

# Program & Project Update

South Florida Ecosystem Restoration  
Working Group/Science Coordination Group

May 2, 2023

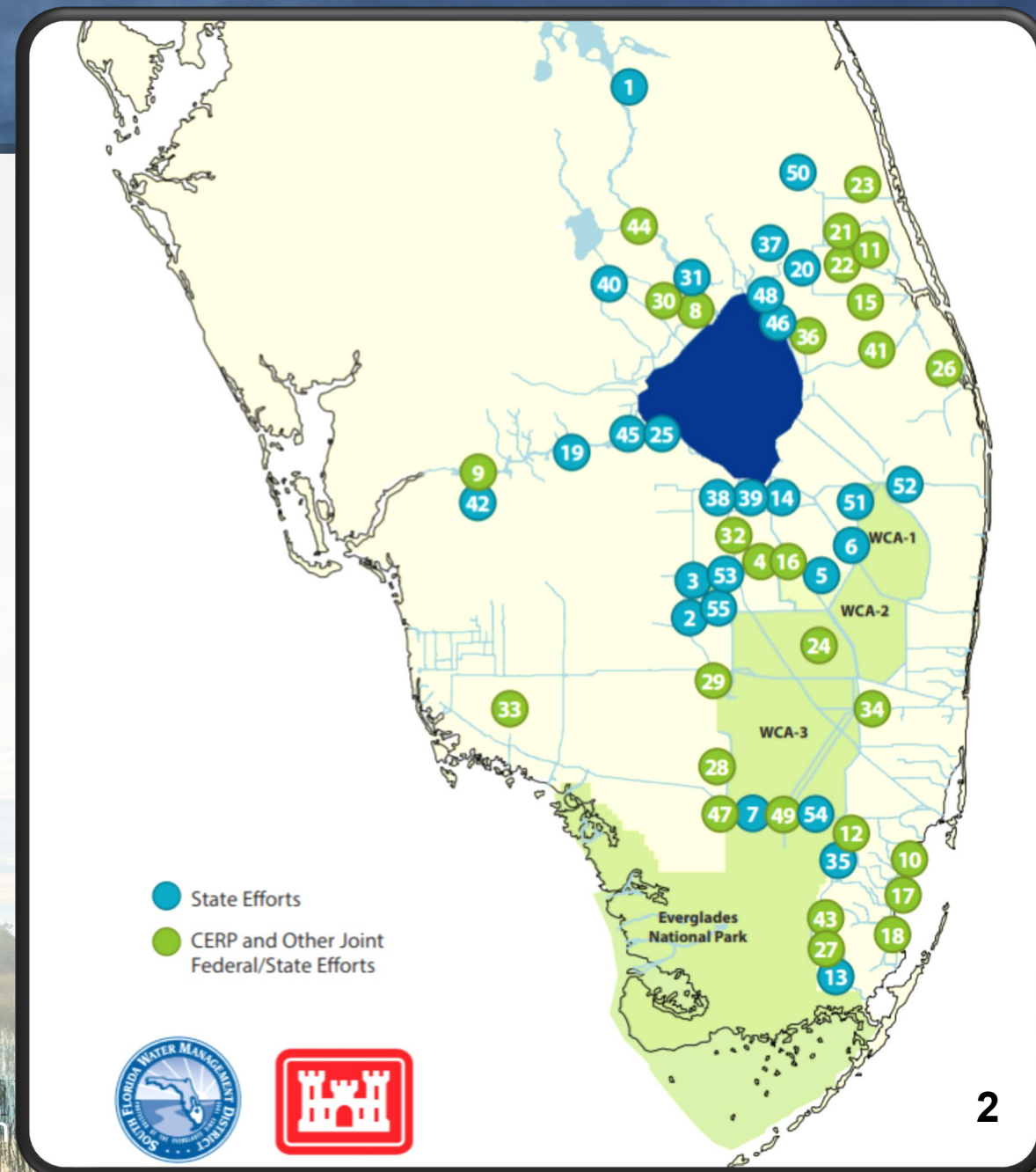
Leslye Waugh  
Section Administrator  
Ecosystem Restoration Planning & Project Management





