


 splash!

quick facts on...

Caloosahatchee River (C-43) West Basin Storage Reservoir

APRIL 2016

The South Florida Water Management District is a regional governmental agency that manages the water resources in the southern part of the state. It is the oldest and largest of the state's five water management districts.

Our Mission is to manage and protect water resources of the region by balancing and improving flood control, water supply, water quality and natural systems.

The Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan, the Congressionally approved framework for restoring, protecting and preserving the water resources of central and southern Florida, calls for construction of the 170,000 acre-foot Caloosahatchee River (C-43) West Basin Storage Reservoir Project. It will help store and manage basin runoff for meeting estuary needs during the dry season.

Project Description

Located on 10,700 acres of former farmland in Hendry County, Fla., west of Labelle, the Caloosahatchee River West Basin Storage (C-43) Reservoir will hold approximately 170,000 acre-feet of water, with the maximum depth ranging from 15 feet to 25 feet across the expanse. When complete, the

restoration project will provide storage needed for the estuary by capturing and storing local basin runoff as well as Lake Okeechobee regulatory releases. This will reduce lake discharges reaching the estuary, improve the health of the Caloosahatchee

Estuary revitalizing fish and oyster habitats by reducing

the frequency of undesirable salinity ranges. Releases of water from the reservoir during the dry season will provide essential flows, resulting in improved salinity balance, survival of young fish and shellfish and improved ecological health. The reservoir is part of an overall solution to restore the river that includes water quality

improvements, storage and operational changes.

Purpose and Benefits

- Capture and store stormwater runoff from the C-43 basin, reducing excess water flow to the Caloosahatchee Estuary.
- Capture and store federal regulatory releases from Lake Okeechobee, reducing discharges to the coastal estuaries.
- Improve the salinity balance for the Caloosahatchee Estuary by controlling peak flows during the wet season and providing essential flows during the dry season.
- During the dry season, provide needed fresh water and nutrients to sustain an estuarine nursery that supports recreational and commercial fisheries.

Project Status

The South Florida Water Management District acquired the project land and completed the construction and testing of reservoir test cells to evaluate seepage barriers and levee construction design. This information was applied to the detailed design of the reservoir, which was completed by the District in January 2008. All necessary permits have been obtained.

