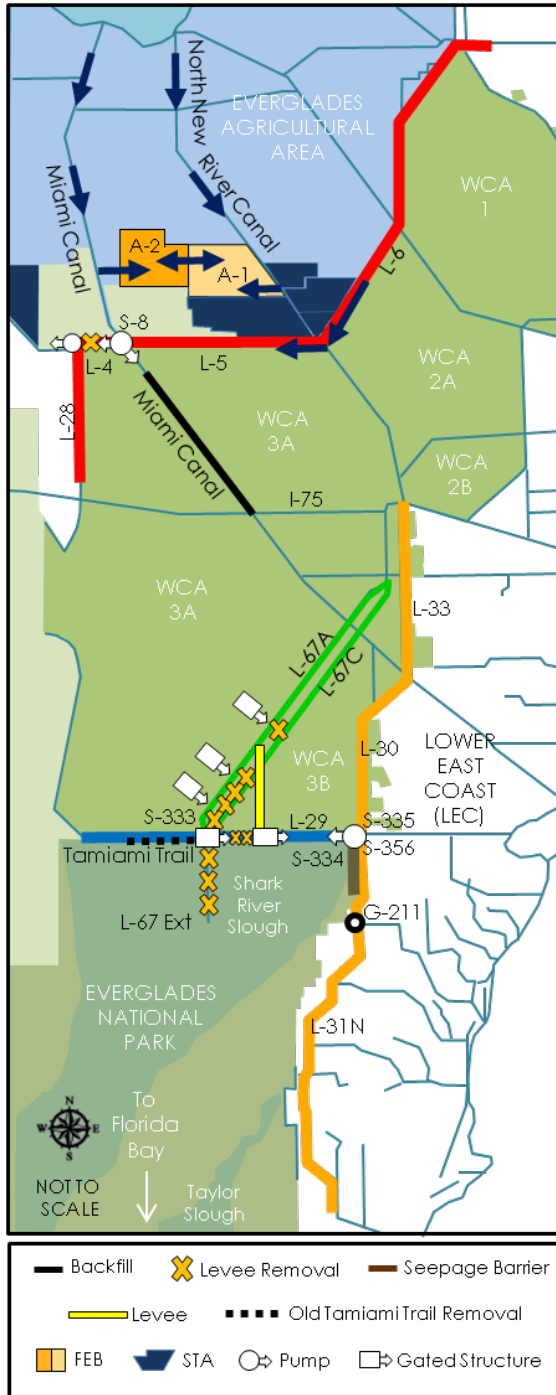


# COMPREHENSIVE EVERGLADES RESTORATION PLAN CENTRAL AND SOUTHERN FLORIDA PROJECT CENTRAL EVERGLADES PLANNING PROJECT

22 APRIL 2014



**ABSTRACT:** The Central Everglades Planning Project (CEPP) is a component of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP), which was approved as a framework for restoring the south Florida ecosystem while providing for other water-related needs of the region in the 2000 Water Resources Development Act. The CERP is a framework for modifications and operational changes to the Central and Southern Flood Project. The CEPP is a national pilot project for the Corps. The goal of the pilot project was to identify a draft recommended plan within 18 months of initiating the study and preparing a recommendation to Congress in less than three years.

The purpose of the CEPP is to improve the quantity, quality, timing and distribution of water flows to the Northern Estuaries, central Everglades (Water Conservation Area 3 (WCA 3) and Everglades National Park (ENP)), and Florida Bay while increasing water supply for municipal, industrial and agricultural users. The recommended plan would achieve these benefits by reducing the large pulses of regulatory flood control releases sent from Lake Okeechobee and redirecting approximately 210,000 acre-feet of water on an annual basis to the historical southerly flow path. Prior to delivering additional water to existing stormwater treatment areas (STAs), water will be delivered first to flow equalization basins (FEBs) which will: (1) provide storage capacity, (2) attenuate high flows, and (3) provide incidental water quality benefits. Rerouting this treated water south and redistributing it across a spreader canal will

facilitate hydropattern restoration in WCA 3A. This, in combination with Miami Canal backfilling and other CEPP components, will

re-establish a 500,000-acre flowing system through the northern most extent of the remaining Everglades. The treated water will be distributed through WCA 3A to WCA 3B and ENP via structures and creation of the Blue Shanty Flowway. The Blue Shanty Flowway will restore continuous sheetflow by re-connecting a portion of WCA 3B to ENP and Florida Bay. A seepage barrier wall and pump station will manage seepage to maintain levels of flood protection and water supply in the urban and agricultural areas east of the WCAs and ENP.

The recommended plan beneficially affects more than 1.5 million acres in the St. Lucie and Caloosahatchee Estuaries, WCA 3A, WCA 3B, ENP, and Florida Bay. The recommended plan reduces the number and severity of undesirable, high-volume discharges from Lake Okeechobee, improving salinity in the St. Lucie and Caloosahatchee Estuaries. The increase in freshwater flow to the Everglades is approximately two-thirds of the additional flow estimated to be provided by the CERP. The additional water flowing into WCA 3A and ENP will help to restore pre-drainage vegetative communities and habitat for fish and wildlife while providing incremental restoration of natural processes critical for the development of peat soils and tree islands, which are essential features of the Everglades ridge and slough landscape. Increased flows to Florida Bay will improve salinities, resulting in greater abundance and diversity of sea grasses and other estuarine plant and animal species.

The first cost (2014 price level) of the recommended plan is \$ 1,900,000,000. The non-Federal sponsor of this project is the South Florida Water Management District.

#### **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
- State & Agency Review Comment Letters
- Documentation of Review Findings
- Signed Chief of Engineers Report
- Advance Copy to Congressional Committees
- ASA (CW) Memo to OMB
- OMB Response
- ASA (CW) Transmittal to Congress
- Signed Record of Decision
- Authorization

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:** [South Atlantic Division](#)  
[Jacksonville District](#)  
[Central Everglades Planning Project](#)