



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers**

Jacksonville District

# News Release

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*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*

## **Everglades Plan Approved, \$1.4 Billion in Projects Authorized Now**

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (December 11, 2000) – The Water Resources Development Act of 2000, signed by President Clinton on Dec. 11, 2000, includes approval for the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan and authorizes \$1.4 billion for specific Everglades restoration projects.

The \$1.4 billion for the initial Everglades restoration projects includes authorization to construct 10 identified restoration projects which will be the framework for future restoration efforts. These specific projects are so important because they will expedite ecosystem restoration of the Everglades and in other parts of south Florida.

Col. James G. May, Jacksonville District Engineer, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, said, “The Jacksonville District is excited and ready to increase our current efforts to restore the Everglades with this new authorization. As always, we will look forward to working with our partners to preserve this national treasure.”

The director of the South Florida Water Management District, Frank R.

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Finch, said: "We're thrilled with the signing of the bill and are ready to embark on this historic project."

The 10 initial projects are located in Broward, Dade, Martin, Okeechobee, Palm Beach and St. Lucie counties.

The 10 projects include:

**The C-44 Basin Storage Reservoir** project is a 10,000-acre reservoir in Martin County. This project will moderate damaging discharges to the St. Lucie Estuary while providing a freshwater supply source for the estuary in dry season to protect and restore natural estuarine conditions. This three-year project will cost \$112.5 million and should start June 2004.

**The Everglades Agricultural Area Storage Reservoir** project consists of up to 50,000-acre reservoir located on land in the Everglades Agricultural Area in western Palm Beach County. The project will reduce damaging flood releases from the Everglades Agricultural Area to the Water Conservation Areas and reduce Lake Okeechobee regulatory releases to the Caloosahatchee and St. Lucie estuaries. This four-year project will cost \$233.4 million and should start September 2005.

**The Hillsboro (Site 1) Impoundment** project is a 2,460-acre reservoir in Palm Beach County. This project will supplement water deliveries to the Hillsboro Canal during dry periods thereby reducing demands on Lake Okeechobee and

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Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge. This three-year project will cost \$38.5 million and should start September 2004.

**The Water Conservation Area 3A and 3B Levee Seepage Management**

project will include levees and water control structures to maintain a separation between Water Conservation Area seepage water and coastal runoff water. This will reduce seepage losses and return seepage water to Water Conservation Area 3. This four-year project will cost \$100.3 million and should start September 2004.

**The C-11 Impoundment and Canal** project is a 1,600-acre stormwater treatment area/impoundment and approximately eight miles of canal to divert flood waters to other storage areas. This will control urban runoff from the western C-11 basin diverting poor quality water from entering Water Conservation Area and treat that water in the C-11 Stormwater Treatment Area/Impoundment. This four-year project will cost \$124.8 million and should start September 2004.

**The C-9 Impoundment and Stormwater Treatment Area** project is a 2,500-acre stormwater treatment area/impoundment. It will enhance groundwater recharge within the basin, provide seepage control for Water Conservation Area 3 and buffer areas to the west thereby keeping more of the natural system's water in the natural system. This three-year project will cost \$89.1 million and should start September 2004.

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**The Taylor Creek/Nubbin Slough Storage and Treatment Area** project is a 5,000-acre reservoir and a 5,000-acre stormwater treatment area. This reservoir will receive water from the Taylor Creek/Nubbin Slough Basin during wet periods and, following treatment in the stormwater treatment area, discharge it to Lake Okeechobee. This four-year project will cost \$104 million and should start January 2005.

**The Raise and Bridge East Portion of Tamiami Trail and Fill Miami Canal** project will raise and bridge portions of Tamiami Trail below Water Conservation Area 3B and fill the Miami Canal within Water Conservation Area 3A. This will restore sheet flow and reduce unnatural barriers in the Everglades landscape. This will reestablish the ecological and hydrological connection within Water Conservation Areas 3A and reconnect Everglades National Park with Water Conservation Area 3B. This five-year project will cost \$26.9 million and should start January 2005.

**The North New River Improvements** project will improve the North New River Canal and U.S. 27 borrow canal to deliver water to Miami-Dade County to replace the function of the Miami Canal. This will provide an alternative water supply delivery system to Miami-Dade County, as a result of filling the Miami Canal. This four-year project will cost \$77 million and should start January 2005.

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**The C-111 N Spreader Canal** project modifies the ongoing C-111 Project by increasing the capacity of C-111N and extend the canal approximately two miles under U.S. Highway 1 and Card Sound Road into the Model Lands. It also back fills the lower end of the C-111 canal and removes S-197. This will improve water distribution and enhance the connectivity and sheet flow in the Model Lands and Southern Glades area, and reduce damaging wet season flows in C-111 to Card Sound and Florida Bay. This three-year project will cost \$94 million and should start July 2005.

The \$1.4 billion authorization also includes \$100 million for adaptive assessment and monitoring.

WRDA 2000 also includes \$69 million for pilot projects. These projects will address uncertainties associated with some of the physical features of the Plan such as aquifer storage and recovery, seepage management, and wastewater reuse. Pilot projects determine the feasibility, as well as optimum design, of the features prior to embarking on full-scale development.

Another \$206 million is included for restoration projects up to \$25 million and would produce independent, immediate, and substantial restoration, preservation, and protection benefits.

The Corps recognizes the importance of involving the local business communities in the contracts and subcontracts that will be awarded for projects

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related to the Everglades restoration. The Corps will ensure utilization of small business concerns through Federal policies and regulations that promote maximum participation of small business, small disadvantaged business, Historically Underutilized Business Zone, and Small Business Administration Section 8(a) firms. Small business concerns are strongly encouraged to contact SBA Miami or SBA Jacksonville for SDB, HUBZone and 8(a) certification information. Solicitation and contract award information will be available at the Jacksonville District's web site by selecting Contracts/Business Opportunities.

The full Everglades Restoration Plan will take more than 30 years to complete and will cost an estimated total of \$7.8 billion. Authorization for the remaining 26 projects will be sought in future Water Resource Development Acts.

More detailed information about the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan can be found on the Internet at [www.evergladesplan.org](http://www.evergladesplan.org).