# Ecosystem Restoration Programs

- Federal Projects
  - CERP & Foundation Projects
  - C&SF Section 216 Infrastructure Resiliency Plan
- State & Local Projects
  - Restoration Strategies
  - Northern Everglades and Estuaries Program
  - Local Projects
  - Dispersed Water Management
  - Resiliency





# Recent CERP Milestones

*Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands (BBCW)  
Cutler Flowway Groundbreaking*



*A2 STA Inflow/outflow  
Canal- final completion*



*EAA Reservoir Groundbreaking*



# Executive Order 23-06

Achieve *Even More* Now for Florida's Environment

- \$3.5 billion for Everglades restoration, water quality & water supply
- More water quality improvement opportunities
- Additional resiliency resources
- Expedited land preservation

Directs SFWMD to:

- Expedite restoration projects that minimize the risk of harmful discharges and send water south.
- Ensure meaningful progress on storage projects:
  - Everglades Agricultural Area (EAA) Reservoir
  - Lake Okeechobee Watershed
  - Indian River Lagoon- South (IRL-S) Reservoirs.



EXECUTIVE ORDER 23-06  
Achieving *Even More* Now for Florida's Environment

**WHEREAS**, on January 10, 2019, I signed Executive Order 19-12, which laid out a bold plan to achieve more now for Florida's environment, and in the last four years, we have made incredible progress, entering into a golden era for conservation and protection of our treasured natural resources; and

**WHEREAS**, we secured unprecedented funding for the protection of our natural resources, including over \$3.3 billion in state funding for Everglades restoration and protection of our water resources, far surpassing our goal of \$2.5 billion; and

**WHEREAS**, we expedited Everglades restoration to reduce harmful discharges and send more water south, with more than 50 Everglades restoration projects being completed, breaking ground, or hitting a major milestone, and helped Florida Bay reach salinity goals for the first time in decades; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2020, I signed into law Senate Bill 712, which was the most consequential environmental legislation in decades and included a wide range of water quality protections aimed at minimizing the impact of known nutrient pollution sources, realigning the State's resources to better protect Florida's environment, and strengthening our environmental regulatory requirements; and

**WHEREAS**, we invested \$1.6 billion in water quality improvements, created the Wastewater Grant Program to construct, upgrade, or expand wastewater facilities, provide advanced wastewater treatment, and convert septic-to-sewer, and dedicated historic funding to increase alternative water supply and restore and protect Florida's springs; and

**WHEREAS**, we dedicated funding to enhance our state's water quality monitoring and identify new and innovative ways to treat, predict, and respond to blue-green algal blooms, including more than \$45 million to the Innovative Technology Grant Program and funding 20 different innovative technology projects to date; and

**WHEREAS**, the State, with the coordination of the Chief Science Officer, ensured that science is at the forefront of environmental protection and policy, with enhanced monitoring, innovative research, and modern data analytics to support water quality restoration and ensure that high quality, scientific data are readily available to citizens and state agencies; and

**WHEREAS**, we provided support to local governments for red tide cleanup efforts and established the Center for Red Tide Research within the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's (FWC) Fish and Wildlife Research Institute, which brings together state and local governments, universities, private sector partners, and community scientists to enhance statewide red tide monitoring and conduct applied research associated with tracking, predicting, and mitigating the effects of red tide; and

**WHEREAS**, the State, with the coordination of the Chief Resilience Officer, invested more than \$1.1 billion in resilience projects to protect our communities from flooding and sea level rise; and

**WHEREAS**, we established the Florida Wildlife Corridor and committed more than \$600 million to the Florida Forever Program and acquired more than 170,000 acres for conservation, nearly four times that acquired in the previous four years; and

**WHEREAS**, while the achievements of the first four years are historic, protecting our water resources, investing to make our communities more resilient, and preserving our conservation lands are essential to our economy and way of life, and we must continue the momentum of the last four years to achieve even more now for Florida's environment and ensure that we leave Florida to God better than we found it.



Signing of Executive Order 19-12 on January 10, 2019.



Gov. DeSantis signs Senate Bill 712.



Dr. Mark Rains, Chief Science Officer.



Dr. Wes Brooks, Chief Resilience Officer.

