Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP)

Broward County Water Preserve Areas (BCWPA)

Final Project Implementation Report (PIR) & Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)

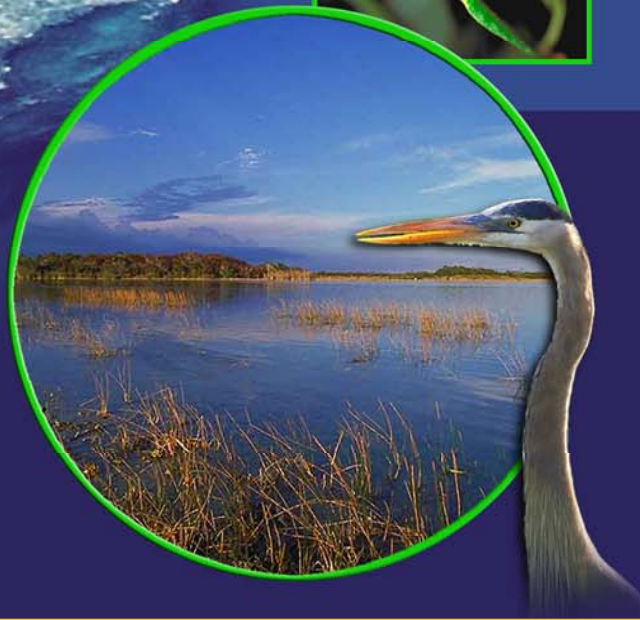
Briefing to the Civil Works Review Board (CWRB)

12 April 2007

One Team - Relevant, Ready, Responsive, Reliable

Briefing Purpose

- Provide the CWRB an Overview of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan
- Obtain CWRB approval:
  - To proceed forward with the release of the Broward County Water Preserve Areas Project Implementation Report and Environmental Impact Statement for state and agency final review
- Discuss next steps in the approval process
- Answer Questions/Comments on BCWPA PIR/EIS



Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP) Overview

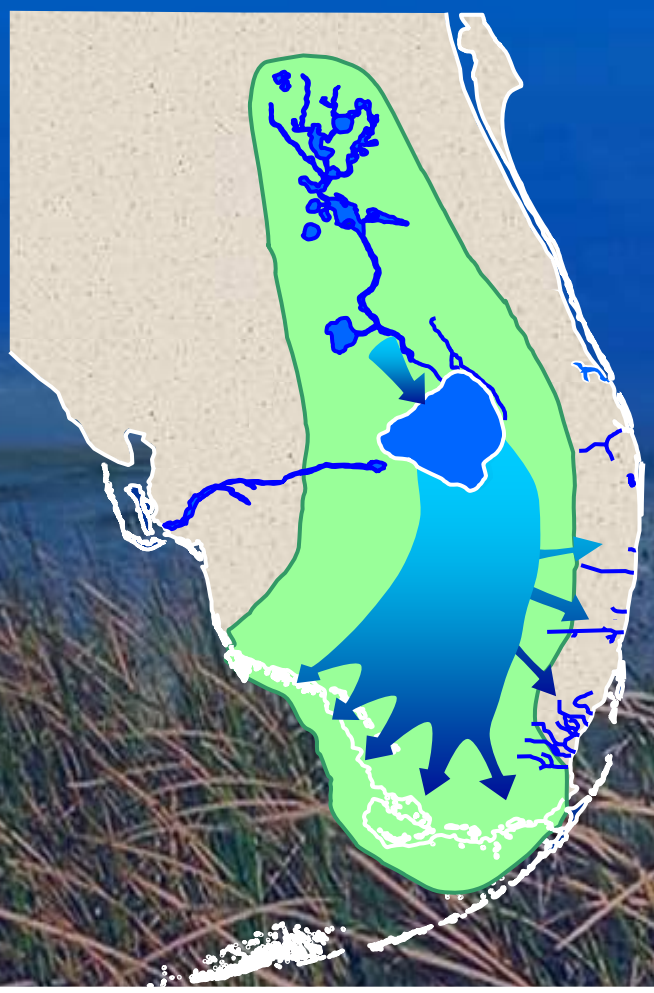
Mission

"The overarching purpose of the Plan is the restoration, preservation, and protection of the south Florida ecosystem while providing for other water-related needs of the region, including water supply and flood protection."

- WRDA 2000

The Historic Everglades Ecosystem

"River of Grass"

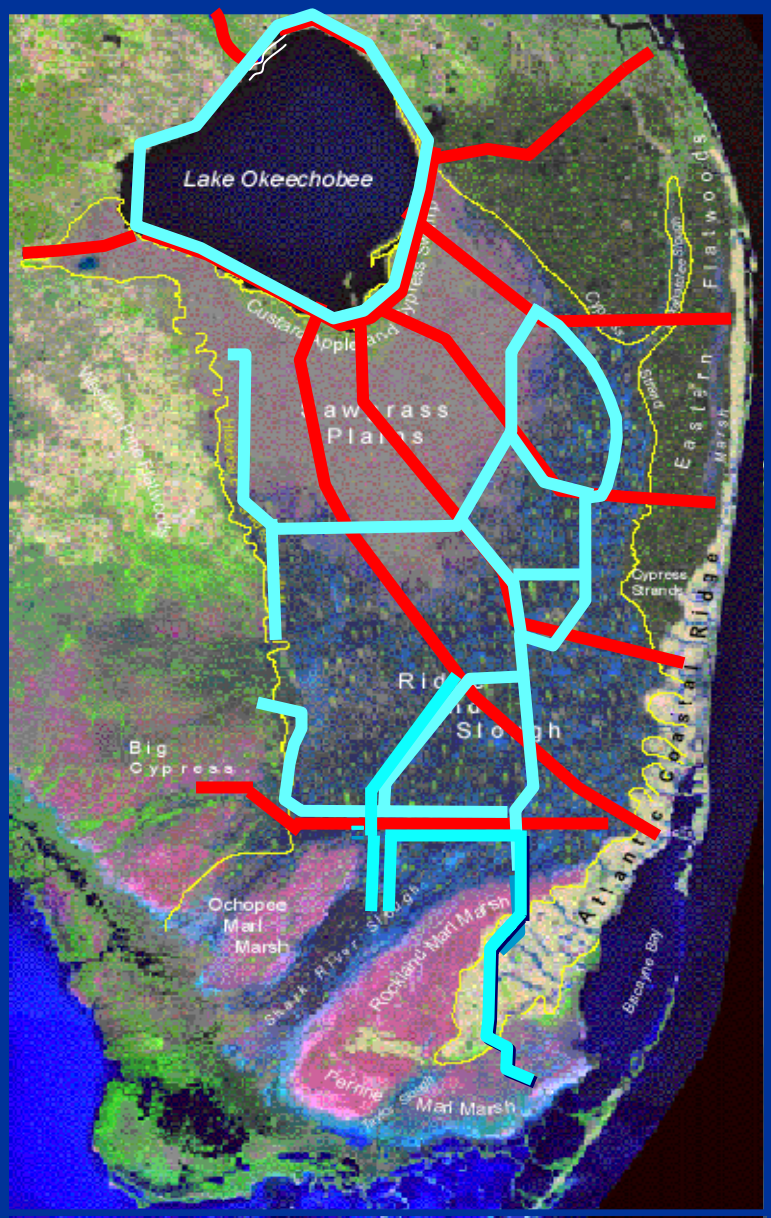


- Water connected the natural system, from top to bottom
- 9 million acres of wetlands providing a variety of wildlife and habitat
- Diverse mosaic of landscapes and seascapes

The Everglades: "They were changeless. They are changed."

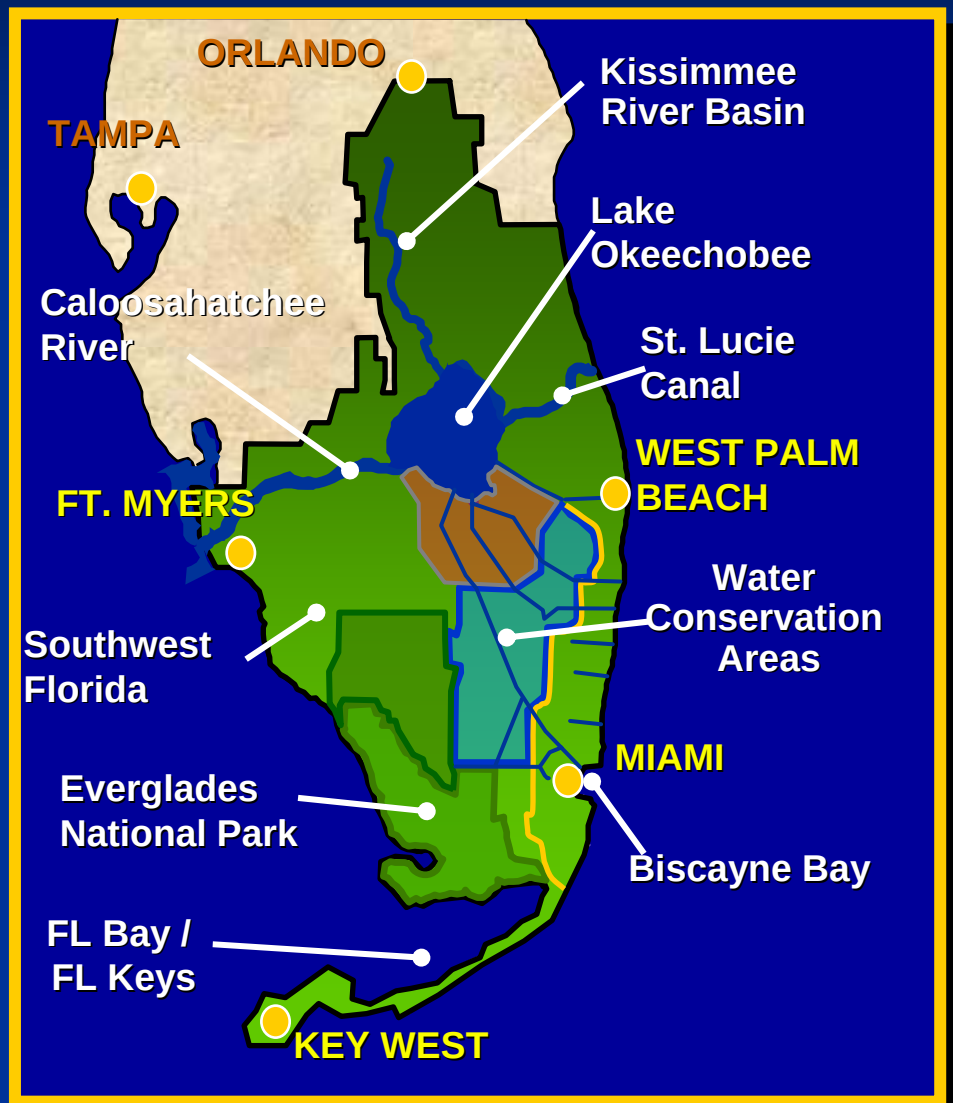
- Marjory Stoneman Douglas

C&SF Project



1965-1983

Central & Southern Florida Project
(C&SF Project)

