

# Restoration Strategies Program Update

## April 2018

The South Florida Water Management District's \$880 million Restoration Strategies Program includes the design and construction of a suite of regional water storage, treatment and conveyance improvement projects that will further improve water quality in America's Everglades. The program also includes a robust Science Plan consisting of research activities focused on investigating the critical factors that influence phosphorus (P) reduction and better understanding the sustainability of P removal performance at low P concentrations. The strategies also feature implementation of additional sub-regional source controls – where pollution is reduced at the source – in areas where P levels in stormwater runoff have been historically higher. Through March 2018, total program expenditures are approximately \$288 million and all projects are scheduled to be complete by December 2025.

### Eastern Flowpath

#### L-8 Flow Equalization Basin (FEB)

Operations ongoing

#### Stormwater Treatment Area 1 West (STA-1W) Expansion #1

Construction is 76 percent complete; Completion expected December 2018

#### Stormwater Treatment Area 1 West (STA-1W) Expansion #2

1,327 acres of land (known as the Snail Farm) was acquired from USFWS on January 31, 2018; Design activities will begin by October 2018

#### G-341 Related Conveyance Improvements

Bolles East Canal Segment 3 (~3.2 miles) construction is 50 percent complete and expected to be complete by February 2019; Design of Segment 4 is ongoing and construction is expected to start by February 2019; Discussions with owners of the remaining Bolles East Canal bridges have been productive and have resulted in preliminary agreements regarding their replacement

### Central Flowpath

#### A-1 Flow Equalization Basin (FEB)

Operational Testing and Monitoring Phase (OTMP) is ongoing and will be complete by July 2018

### Western Flowpath

Design activities will begin by October 2018

### Additional Components

#### Stormwater Treatment Area (STA) Science Plan

Of the nine initial studies, three have been completed, others are nearing completion and two new studies have been initiated; Preliminary planning for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Five Year Work Plan (FY2019-2023) is ongoing; Preliminary results to date are as follows:

- STA soil amendments could potentially reduce P, however costs are high and impacts to downstream systems are uncertain
- Periphyton-based STA performance appears resilient despite higher flow pulses and extended periods of high flow
- STA canals do not appear to significantly affect inflow or outflow P concentrations
- increases in P were detected in STA outflow regions, however the source of increase continues to be studied
- deficiencies and biases were determined for existing P sampling methods; other validation activities will continue

#### Sub-Regional Source Controls

The development of sub-regional source control concepts began and coordination with stakeholders was initiated

#### Mecca Impoundment

Currently being evaluated as part of CERP's Loxahatchee River Watershed Restoration Project

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**Consent Order<sup>1</sup> Milestones**  
(with deadlines or completion dates ranging from May 2017 through April 2019)

Project: Activity	Deadline	Date Completed	Days +/- <sup>2</sup>
<b>Eastern Flowpath</b>			
L-8 FEB: Complete Construction	12/31/2016	6/21/2017	-172
STA-1W Expansion #1: Construction Status Report	3/1/2018	2/23/2018	+6
STA-1W Expansion #1: Complete Construction	12/31/2018		
STA-1W Expansion #2: Complete Land Acquisition	3/31/2018	1/31/2018	+59
STA-1W Expansion #2: Initiate Design	10/1/2018		
L-8 Divide Structure: Complete Construction	9/30/2018	7/7/2016	+815
S-375 Expansion: Complete Construction	12/31/2018	4/3/2017	+637
<b>Central Flowpath</b>			
A-1 FEB: Operational Monitoring and Testing Period Complete	7/29/2018		
<b>Western Flowpath</b>			
C-139 FEB: Initiate Design	10/31/2018		

1: FDEP Consent Order 12-1148 (associated with National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit No. FL0778451-001-FL7A/RA) and FDEP Consent Order 12-1149 (associated with Everglades Forever Act Permit No. 0311207)

2: + = days ahead; - = days behind

## Photo of the Month



**STA Science Plan Phosphorus Flux Chambers in STA-2 Cell 3 - January 2017**