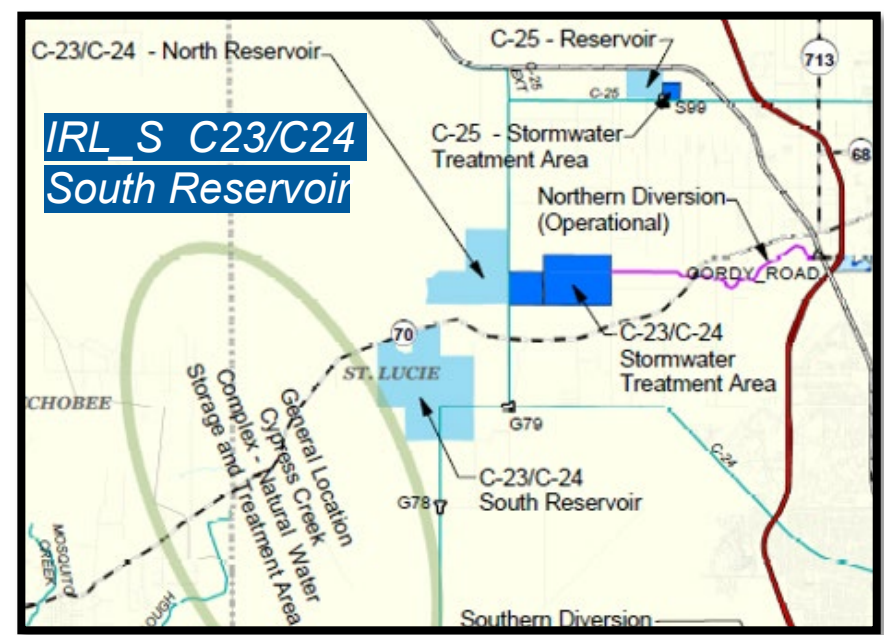
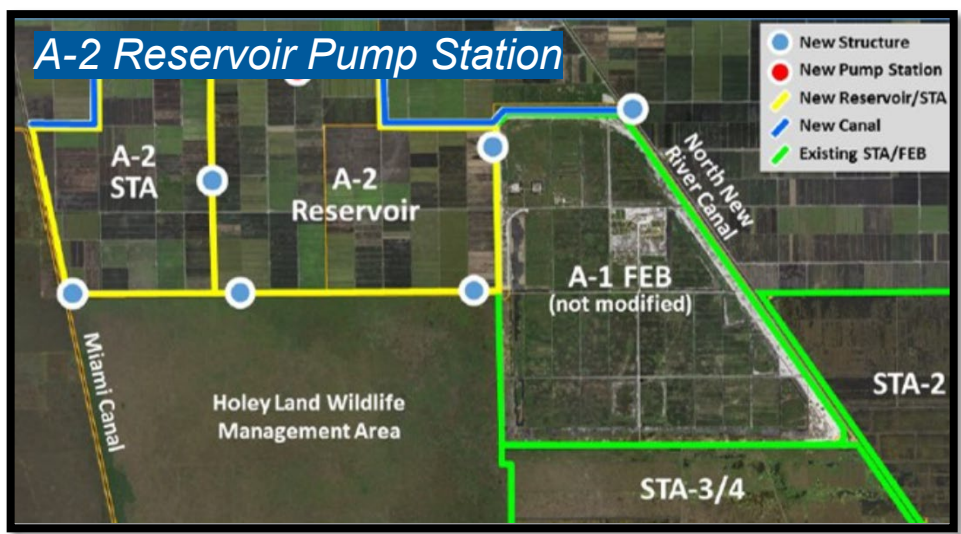
Presenter: Leslye Waugh



# Executive Order 23-06: SFWMD

SFWMD to assume responsibility for construction of:

- Everglades Agricultural Area (EAA) A-2 Reservoir Pump station
- Indian River Lagoon- South (IRL-S) C-23/24 South Reservoir