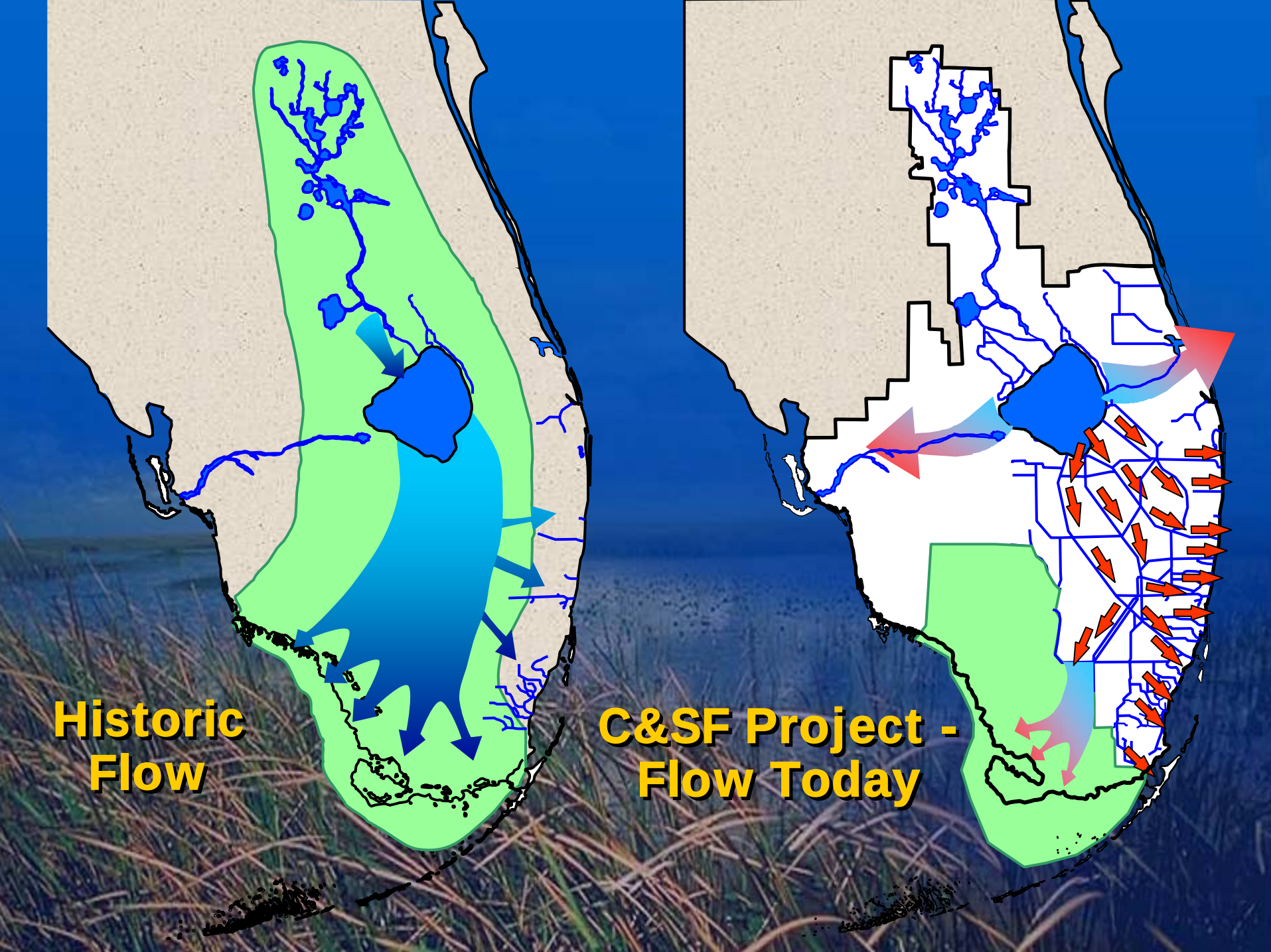


- **Authorization**: Flood Control Act of 1948 +

- **Purposes**: Flood control, water conservation and control, salt water intrusion, fish and wildlife, water supply to Everglades National Park, and environmental restoration

- **Features**: 46 bridges, 10 locks, 670 miles of canals, 809 miles of levees, 130 control and diversion structures, and 16 pump stations

South Florida Flourished

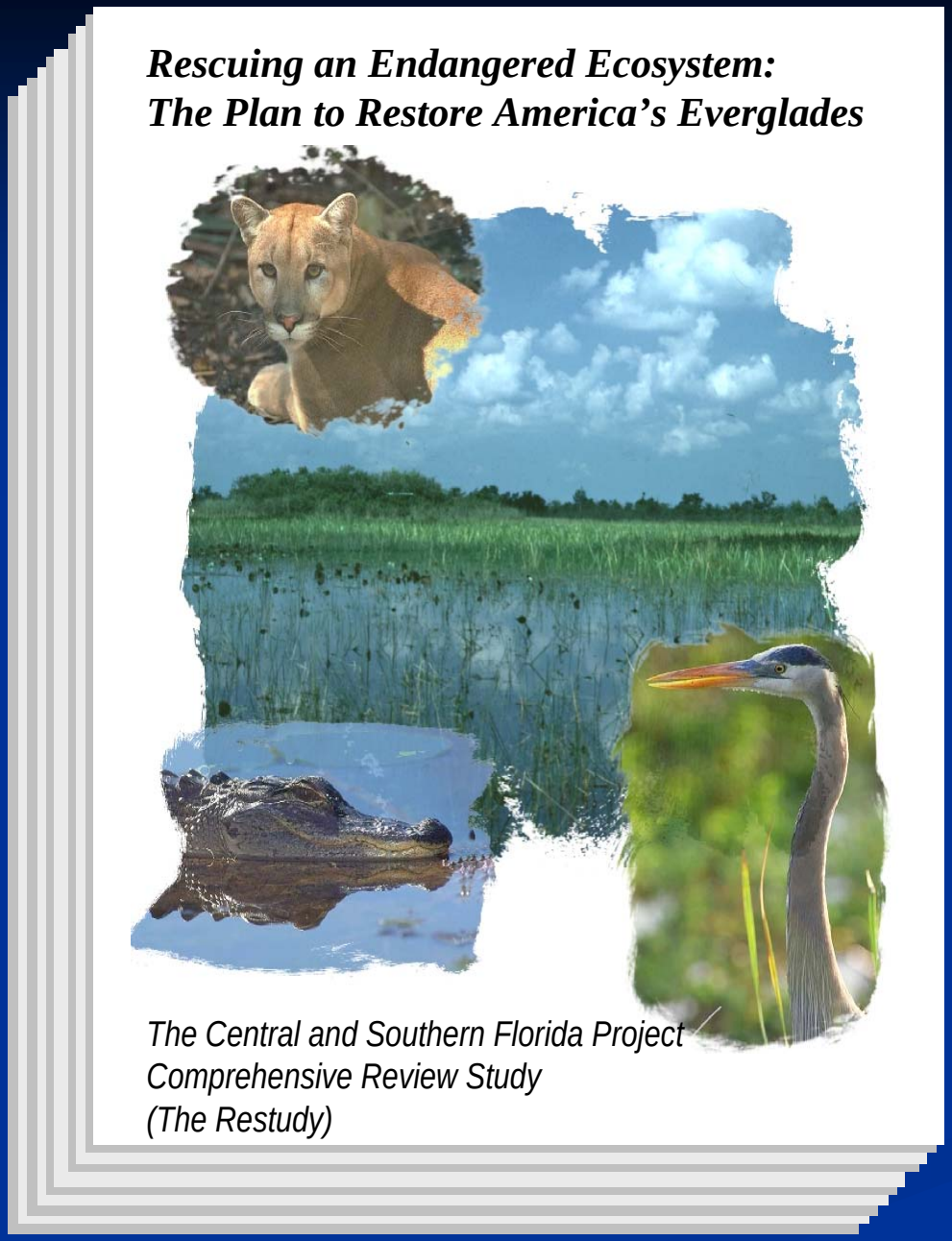

Historic Flow
C&SF Project - Flow Today

The expanding population increased demand for land, flood control, and water supply

An Ecosystem in Trouble

- Too much/too little water for the Everglades/south Florida ecosystem
- Massive reductions in wildlife including wading bird populations
- Degradation of water quality
- Repetitive water shortages and salt water intrusion
- Declining estuary health
- 1.7 billion gallons of water a day wasted to tide

