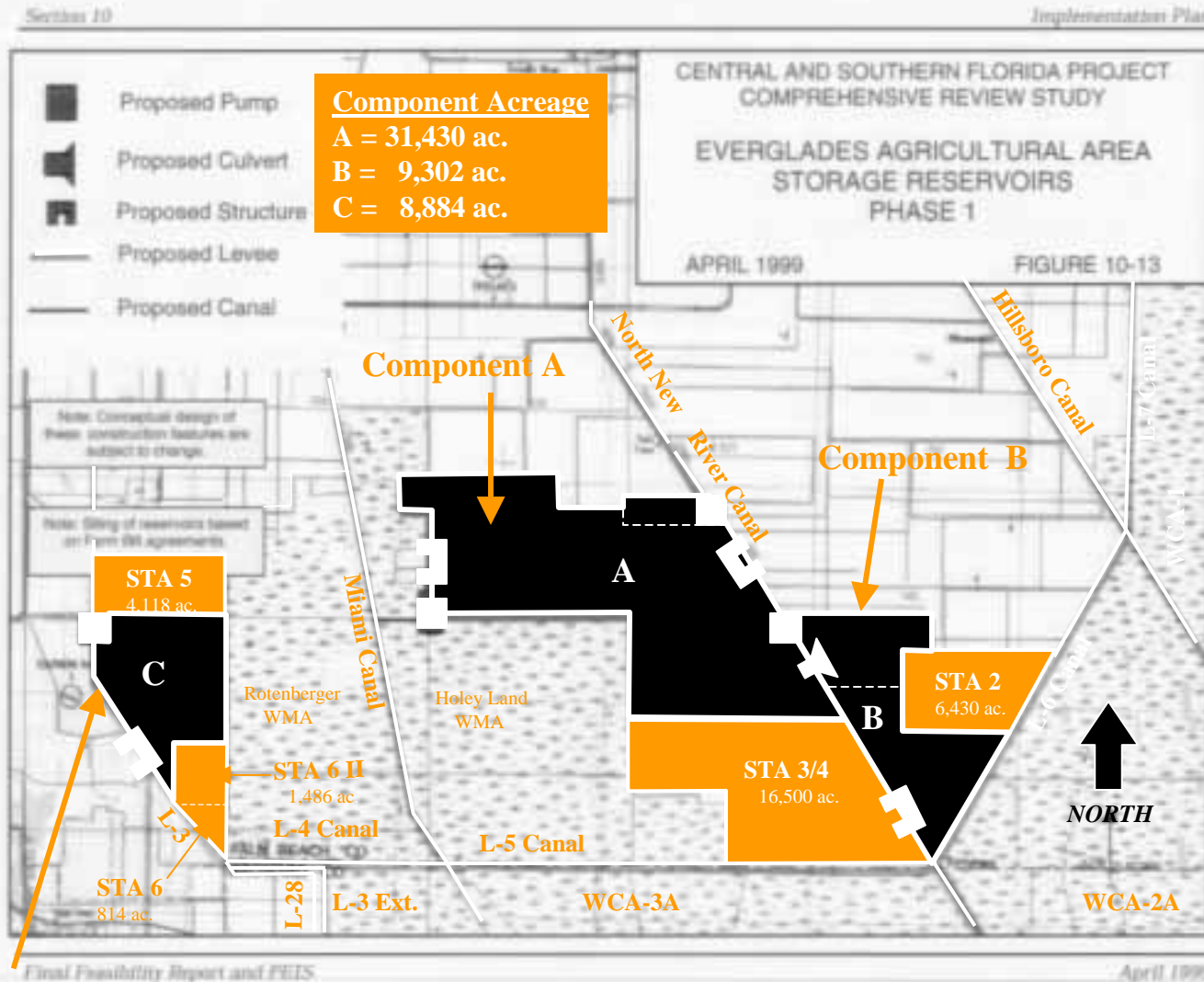


Existing Drainage



Proposed Drainage System

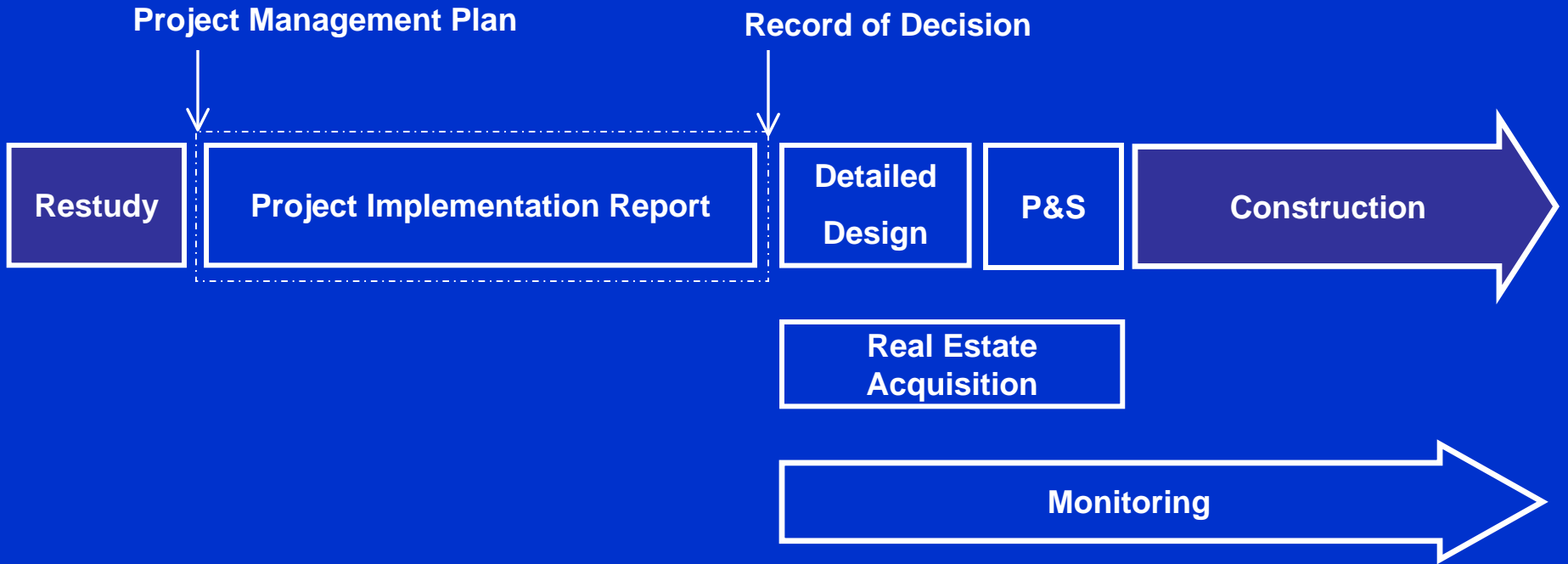
State and Federally Owned Lands



Component C

Major Features

- **240,000 ac-ft of storage with associated levees, canals, pump stations and water control structures**
- **Improved conveyance capacity for the Miami Canal, North New River Canal, Bolles Canal and Cross Canal**



Project Management Plan

- Lists anticipated tasks, responsibilities, schedules, products, and budget
- General description of work and level of effort required
- “Roadmaps” for activities and monitoring
- Flexible - will be updated as needed
- Completed in February 2002

Project Implementation Report

- Feasibility level decision documents
- PIRs will bridge the gap between the comprehensive plan and the project design
- USFWS, USEPA, FDEP & FFWCC are providing significant resources during this phase

The PIR will address:

- Compliance with Environmental requirements:
 - National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)
 - Endangered Species Act
 - Clear Air Act
 - Clean Water Act
 - And others
- Economic/Environmental Justice issues:
 - Effects of project on minorities and low income communities
- Water quality issues:
 - Modeling
 - Evaluation of existing WQ data
 - Everglades Basin Specific Feasibility Study
 - Evaluation of STA's performance benefits

The PIR will address:

- Watershed Assessment / Water Budget analysis:
 - Review Restudy assumptions
 - Seepage evaluation
 - Hydrological/hydraulic data (rainfall, evapotranspiration, pumping records, historical structure data, etc.)
 - Establish conveyance requirements
 - Establish storage needs
 - Modeling scenario runs
 - Evaluate existing and future level of flood protection

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 a significant affect on the quality of the human environment

Goals of NEPA

- Requires the Federal Agency to consider environmental consequences before making final decisions
- Solicit and consider public views on proposals
- Consult with State, Local and Tribal Governments concerning plans