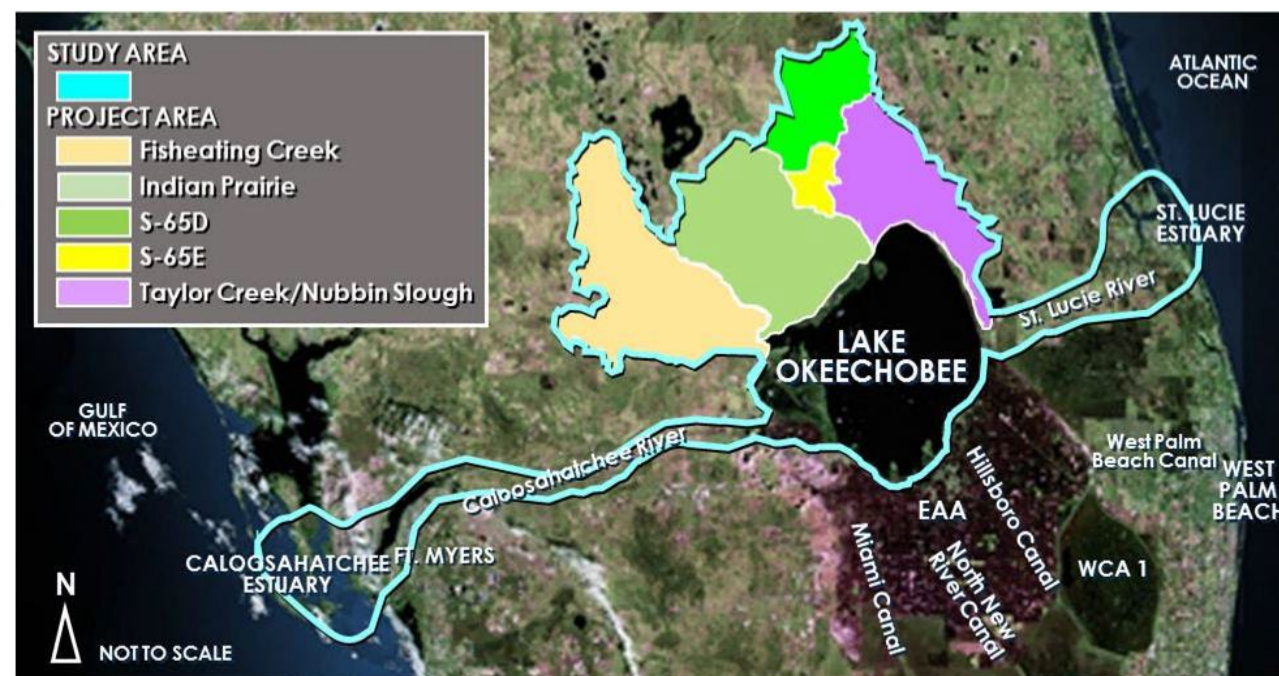




# Lake Okeechobee Component A Reservoir (LOCAR)

- SFWMD is preparing a Feasibility Study under Section 203 of the Water Resources Development Act
- Evaluate Component A of CERP which proposed a 200,000 ac-ft above ground storage reservoir
- Purpose is to retain water during wet periods for later use during dry periods to benefit Lake Okeechobee
- Public scoping meetings were held on April 27 and comments are due May 24, 2023
- Information regarding LOCAR project can be found at : [www.sfwmd.gov/LOCAR](http://www.sfwmd.gov/LOCAR)

