

April 2010



just the FACTs

This fact sheet is provided as a reference to encourage a greater understanding of the various issues related to managing water in South Florida.

Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands Project – Phase 1 *Deering Estate Flow-way Component*

The overall project will restore the distribution of freshwater flows to southern Biscayne Bay, including Biscayne National Park, improving salinity distribution near the shoreline. It will enhance ecological health by helping to reestablish productive nearshore habitat, including nursery habitat for shrimp, shellfish and fish. The project also will provide improved recreational and educational opportunities in Biscayne Bay and adjacent wetlands.

A key component of the Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands Project-Phase 1 includes construction of the Deering Estate Flow-way, a South Florida Water Management District investment of nearly \$4.2 million. Other project components are construction of the Cutler Wetlands Flow-way and L-31E Culverts.

The Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands Project-Phase 1 is being expedited by the State of Florida and is part of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP), which is helping to restore the quantity, quality, timing and distribution of fresh water in the South Florida ecosystem.

Deering Estate Flow-way

- Water will be restored to the historic Cutler Creek within the Deering Estate property, an environmental, archeological and historical preserve in southeastern Miami-Dade County.
- The result will be healthier freshwater and coastal wetlands and a more natural overland flow of water that will more closely mimic historical conditions.
- The flow-way will redistribute excess freshwater runoff within the C-100 basin, directing it away from existing canal discharges and back into the original wetland slough. Plans include:
 - C-100A spur canal extension
 - Pump station installation
 - Old Cutler Road discharge pipe underground installation
 - An education site on a 2-acre wetland built in cooperation with Miami-Dade County Parks and Recreation Department
- Construction is estimated to be complete in May 2011.

Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands Project and CERP

- The South Florida Water Management District will receive credit for the cost of the project as part of its cost share for CERP under an August 2009 agreement between the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the District.
- CERP is a 50-50 partnership between the State of Florida and the federal government. The State of Florida and the District have invested approximately \$2.4 billion toward this effort, including approximately \$300 million in construction.
- Through March 31, 2010, 60 percent – or approximately 233,277 acres – of the estimated lands needed to implement CERP have been acquired.



sfwmd.gov
South Florida Water Management District
3301 Gun Club Road
West Palm Beach, Florida 33406
561-686-8800 or 1-800-432-2045
www.sfwmd.gov

MAILING ADDRESS: P. O. Box 24680
West Palm Beach, FL 33416-4680

Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands Project - Phase 1