What we are doing about the problem…

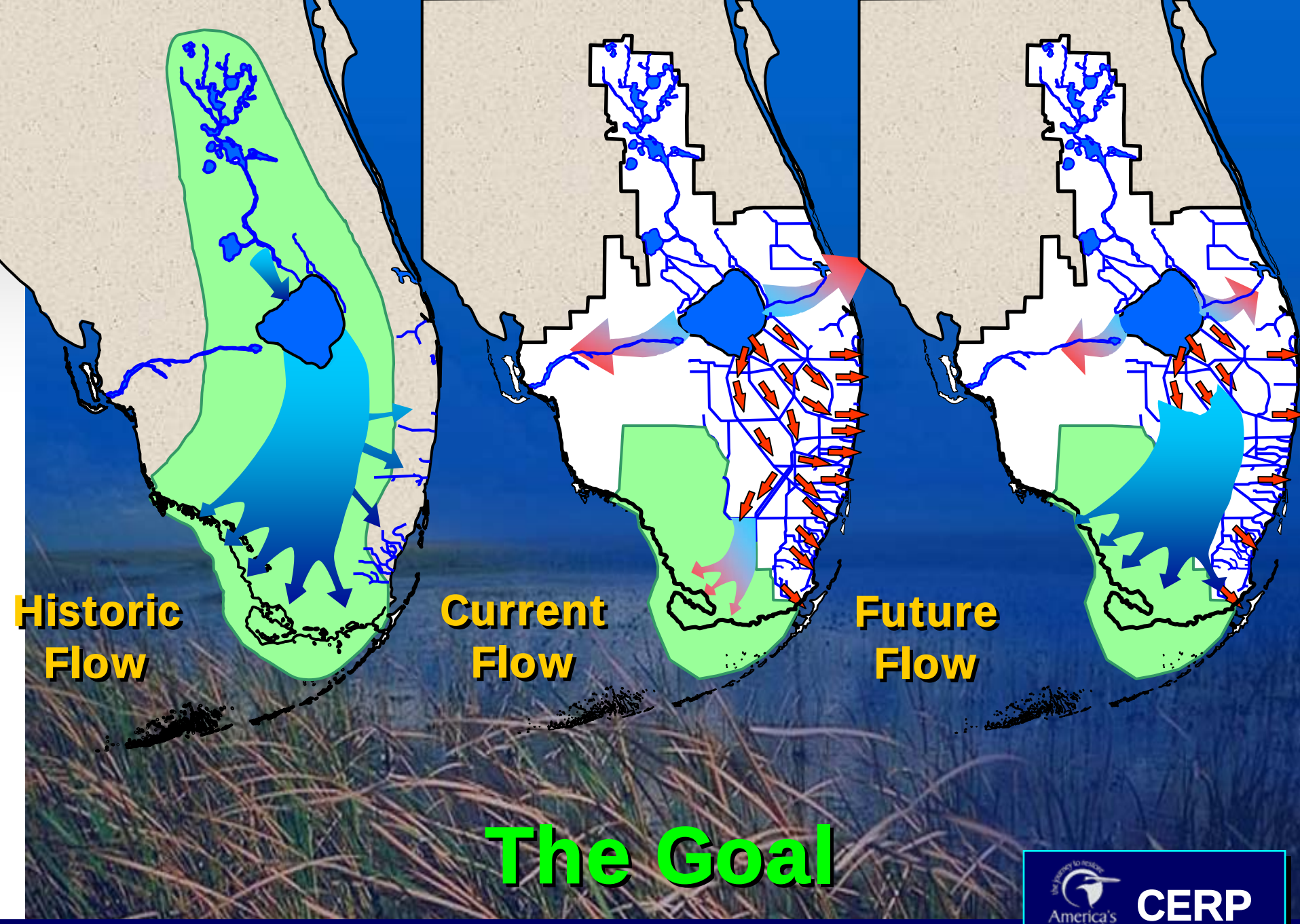


On December 11, 2000, the President signed the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 2000, approving:

The Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP)

- **68 Components**
- **30+ years**
- **An estimated cost of $10.9 billion**

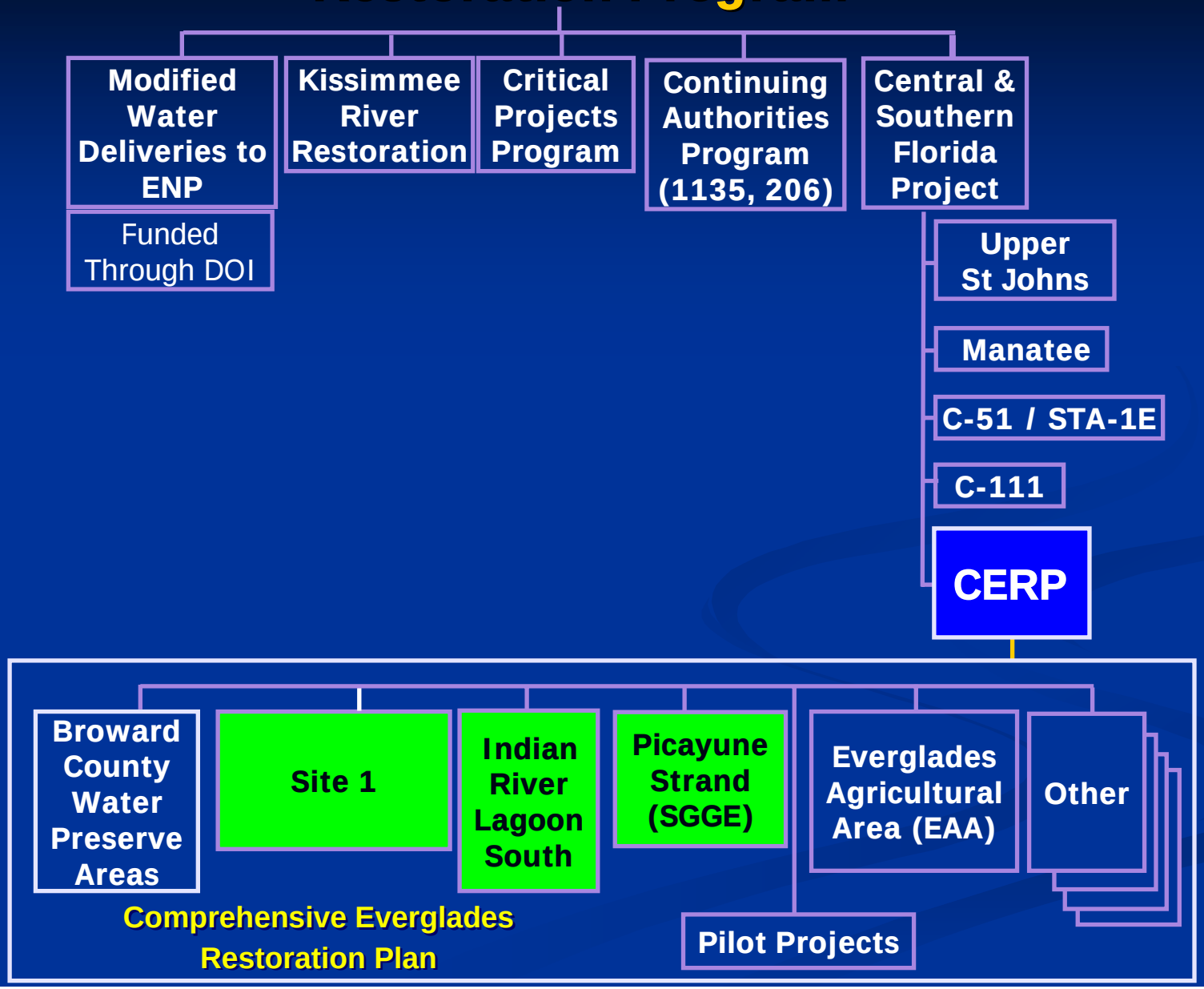
America's Everglades **CERP**



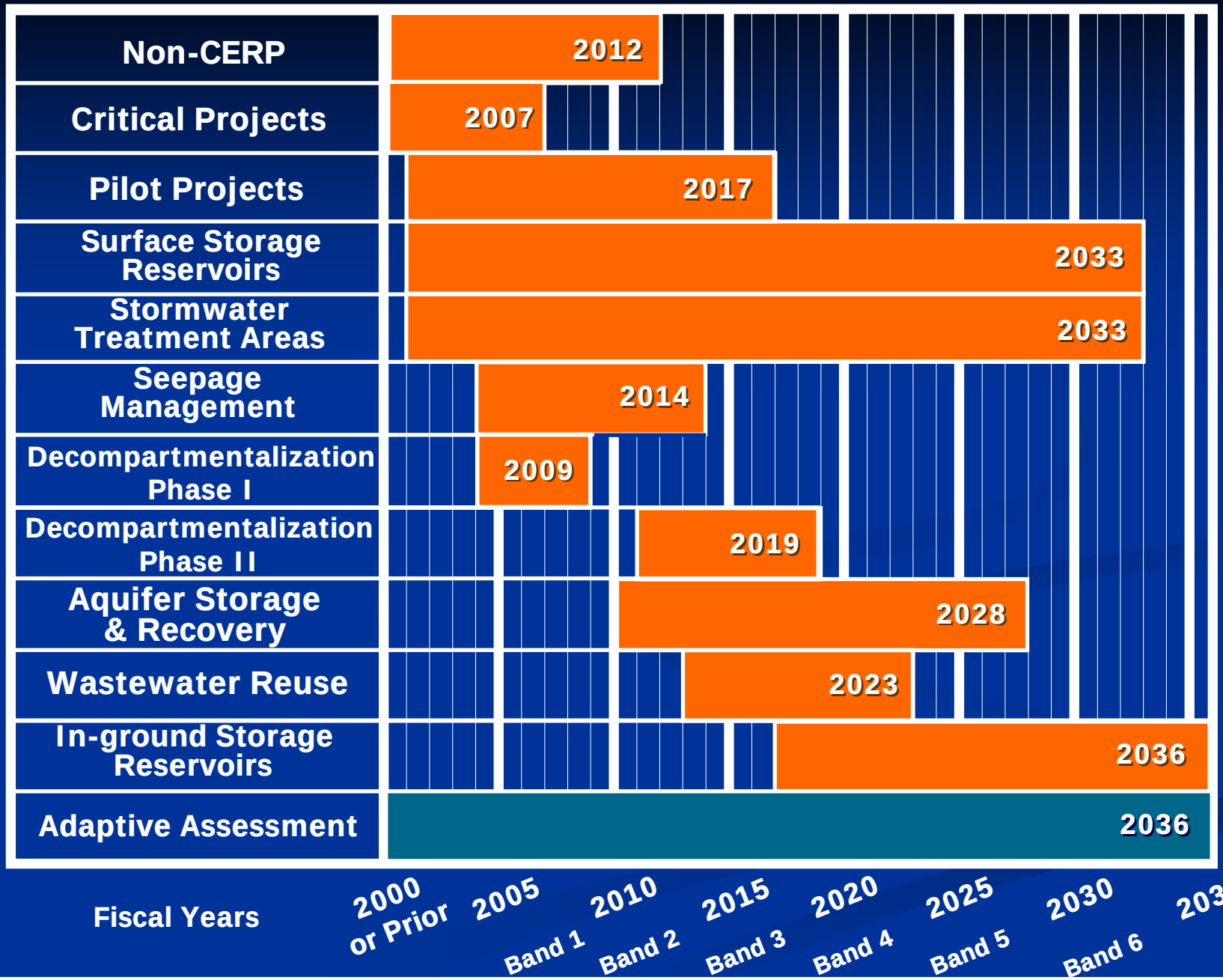
The Goal

America's Everglades CERP

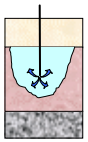
Current South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Program