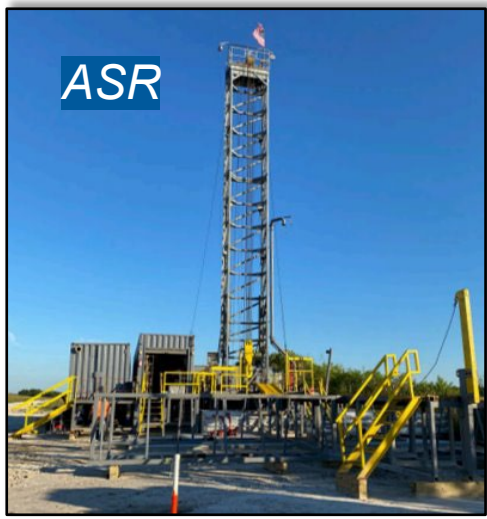
LOCAR Study Area



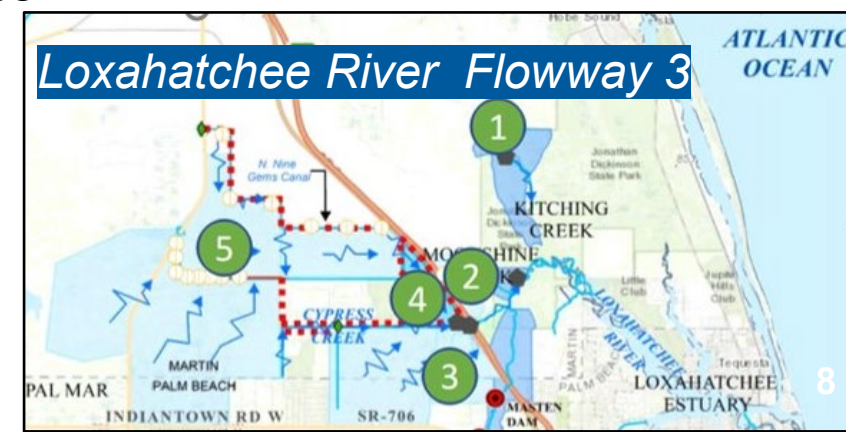
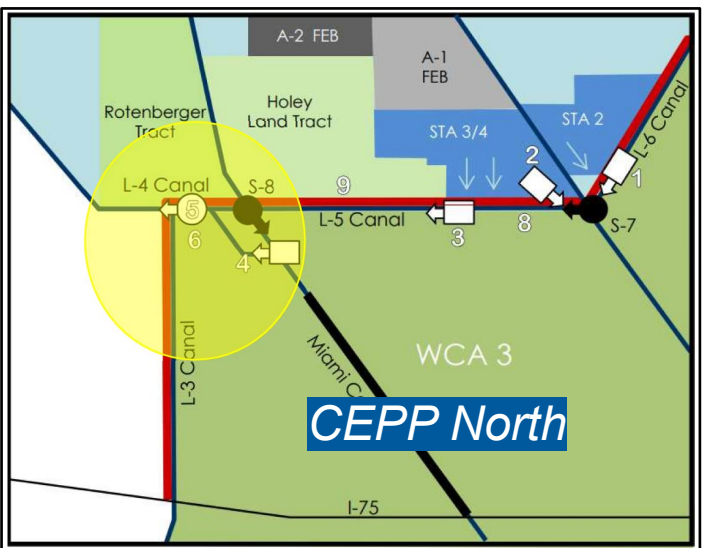
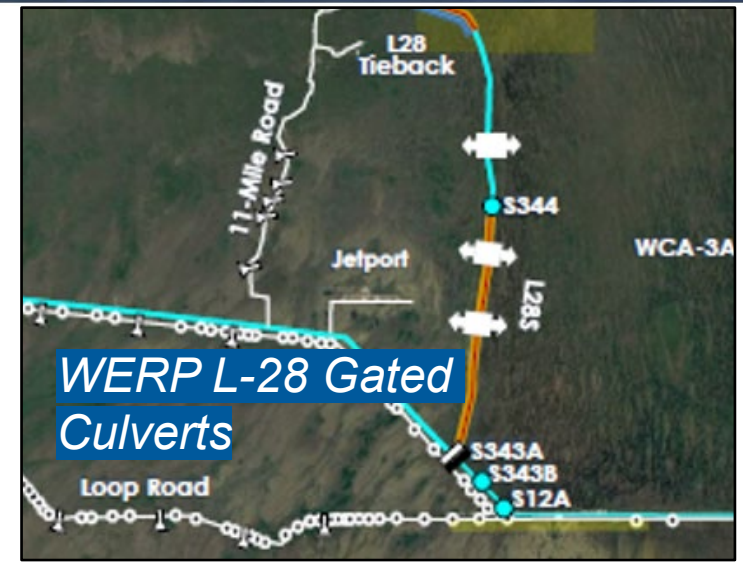
# Project Updates



# Design Phase



- IRL-S C-25 Reservoir and STA
- LOWRP ASR Wells and Treatment
- BBCW Cutler Flowway Contract 6B
- LRWRP Loxahatchee River Flow-ways 2&3
- CEPP EAA Conveyance Improvements
- CEPP North- S-8A, L-5, L-4, and Miami Canal Backfill
- WERP L-28S Gated Culverts & Conveyance
- C-111 SD Replacement Pump Stations