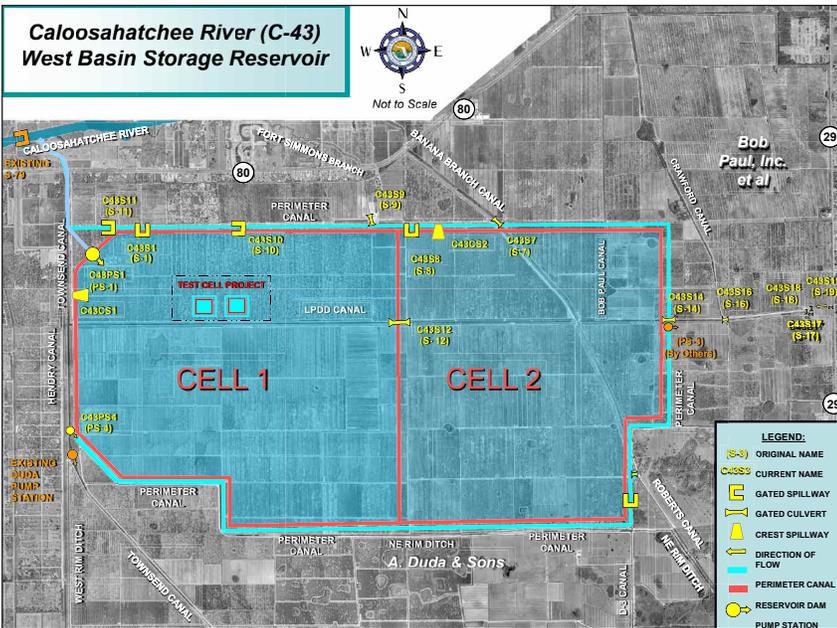
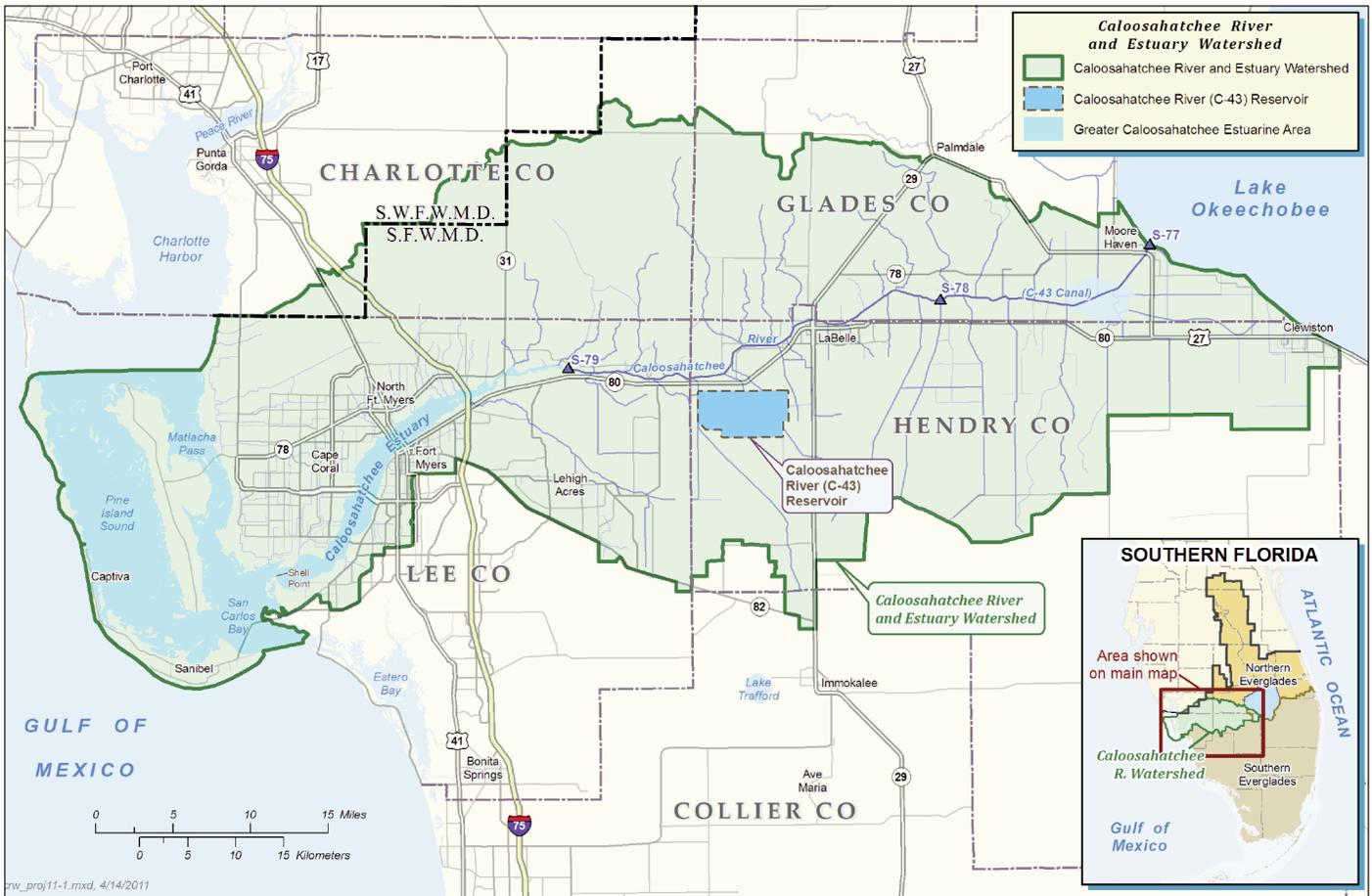
To date, approximately \$118 million has already been invested to purchase the land, construct/monitor the test cells, complete the project design and begin construction.

The Chief of Engineer's Report and Record of Decision are complete, and the project was authorized by Congress in the 2014 Water Resources Reform & Development Act.



Water releases from the Caloosahatchee River Reservoir will provide essential flows during the dry season, improving the ecological health of the Caloosahatchee Estuary.

CALOOSAHATCHEE RIVER (C-43) WEST BASIN STORAGE RESERVOIR



The Caloosahatchee River is approximately 75 miles long and is a major tributary to Charlotte Harbor. It extends from Lake Okeechobee to the Gulf Coast where it forms the Caloosahatchee Estuary.

The above ground Caloosahatchee River (C-43) West Basin Storage Reservoir, located in Hendry County, will capture and store stormwater runoff from the C-43 basin and regulatory water releases from Lake Okeechobee, reducing lake discharges reaching the estuary.



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