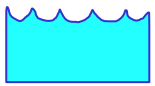
Total Implementation Plan for South Florida Ecosystem Restoration



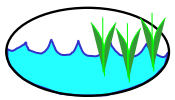
CERP Components



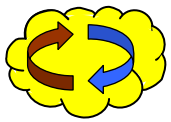
Aquifer Storage & Recovery



Surface Water Storage Reservoir



Stormwater Treatment Areas (STAs)



Reuse Wastewater

Seepage Management

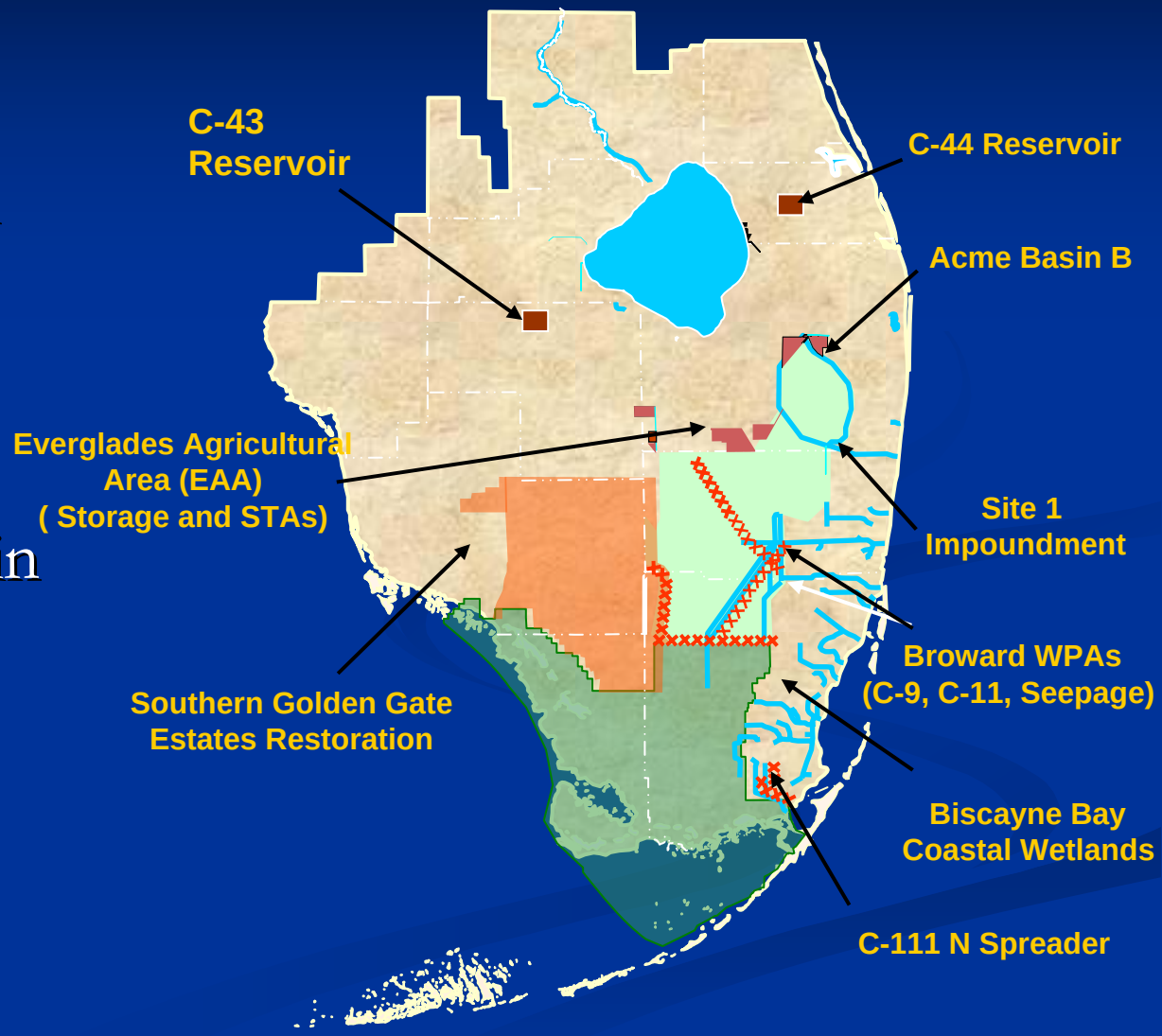
xxxxxx

Removing Barriers to Sheetflow

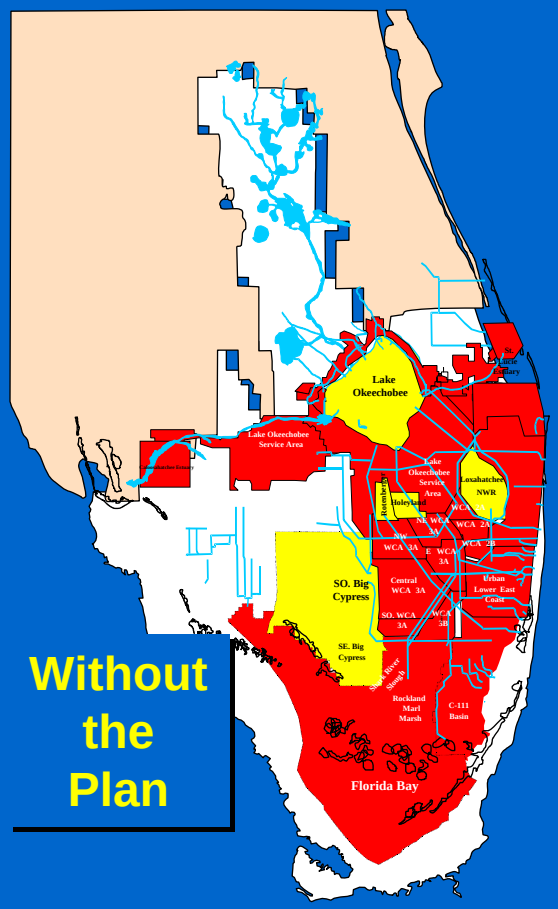
Operational Changes

Acceler8

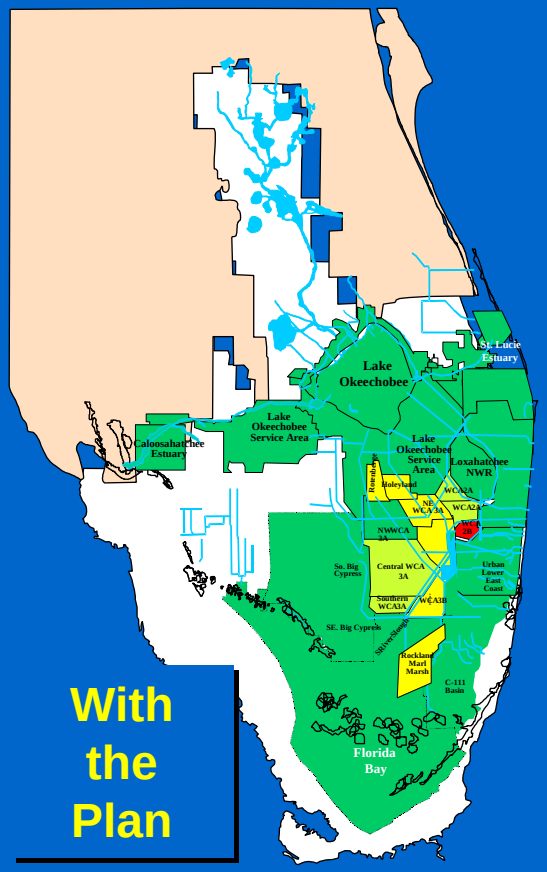
- $1.8 Billion Program
- To be designed and constructed by the State
- Work is being done in advance of Federal funding to speed up implementation process



Future Ecosystem Conditions



Without the Plan



With the Plan

= Successful

= Marginal

= Recovery Unlikely

CERP

"There are no other Everglades in the world. They are, they have always been, one of the unique regions of the earth, remote, never wholly known"

-Marjory Stoneman Douglas

The Everglades River of Grass

Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP)

Broward County Water Preserve Areas (BCWPA)

