

# CERP, C&SF, Caloosahatchee River (C-43) West Basin Storage Project, Hendry County, Florida 23 August 2007



**Abstract:** The purpose of the Caloosahatchee River (C-43) West Basin Storage Reservoir project is to improve the timing and quantity of fresh water flows to the Caloosahatchee River estuary. Currently, the South Florida flood control system stores water in Lake Okeechobee. Excess water is discharged when the lake rises to a level that threatens flooding in the Everglades Agricultural Area, the health of the lake, or the integrity of Herbert Hoover Dike. The resulting, unnatural surges of fresh water down the river reduce estuarine salinity levels. Alternately, during drought periods when irrigation demands are high, little or no water is released to the river. Deprived of fresh water, estuarine salinity levels rise, which impacts sea grasses and oysters, species that indicate the

overall health of the estuary.

The Tentatively Selected Plan provides approximately 170,000 acre-feet of above-ground storage volume in a two-cell reservoir, with normal full pool depths varying from 15 feet at the southeast corner to 25 feet at the northwest corner. Project features encompass approximately 10,500 acres, acquired by the Department of the Interior with Federal Everglades restoration funds and by the State of Florida. Major features of the Tentatively Selected Plan include external and internal embankments, perimeter canals, two pump stations, internal control and outflow water control structures.

The total initial estimated cost of the project, including construction, lands, easements, relocations, rights-of-way and disposals, pre-construction engineering and design and construction management is \$446,460,000. Construction, operation and maintenance costs will be shared equally between the federal government and the non-federal sponsor, in accordance with the requirement of Section 601 of the Water Resource Development Act (WRDA) 2000 to maintain a cumulative 50/50 cost share throughout CERP implementation. The state-designated local sponsor of this project is the South Florida Water Management District. Construction is scheduled to begin in 2007 and to be completed in late 2011.

The Caloosahatchee River (C-43) West Basin Storage Reservoir will be used to ensure a more natural, consistent flow of fresh water to the estuary. Excess basin storm water runoff, along with regulatory releases from Lake Okeechobee, will be captured and stored in a reservoir, to be released slowly, as needed, to restore and maintain the estuary. This project will provide recreation benefits, and it may also provide water supply benefits and contribute to management of flood waters.

**Report Documentation:** Pertinent documentation on the project, the results of the CWRB, and subsequent Washington Level Review Actions are linked below.

- [CWRB Agenda](#)
- [Project Summary](#)
- [CWRB Briefing Slides](#)
- [CWRB Lessons Learned](#)
- [CWRB Meeting Record](#)
- [Comment Letters](#)
- Documentation of Review Findings
- [Signed Chief of Engineers Report – 11 March 2010](#)
- ASA(CW) Memo to OMB
- OMB Clearance
- Congressional Notification
- Signed Record Decision
- Authorization

**Additional Information:**

[South Atlantic Division](#)

[Jacksonville District](#)

[Everglades Restoration](#)

[Caloosahatchee River C-43 Study](#)