- Provide Agencies with a mechanism to coordinate overlapping, jurisdictional responsibilities

NEPA Requirements

- Federal Agencies are required to prepare a “Detailed Statement” for the proposed major actions that may significantly affect the quality of the human environment.
- Statements must include the environmental impacts of the proposed action, alternatives to the proposed action, and any adverse environmental impacts which cannot be avoided should the proposal be implemented.

Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)

- Required for action when a significant environmental impact is expected
- Record of Decision (ROD)
 - Decision document describing the recommended plan alternative
 - States the justification for choosing the alternative

Public Involvement

- Scoping
 - Agencies are required to involve the public in the preparation of the NEPA document to the extent practicable.
 - Notice of Intent to prepare an EIS was published in the Federal Register last summer.

PIR Proposed Schedule

TASK

Proposed Completion Date:

- Performance Measures Feb 03
- Existing and Future Conditions May 03
- Watershed Assessment Jun 03
- Alternative Plan Formulation Sep 03
- Alternative Plan Evaluation Dec 04
- Recommended Plan Apr 04
- PIR Complete Aug 04

Schedule and Estimated Costs

<u>TASK</u>	<u>DATE COMPLETE</u>	<u>EST. COST</u>
PIR	August 2004	\$ 9,321,000
Design	March 2005	\$ 4,811,000
Plans and Specs	December 2005	\$ 1,604,000
Construction	September 2009	\$217,373,000
Project Total		\$233,109,000

Public Involvement will continue during Project Implementation Report

TASK

PROJECTED DATE

- Plan Formulation Dec 03
- Recommended Plan May 04
- Monthly PDT Meetings
- Stakeholder Meetings

Internet Web Sites

www.evergladesplan.org

www.sfwmd.gov

www.saj.usace.army.mil

www.evergladesplan.org/pm/projects/proj_08.cfm

Point of Contact for SFWMD

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Please provide any comments by February 21, 2003





Thank you

**The comment period will open
after the last presentation.**