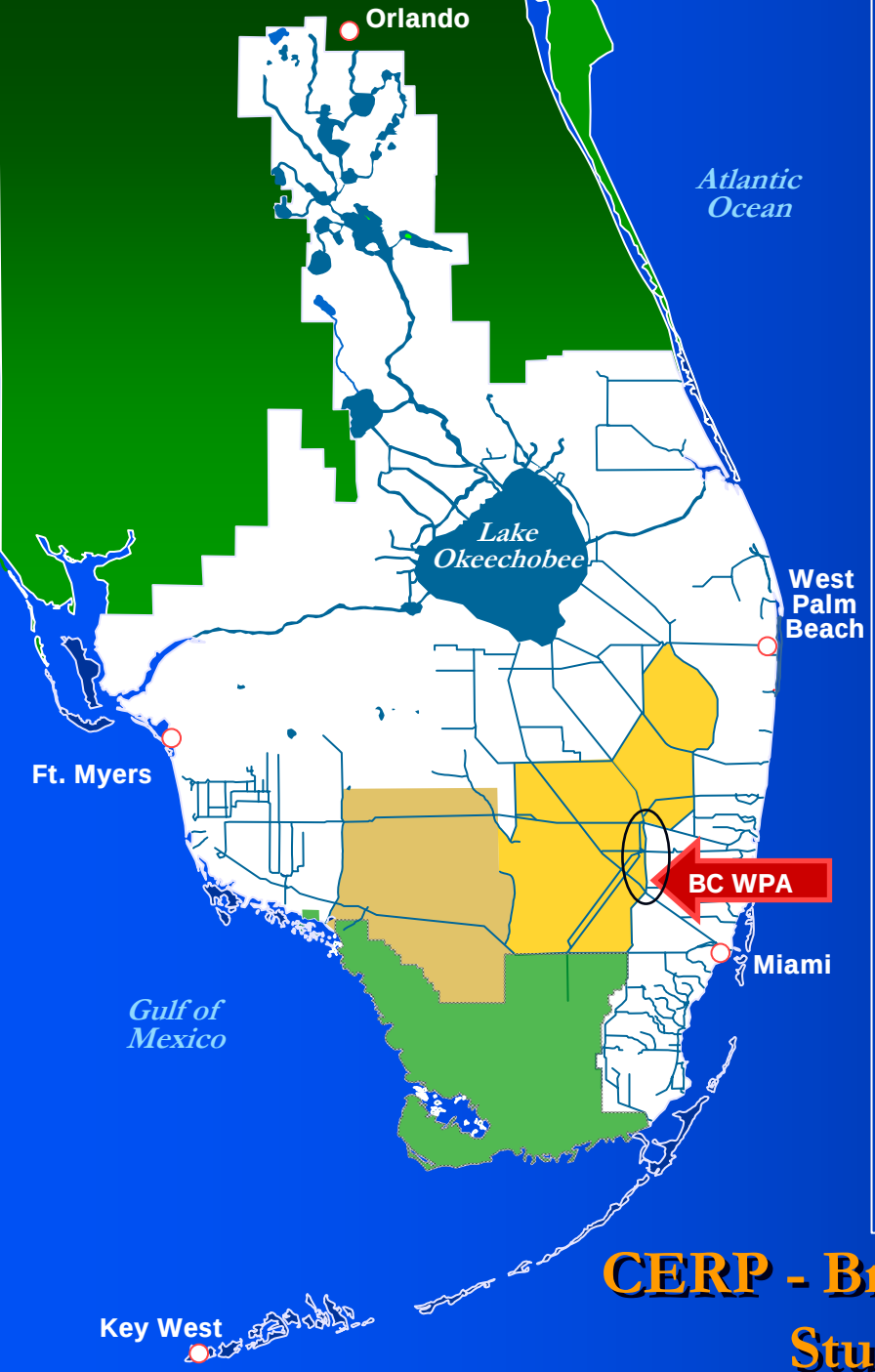
Final Project Implementation Report (PIR) & Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)

One Team - Relevant, Ready, Responsive, Reliable

Broward County Water Preserve Areas Recommended Plan

- $746,980,000 PIR Cost Estimate
  - Yellow Book (Restudy) Cost Estimate: $424,570,000
- 544,000 Average Annual Habitat Units
- Recommend Authorization of BCWPA
  - Major Project Features
    - Water Conservation Area 3A/3B Seepage Management Area
      - 4,633 acre buffer strip
    - C-9 Impoundment:
      - 1,641 acres, 4.3 ft deep
      - 234 and 105 acre wetland marsh areas (mitigation/project)
        - 7500 acre-feet of storage
    - C-11 Impoundment:
      - 1,068 acres, 4.3 ft. deep
      - 475 and 13 acre wetland marsh areas (mitigation/project)
        - 5067 acre-feet of storage
    - Recreation Features

- De-authorize C-9, C-11 & Water Conservation Area (WCA) 3A/3B Seepage Management Area (SMA) as separable components and re-authorize as one project with three features



CERP - Broward County Water Preserve Areas Study Area and Project Location

Broward County Water Preserve Areas Relevant Authorizations

- Section 601 of WRDA 2000
  - Authorized the BCWPA as 3 + separable projects of the 10 initial projects necessary to expedite ecological restoration of the Everglades
- Section 601 (b)(2)(C)(iii) of WRDA 2000
  - "(iv) Water Conservation Areas 3A/3B Levee Seepage management, at a total cost of $100,335,000, with an estimated Federal cost of $50,167,500 and an estimated non-Federal cost of $50,167,500"
  - "(v) C-11 Impoundment and Stormwater Treatment Area, at a total cost of $124,837,000, with an estimated Federal cost of $62,418,500 and an estimated non-Federal cost of $62,418,500"
  - "(vi) C-9 Impoundment and Stormwater Treatment Area, at a total cost of $89,146,000, with an estimated Federal cost of $44,573,000 and an estimated non-Federal cost of $44,573,000"
  - "(ix) North New River Improvements, at a total cost of $77,087,000, with an estimated Federal cost of $38,543,500 and an estimated non-Federal cost of $38,543,500"
    - Note: Improvements to North New River necessary for this project are included in a portion of the above authorization

WHY BCWPA?

- Major component of BCWPA is 15 miles of Seepage Management in northern part of everglades system
  - Seepage management is a major element of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan
- Affects nearly all areas within the Everglades, which comprises of:
  - Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge
  - Water Conservation Areas, and
  - Everglades National Park

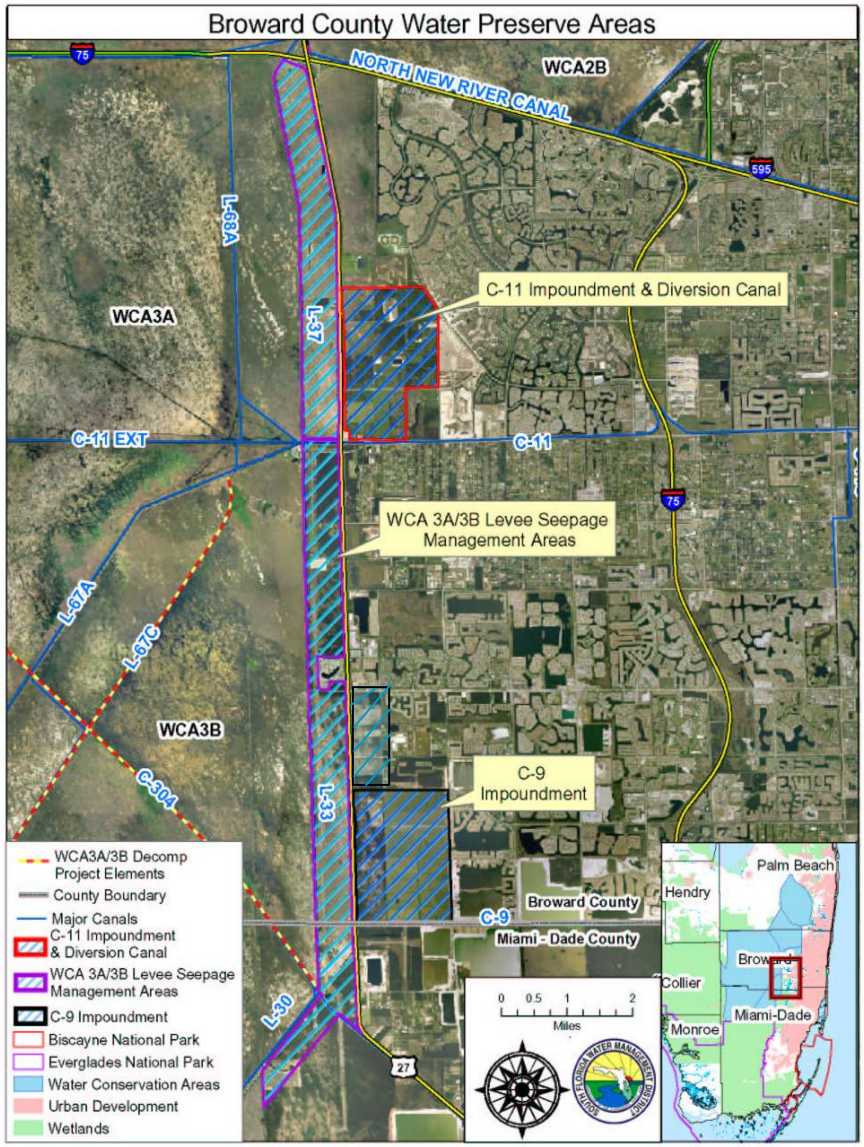
BCWPA Project Purposes

- To restore the Everglades by providing a plan to maintain the quantity and quality of water in the natural system by reducing seepage from the Water Conservation Areas (WCAs)

- To capture and store lower quality water that is currently discharged into the WCAs and timing the distribution to the east at the appropriate times to maintain flood damage reduction and meet agricultural, municipal, environmental and saltwater intrusion prevention demands for water supply

Planning Objectives

- Restore habitat function in Water Conservation Area (WCA) 3
- Increase the spatial extent of wetland function
- Reduce the loading of excess nutrients into WCA 3
- Reduce seepage out of WCA 3
  - Maximize the amount of water retained in the natural system



Plan Formulation Approach

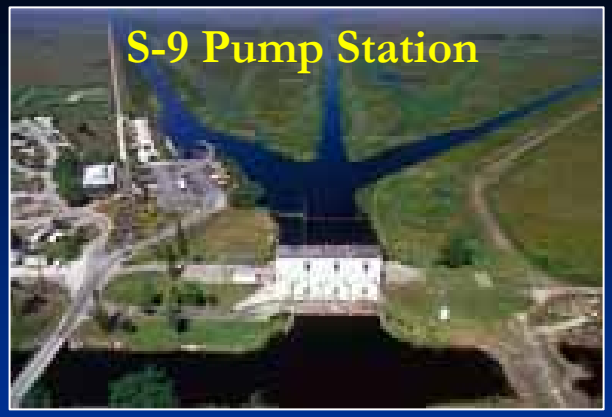
- Follow Planning Guidance (ER 1105-2-100), Assistant Secretary of the Army Policy (24 Feb 2005) and draft CERP Programmatic Regulations Guidance Memoranda
  - Reaffirm 1999 Yellow Book (Restudy) and prior studies:
    - Project-specific goals and purposes are consistent with Restudy
  - Formulation to focus on optimizing size of components for system-wide environmental benefits
    - Determine if project can be implemented on lands already acquired (Federal Farm Bill and State funds)
  - Determine if features are interdependent
  - Identify water made available for the natural system to be <u>reserved or allocated</u> by the State of Florida (WRDA 2000)
  - Identify water for other water-related needs

