

# Indian River Lagoon-South C-44 Reservoir and STA



The Indian River Lagoon Watershed is home to more than 4,300 species of plants and animals and supports an annual economic contribution of more than \$730 million. The Indian River Lagoon is known as the most bio-diverse habitat in North America and has been designated an Estuary of National Significance by the Environmental Protection Agency.

Construction is complete on the C-44 Reservoir and Stormwater Treatment Area (STA) project in Martin County. All project components were originally planned to be built by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) but, in an effort to construct the project as expeditiously as possible, local sponsor South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) constructed the pump station, STA, and system discharge canal.

The project captures local runoff from the C-44 basin, reducing average annual total nutrient loads and improving salinity in the St. Lucie Estuary and the southern portion of the Indian River Lagoon.

## A HISTORIC DAY FOR AMERICA'S EVERGLADES!

On November 19, 2021 the USACE and the SFWMD hosted a ribbon cutting event to celebrate the ceremonial filling of the Indian River Lagoon-South C-44 Reservoir and STA, the largest Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP) project completed to date!



"We are here with our outstanding partners at the South Florida Water Management District to cut the ribbon and celebrate the ceremonial filling of the C-44 Reservoir," said Col. James Booth, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Jacksonville District Commander. "This Everglades restoration project is massive in scale – the reservoir alone is roughly two miles by 3 miles wide. The C-44 component of the Indian River Lagoon-South project will capture, store, and treat local runoff from the C-44 basin, revitalize habitat in the Indian River Lagoon, help restore the balance of fresh and salt water in the Indian River Lagoon and the St. Lucie Estuary, and provide significant water quality improvements."



"We're proud to celebrate the completion of the C-44 Reservoir and Stormwater Treatment Area as part of our significant efforts to advance the restoration of America's Everglades," said Chauncey Goss, Chairman of the South Florida Water Management District Governing Board. "The State of Florida, under the leadership of Governor Ron DeSantis, will continue its strong commitment to expediting Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan projects while supporting additional efforts to reduce harmful estuary discharges and restore flow to the Everglades."

Authorized by Congress in the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 2007, the C-44 Reservoir and STA is a component of the Indian River Lagoon-South (IRL-S) Project, within the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP). The C-44 Reservoir and STA capture excess water, reducing average annual total nutrient loads and improving the salinity regimen for the St. Lucie River Estuary and the southern portion of the Indian River Lagoon. The reservoir and STA provide a total 60,500 acre-feet of new water storage, between the 50,600 acre-feet in the reservoir and 9,900 acre-feet in the STA, and 6,300 acres of new wetlands.

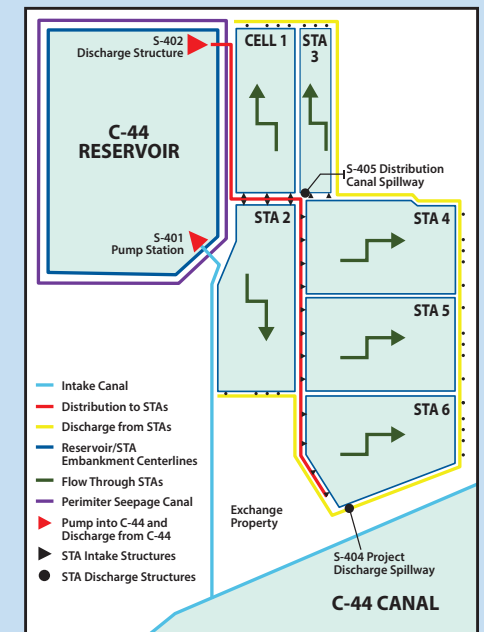
### C-44 Basin Project Features include:

#### RESERVOIR

- ▶ Pump Station
- ▶ Intake Canal (from C-44) and Bank Stabilization
- ▶ Perimeter Canal, Embankment, and Roads
- ▶ Discharge Structure

#### STORMWATER TREATMENT AREA (STA)

- ▶ Six Cells and Flow way Structures
- ▶ Collection/Drainage Canals
- ▶ Perimeter/Distribution Canals
- ▶ System Discharge Spillways and Canal (into C-44)
- ▶ Spillway and Box Culvert



***This major Everglades restoration effort is a partnership between the USACE and the SFWMD.***

- ▶ The C-44 Reservoir constructed by USACE is 3,400 acres, with 50,600 acre-feet of storage.
- ▶ The C-44 Reservoir Intake Canal was constructed by USACE.
- ▶ The C-44 Reservoir Pump Station constructed by the SFWMD can move 1,000 cubic feet per second.
- ▶ The C-44 Stormwater Treatment Area (STA) constructed by the SFWMD is 6,300 Acres, with 9,900 acre-feet of storage.
- ▶ The C-44 Reservoir System Discharge was constructed by the SFWMD.

#### LATEST STATUS

- ▶ The reservoir is in Operational Testing and Monitoring Period (OTMP).
- ▶ The reservoir and STA are operating at this time, capturing excess water in the basin, attenuating it, and cleaning it.
- ▶ Levels in the reservoir depend on available excess water in the C-44 Canal.
- ▶ C-44 Canal levels will fluctuate with rainfall, and each rainfall event is different.
- ▶ The operational goal of the C-44 Reservoir and STA is to prevent and reduce harmful flows of water to the estuary.