



SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

NEWS RELEASE

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SFWMD Completes Everglades, Florida Bay Restoration Project *Start of operations builds restoration momentum in a new year*



(Click on the picture for a larger version.)

Homestead, FL — With two new pump stations in operation, the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) and its federal and state partners today dedicated completion of the C-111 Spreader Canal Western Project to help restore freshwater flows to Florida Bay, preserve clean water in Everglades National Park and maintain flood control for eastern communities.

“The completion of the C-111 spreader canal is yet another example of the Department working with its partners to get the water right,” said Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Secretary Herschel T. Vinyard Jr. “Providing abundant and cleaner water is one step, among many, designed to restore America’s Everglades.”

District engineers reported all components of the project are operating as designed, and the system performed well during 2012 wet season testing. With automated operation, the project stands ready to receive water and deliver benefits to the Everglades ecosystem. In addition, scientists will begin compiling data to evaluate project performance and environmental response.

“Witnessing the completion and operation of a project to help restore America’s Everglades provides a sense of accomplishment and optimism for the future,” said

SFWMD Governing Board Chairman Joe Collins. "Today we have taken another step toward our shared restoration goals."

These goals are accomplished at the C-111 western project with a series of pump stations and canals that raise groundwater levels directly outside the eastern boundary of Everglades National Park. The higher water table creates a hydraulic barrier between the park and the urban areas of Miami-Dade County to retain fresh water in the park.



The project includes two pump stations, 10 plugs/water control structures and impoundments that can hold up to 1,200 acre-feet of water following rainfall events.

This also helps achieve healthy salinity levels in Florida Bay by restoring the quantity, timing and distribution of freshwater flows via Taylor Slough to the bay ecosystem. Located at the southern tip of the Florida peninsula and spanning 850 square miles, Florida Bay is an integral component of the Everglades ecosystem and is a valuable economic resource for the region.

The bay's waters serve as a nursery for an array of aquatic life and are home to dozens of commercially and recreationally important species such as spiny lobster, snapper and pink shrimp. A National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) study found that Florida Bay contributed approximately \$1.7 billion in the form of "destination spending" in one year alone.

This project provides significant momentum for another year of continued Everglades restoration progress. With consensus between the State of Florida and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the District is also moving forward in 2013 with a suite of new restoration strategies for improving water quality in the Everglades.

Work includes:

- Implementing a science-based technical plan
- Completing six projects that will create more than 6,500 acres of new Stormwater Treatment Areas (STAs)
- Creating 110,000 acre-feet of additional water storage

For more information:

- [Restoring America's Everglades](#)
- **Just the Facts:** [C-111 Spreader Canal Western Project](#)
- **Map:** [C-111 Project Locator](#)
- **Map:** [Eastern Everglades Projects](#)

Partner Support for the C-111 Spreader Canal Western Project

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers:

“We applaud our partner, the South Florida Water Management District, in the completion of this phase of the project. With the continued support of the Administration and the State of Florida, progress will continue to be made in our restoration efforts.”

– Terrence “Rock” Salt, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works)

“Today we celebrate the completion of a crucial component in rehydrating the southern end of the Everglades ecosystem, and I look forward to the progress we will continue to make alongside our partners in restoring this national treasure.”

– Col. Alan Dodd, Commander, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Jacksonville District

Everglades National Park:

“Everglades restoration is not just an idea; today we celebrate that it is actually happening! The beauty of this project is both the partnership and the tangible progress in the meeting of Everglades restoration goals. We are very grateful for our partnership with the State of Florida and the South Florida Water Management District, who fully funded and moved forward with the C-111 Spreader Canal Western Project.

“This project will keep the water that is in the park, in the park. It is the first project in the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP) to provide direct benefits to Everglades National Park. At the same time, it assures that our neighbors to the east receive flood protection. This is a great example of a project that meets the broader ecosystem restoration goals of ‘getting the water right,’ ‘restoring natural habitats and species’ and ‘ensuring compatibility with the built environment.’”

– Dan Kimball, Everglades and Dry Tortugas National Park Superintendent