Separable Compensatory Mitigation

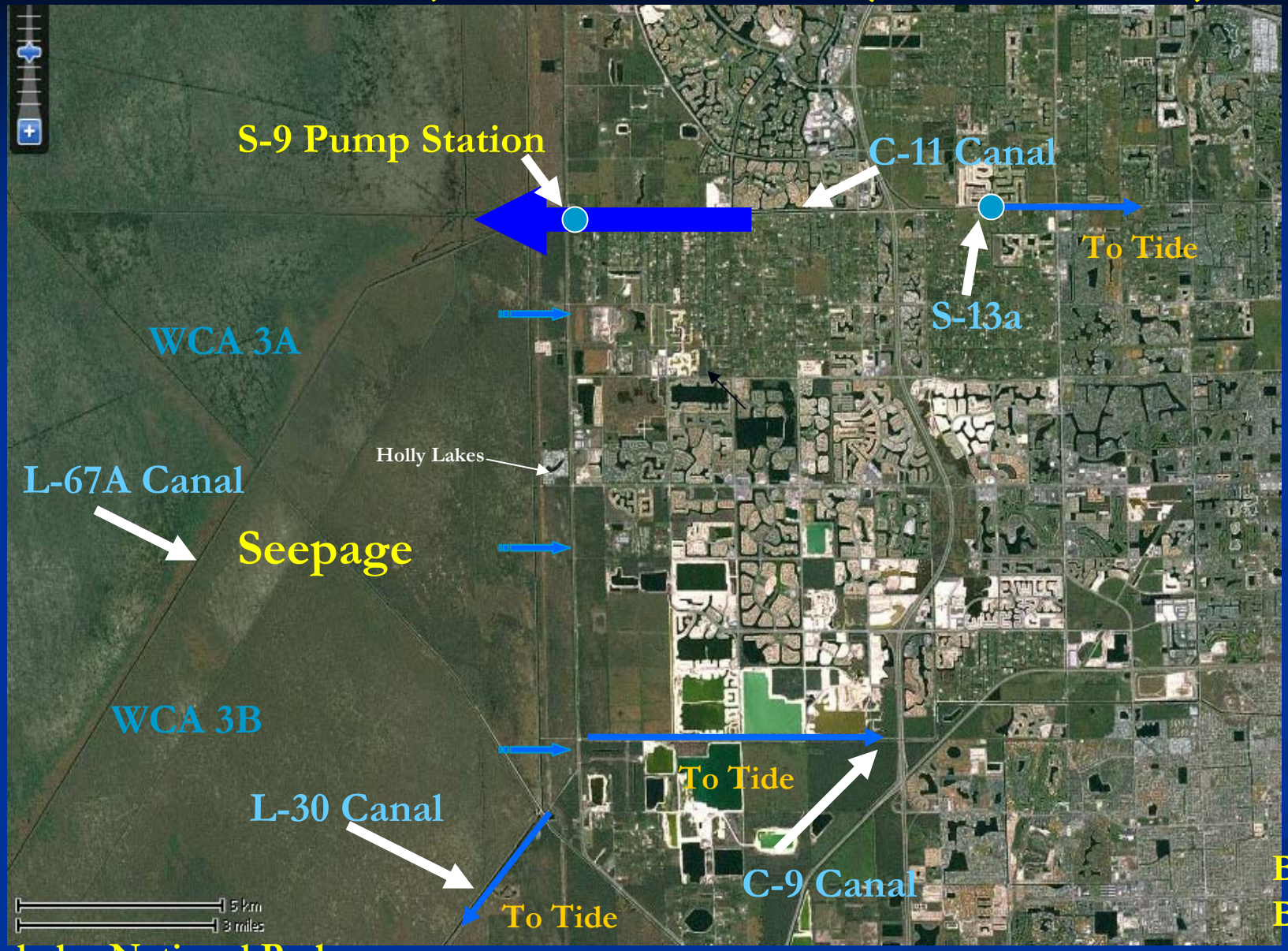
- Required in the "Restudy" Programmatic EIS
  - Plan must offset impacts to existing regulatory mitigation sites
    - Evaluate opportunities incorporate wetland
    - Evaluate hydroperiod restoration and wetland creation in Seepage Management Area
  - Benefits achieved by mitigation are not included in Project justification.

BCWPA Existing Conditions

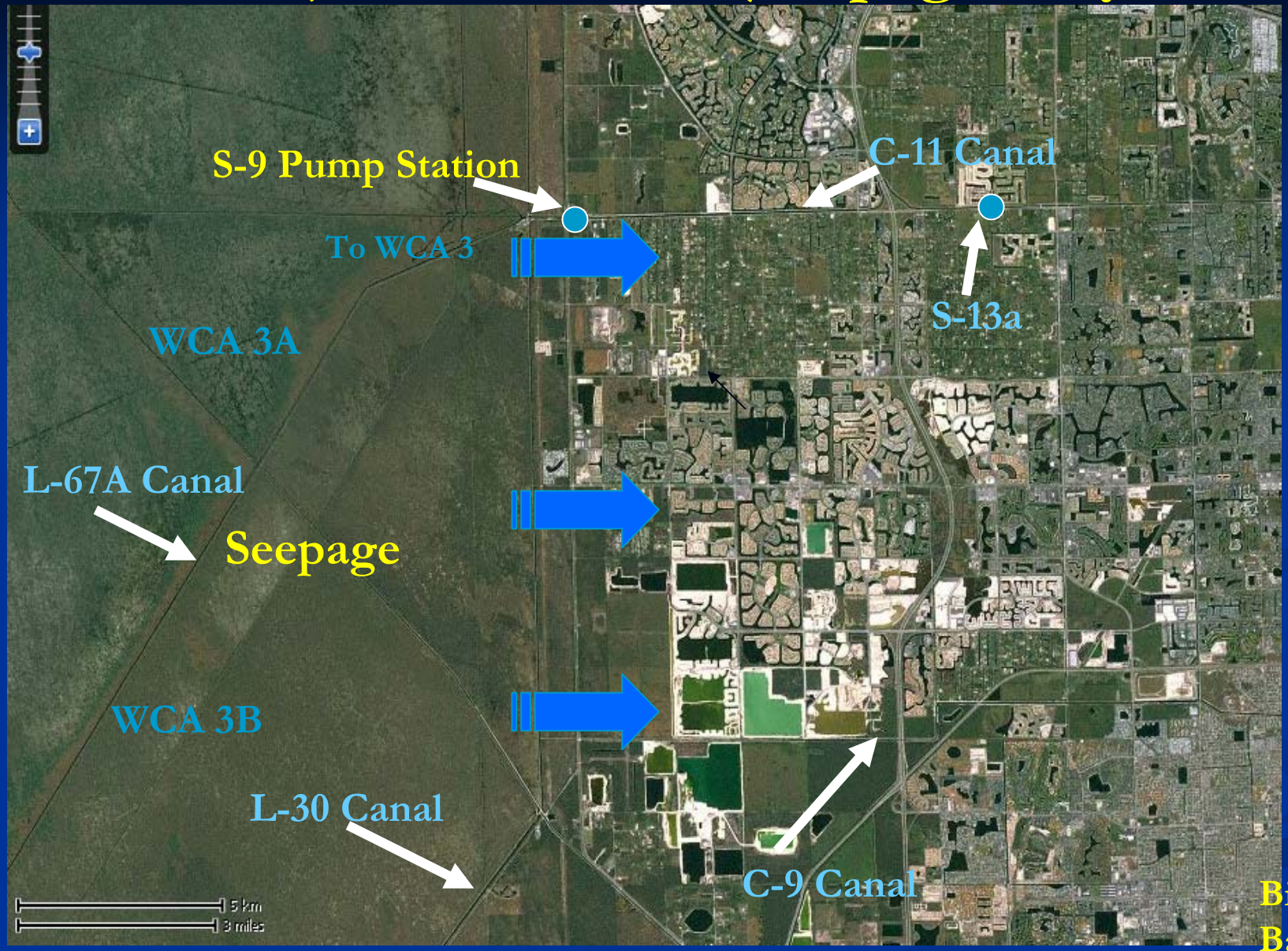
- Approximately 95% of total lands already acquired
  - Portion of lands acquired with 1996 Federal Farm Bill and matching State Funds
    - 2,493 of 8,651 acres
- Mixed use development on adjacent lands to the east and Water Conservation Area to the west



Without Project Condition (Rain Event)



