



SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

STATEMENT

March 18, 2016

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**Statement by SFWMD Governing Board Chairman Daniel O’Keefe
Re: Florida’s Investment in Everglades Restoration**

“The South Florida Water Management District Governing Board applauds the strong commitment to Everglades restoration demonstrated by Governor Scott and state legislators with the signing of the 2016-2017 Florida First budget.

“Florida taxpayers will invest more than \$188 million over the next year in restoration projects that will benefit the greater Everglades ecosystem. The Governor and the Legislature prioritized projects that will quickly provide relief for the Caloosahatchee and St. Lucie estuaries from Lake Okeechobee discharges. Again this year, the budget also dedicates funding to continue progress on the Governor’s historic 2012 Restoration Strategies Plan that is improving water quality in the Everglades.

“While these significant state investments will build on the momentum to improve South Florida’s environment, immediate federal actions are needed. Most significantly, Congress must continue to fund necessary work on the Herbert Hoover Dike around Lake Okeechobee to address a critical issue at the heart of the regional water management system.”

Everglades Restoration Projects Funded by Florida First Budget

- **\$100 million** for projects in the state-federal Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP), including:
 - **\$60 million** for construction of treatment wetlands and the pump station for the C-44 Reservoir and Stormwater Treatment Area (STA) project on the St. Lucie River in Martin County;
 - **\$37 million** for construction of the C-43 Reservoir western cell and pump station on the Caloosahatchee River in Hendry County;
 - **\$3 million** for further CERP project planning and design;

- **\$32 million** for construction of components of the Governor’s Restoration Strategies Plan, including:
 - Expansion of STA-1 West in western Palm Beach County;
 - Expansion of the Bolles East Canal in western Palm Beach County to better distribute water between STAs;
- **\$56.8 million** for projects in the Northern Everglades and Estuaries Protection Program, including:
 - **\$9 million** for construction of Lakeside Ranch STA Phase II in western Martin County;
 - **\$47.8 million** for new water storage projects through public-private partnerships;
- **\$27.7 million** for land acquisition for project construction, including:
 - **\$16.9 million** for the Lake Hicpochee Storage project in Glades County at the historic headwaters of the Caloosahatchee River;
 - **\$5.8 million** for the Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands CERP project in Miami-Dade County;
 - **\$5 million** for the Picayune Strand Restoration CERP project in Collier County;
- **\$5 million** for continuation of Dispersed Water Management projects on private lands;
- **\$7 million** from Alligator Alley tolls for:
 - C-111 South project in Miami-Dade County;
 - Seagrass and salinity monitoring in Florida Bay;
 - Everglades aquatic plant control;
 - Expansion of the Bolles East Canal in western Palm Beach County to better distribute water between STAs

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The South Florida Water Management District is a regional governmental agency that manages 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 protect South Florida’s water resources by balancing and improving flood control, water supply, water quality and natural systems.