Presenter: Leslye Waugh



# Construction Phase

## CERP:

- CEPP EAA A-2 STA
- C-43 Reservoir
- CEPP New Water Seepage Cutoff Wall
- IRL-S C-23 to C-44 Interconnect
- BBCW Phase 1 Cutler Flowway S-701 Pump Station
- CEPP North S-620 & L-6 Improvements

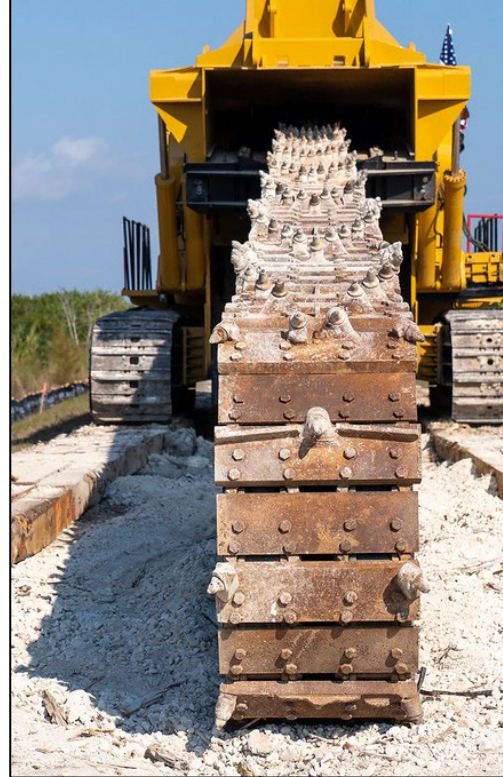
## Restoration Strategies:

- STA-1W Expansion #2
- C-139 Flow Equalization Basin
- Bolles Canal Conveyance Segment 5