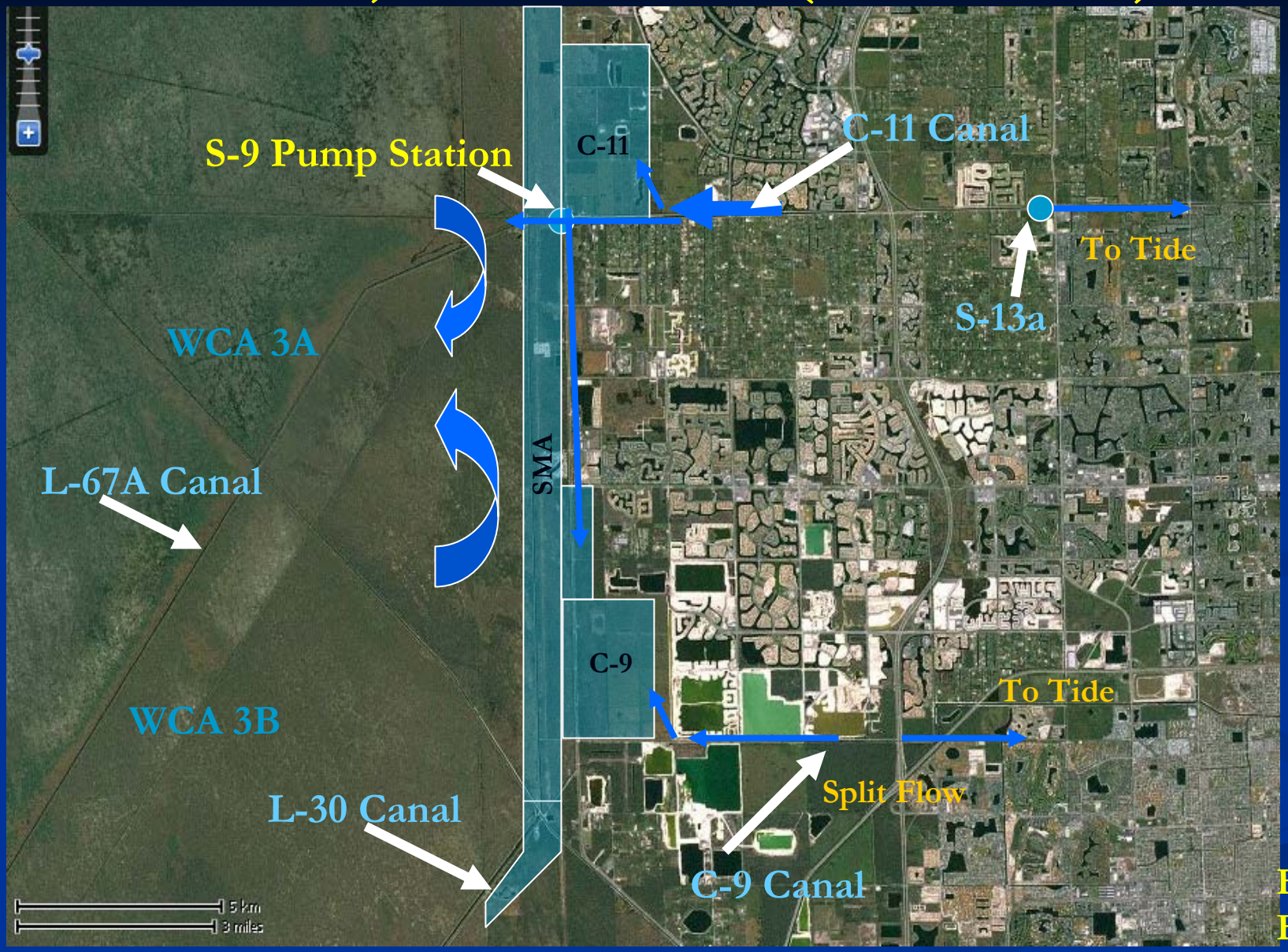
Without Project Condition (Seepage/Dry Event)



Biscayne Bay

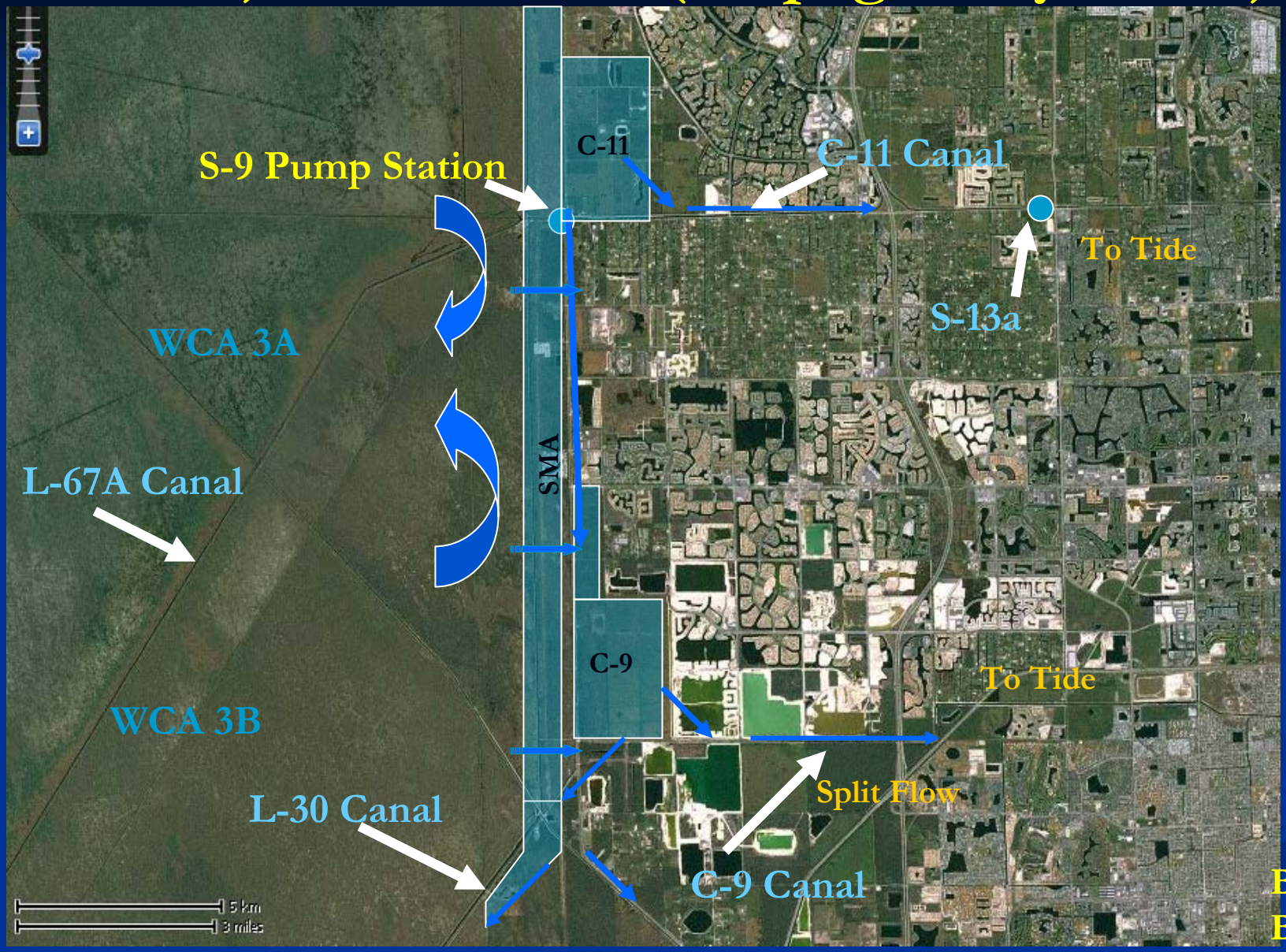
Everglades National Park

With Project Condition (Rain Event)



Everglades National Park

With Project Condition (Seepage/Dry Event)



Biscayne Bay

Everglades National Park

Formulation of Alternatives

29 Preliminary Alternatives

Preliminary Screening Criteria

Reduction in S-9 Discharges

Beneficial wet and dry season effects

No flooding impacts

9 Initial Alternatives

Snail Kite

Initial Screening Criteria

Habitat Units and

Cost Effectiveness

Sawgrass

5 Final Alternatives

Final Screening Criteria

Incremental Cost Analysis

Recommended Alternative

Final Array of Alternatives

	No Action	Alt F2	Alt F4	Alt A3	Alt A4
C-11	No action	1,734 ac (2 compartments) a) 1,119 ac @ 6' deep b) 615 ac @ 2' deep	1,695 ac (2 compartments) a) 205 ac @ 2' deep b) 1,490 ac @ 4' deep	1,734 ac (2 compartments) a) 1,281 ac @ 6' deep b) 453 ac @ 4' deep	**1,695 ac (3 compartments) a) 2 compartments totaling 205 ac @ 2' deep b) 1,490 ac @ 4' deep**
C-9	No action	NA	NA	2,091 ac (3 compartments) a) 1,232 ac @ 6' deep b) 474 ac @ 4' deep c) 385 ac @ 4' deep	**1,739 ac @ 4' deep**
SMA	No action	Buffer strip with three proposed structures. Operations of the structures adjusted. (4,312 ac)	Buffer strip with three proposed structures. Operations of the structures adjusted. (4,312 ac)	Buffer strip with three proposed structures. Operations of the structures adjusted. (4,312 ac)	**Buffer strip with three proposed structures. Operations of the structures adjusted. (4,312 ac)**
Total Storage	N/A	7944 ac-ft	6370 ac-ft	20,326 ac-ft	**13,326 ac-ft**
Total Cost	$0	$529,197,000	$511,467,000	$604,723,000	**$519,299,000**

Comparison of Final Array of Alternatives

Alternative	Average Annual Cost (AAC)	Average Annual Output (AAHUs)
"No Action"	$0	0
F4	$34,778,000	189,000
F2	$35,943,000	195,000
A4	$35,956,000	544,000
A3	$41,532,000	561,000

Plan Selection

- A4 identified as Selected Alternative Plan
  - ✓ Reaffirms the Yellow Book Plan
  - ✓ Meets projects goals and objectives
  - ✓ Meets evaluation criteria
  - ✓ Most cost effective and "best buy" plan
- Further refined based on detailed engineering and design (did not change selected alternative)
  - ✓ Consistent with all alternatives evaluated

Broward County Water Preserve Areas Recommended Plan

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  - Yellow Book (Restudy) Cost Estimate: $424,570,000
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    - Recreation Features