## Other:

- Taylor Slough Flow Enhancement

CEPP New Water  
Seepage Cut off Wall



C-139 FEB S-551  
Outflow Structure

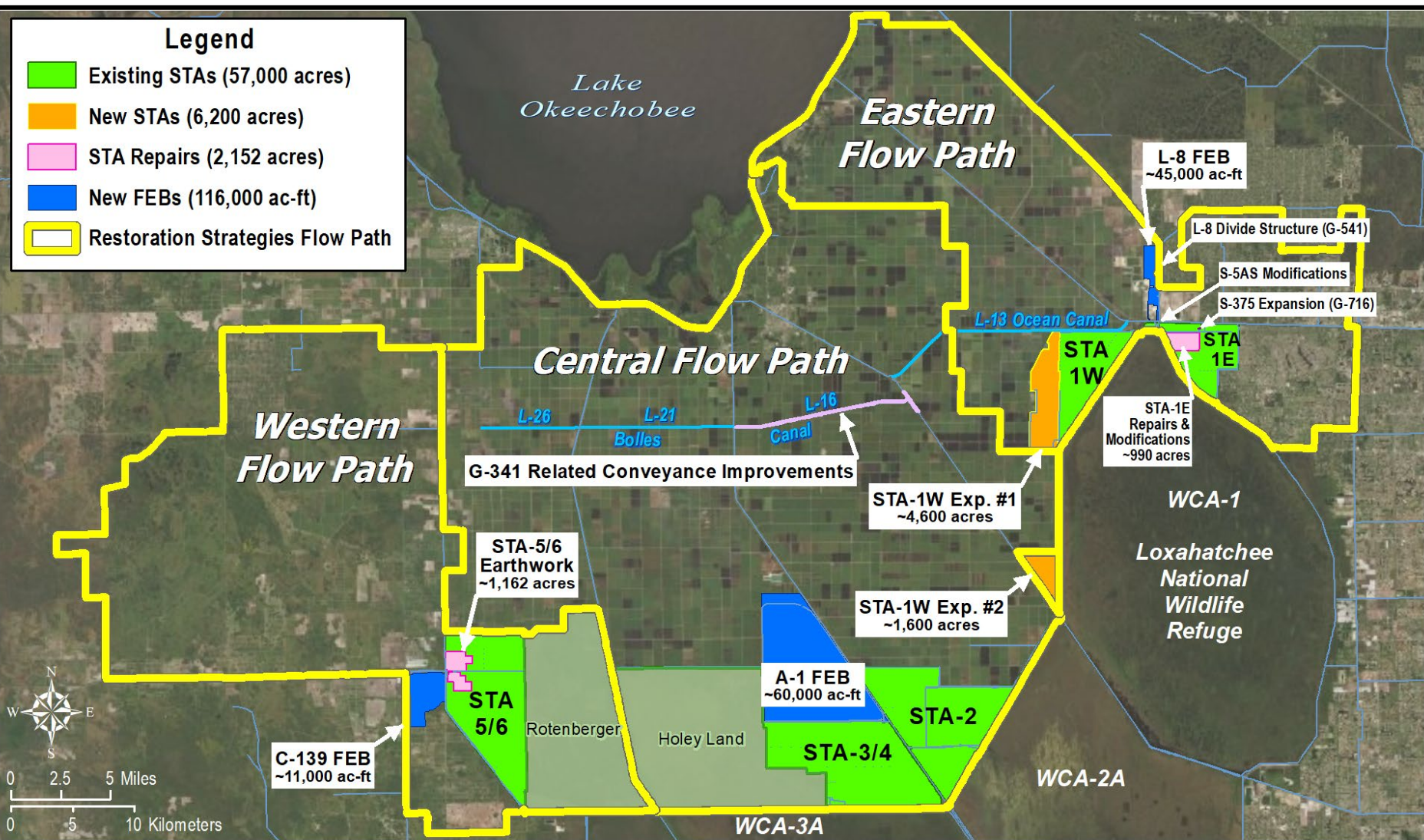


C-43 Reservoir





# Restoration Strategies



Continue to Meet Milestones:

- 9 of 13 projects completed.

Under construction (3):

- STA 1W Expansion #2
- G-341 Conveyance Imp./ Bolles Canal Seg. 5
- C-139 FEB

All Restoration Strategies Projects will be completed in 2024



# Other Projects to Restore Water Resources

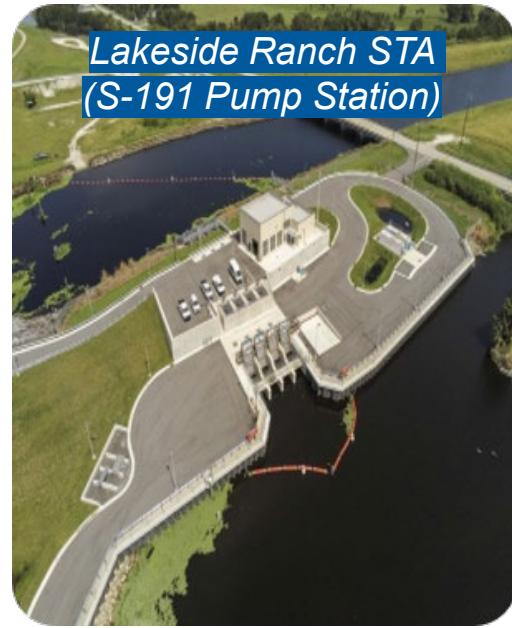
Bolles Canal Segment 5



Lake Hicpochee Enhancement



Lakeside Ranch STA (S-191 Pump Station)



Taylor Slough Flow Improvement Project



**2023** SOUTH FLORIDA ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT  
 WATER YEAR 2022 (MAY 1, 2021–APRIL 30, 2022)  
 FISCAL YEAR 2022 (OCT. 1, 2021–SEPT. 30, 2022)

**Highlights**

The *South Florida Environmental Report (SFER)* documents an important year of restoration, scientific and engineering accomplishments in the Kissimmee Basin, Lake Okeechobee, Everglades and South Florida coastal areas.

The report also provides extensive peer-reviewed research summaries, data analyses, financial updates and a searchable database of environmental projects.

The report covers environmental information for Water Year 2022 (WY2022; May 1, 2021–April 30, 2022) and project budgetary and construction information for the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD or District) for Fiscal Year 2022 (FY 2022; Oct. 1, 2021–Sept. 30, 2022).

The full 2,642-page report is available at [SFWMD.gov/sfer](http://SFWMD.gov/sfer).

Great Blue Heron. (Photo by SFWMD)

**SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT**  
 MARCH 1, 2023



**Questions?**

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