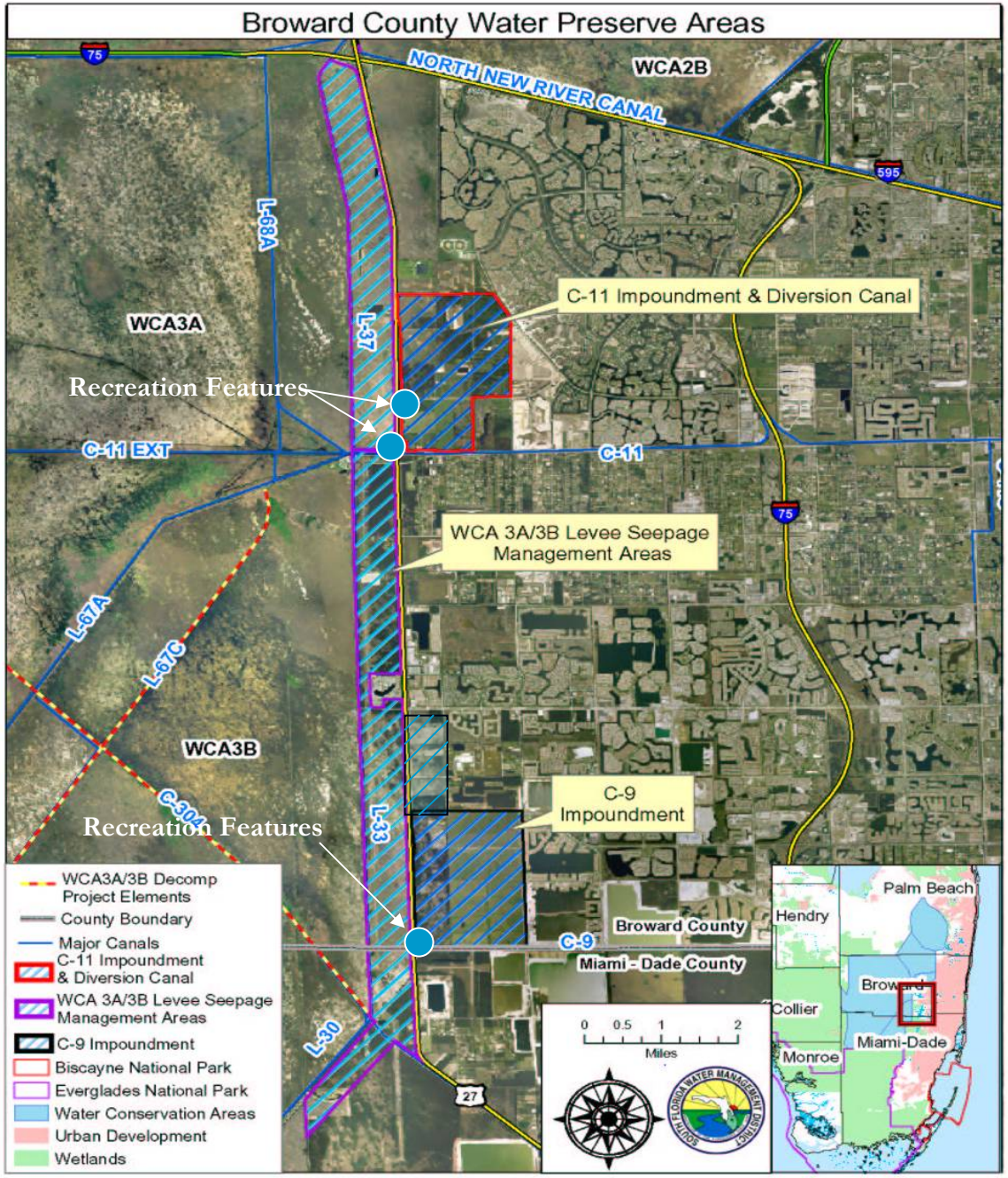
- De-authorize C-9, C-11 & Water Conservation Area (WCA) 3A/3B Seepage Management Area (SMA) as separable projects and re-authorize as one project with three features

Recommended Plan
Recreation Features

Replace/enhance impacted facilities developed during Central and Southern Florida Project

- Nature trails, canoe launches, boardwalks, land bridges, and information kiosks, central sites for parking and sanitation
- First Cost for recreation features = $2,230,000
- Recreation Benefit to Cost Ratio – 3.8 to 1
  - $1,230,000 – average annual benefits
  - $ 320,000 – average annual costs
- 50/50 cost sharing for recreation features
  - O&M for recreation features is 100% non-Federal
- No impact to existing facilities (i.e. S-9)
- Highly supported by local communities and counties

Alternative A4: Recommended Plan



BCWPA Recommended Plan Costs

BCWPA PROJECT COSTS (OCT 2006 PRICE LEVELS) (Initial cost rounded to the nearest $10,000)	
Initial Costs	TOTAL
Construction Cost	$378,950,000
Lands and Damages	$308,920,000
Pre-Construction, Engineering, and Design	$30,310,000
Construction Management	$28,800,000
Total Initial Costs	$746,980,000
Annual Costs	
OMRR&R Restoration	$5,790,000
OMRR&R Recreation (100% non-Federal)	$190,000
Total Annual OMRR&R	$5,980,000
Total Annual Monitoring (Post construction - First 5 Years)	$480,000

Detailed Design Highlights

- Impoundments designed in accordance with Design Criteria Memoranda (DCM)
  - Joint State of Florida/USACE guidance
- Dam/levee Classification of Impoundments
  - C-9 Impoundment is a High Hazard Potential Classification Dam
  - C-11 Impoundment is a Low Hazard Potential Classification Dam

Broward County Water Preserve Areas
Cost increase Yellow Book (1999) to Final PIR (2007)

Yellow Book Cost Estimate = $424,570,000 (2006 price level)
- $322,410,000 increase

Why the increase?

- Escalation of Real Estate Costs
  - Approximately $70 million increase
- Changes to Impoundments' design and armament (C-9 and C-11 Impoundment)
  - Approximately $70 million (design height and armament) increase
  - Approximately $77 million (channels and canals) increase
- Additional features required to assist in maintaining existing levels of service
  - Approximately $65 million (flood damage reduction and diversion structures) increase
- Additional Costs for increased planning, engineering and design and construction management

Final PIR Cost Estimate = 746,980,000 (2006 price level)

Project Assurances and the Savings Clause

- Identification of water to be reserved or allocated by the State of Florida (median value)
  - 15,000 ac-ft in ENP
  - 2,000 ac-ft in WCA 3B
- No adverse effect on existing legal sources of water
  - Partial transfers
    - Fish and Wildlife
    - Municipal/Agricultural
- No adverse effect on level of service for flood protection

NEPA Compliance

- ✓ Integrated Project Implementation Report / Environmental Impact Statement
  - ✓ Draft PIR provided to Federal, State and local agencies, Native American Tribes, private organizations, and other interested parties
  - ✓ All comments were considered and incorporated as appropriate
    - ✓ responses to comments included in Final PIR
- ✓ Final Coordination Act Report Received from US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)

NEPA Compliance (cont'd)

- Section 7 Endangered Species Act (ESA) informal consultation complete
  - USFWS concurred with the Corps' determinations on listed species by letter dated April 7, 2006
  - No affect determination for listed species under National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) jurisdiction
  - Consulted on recommended mitigation with Environmental Protection Agency, Department of Interior and USFWS
  - No need for formal consultation
- Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) on cultural resources being coordinated
  - Consulted with Seminole Tribe of Indians of Florida, Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida and the State of Florida on MOA

Public Involvement

- Initiated for Project Implementation Report at Project Kickoff Meeting
  - January 2004
- Regularly briefed at regional and project only PDT meetings, which were publicly observed
  - January 2004 – present
- Public meeting on draft report
  - March 2006
- Public comment period on draft report
  - 17 March to 1 May 2006

Public Involvement (cont'd)

- Public comments on draft report generally favorable
  - Concerns with following current versions of draft Guidance Memorandums (Natural Resources Defense Council and Department of Interior)
    - Assurances and Operations Manual will be updated once GMs are finalized
  - Concerns over potential blasting during project construction
- Consultations with Seminole Tribe of Florida and Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida
  - Concerns with following current versions of draft GMs
  - Preparing Memorandum of Agreement on archeological sites
- Consultation with South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task Force
- Attend Acceler8 public meetings
- Electronic correspondence via e-mail and web

Independent Technical Review (ITR)

- Applied lessons learned from Site 1 Impoundment
- ITR team reviewed the project at key milestones
  - Feasibility Scoping Meeting, Alternative Formulation Briefing, Draft Project Implementation Report, and Final Project Implementation Report
- External ITR for Final PIR
  - Coordinated with Mississippi Valley Division and Walla Walla District
    - Restoration and Cost Estimating Centers of Expertise
  - Savannah District, Mobile Regional Planning Center, and Wilmington Regional Planning and Engineering Centers
- Comments overall favorable
  - Requested additional clarification in report
- Final Report reflects changes

Consistency with USACE Civil Works Strategic Plan Approach

Holistic Approach

BCWPA and CERP designed to address multiple water resource problems

Manage Water Resources by Watershed

CERP was formulated on 18,000 square miles of south Florida ecosystem

System Approach to Analyze Problems and Solutions

BCWPA and CERP evaluated economic, environmental, social, political, and other factors

Collaboration, Partnership, Teamwork → Solutions

BCWPA utilized multi-agency, multi-disciplinary project delivery team

Maximize Efficiency of Existing Resources

USACE, sponsor, and other agencies combined resources to maximize efficiency

Environmental Operating Principles

Strive to Achieve Environmental Sustainability

Three of 60+ components utilizing adaptive management framework

Consider Environmental Consequences

Provide immediate benefits to the Everglades system

Seek Balance and Synergy

Provides large ecosystem benefits while considering local impacts

Accept Responsibility

Compliance with National Environmental Policy and Endangered Species Acts

Mitigate Impacts

Maximizes benefits to the system while minimizing impacts to mitigation and cultural sites

Understand the Environment

Inclusive and open process that engaged all stakeholders, interests groups and agencies

Respect Other Views

Public input was encouraged through public and stakeholder meetings

12 Actions For Change

Employ integrated, comprehensive systems – based approach

Formulated to optimize system-wide benefits to further CERP goals and objectives

Employ risk-based concepts

Minimized risk by developing the Design Criteria Memorandums

Continuously reassess & update policy

Develop and update program specific guidance an apply lessons learned to all projects

Dynamic independent review

National Academy of Sciences/National Research Council in addition to external ITR and review by sponsor's design consultants

Employ adaptive planning & engineering systems

Project involves program-level adaptive assessment (monitoring) and further management actions

Focus on sustainability

Will be monitored based on long-term system-wide contributions

Review and inspect completed works

Utilized data obtained from SFWMD consultants (embankment overwash rates)

Assess & modify organizational behavior

Dedicated team for CERP review at HQ & SAD

Effectively communicate risk / Establish public involvement risk reduction strategies

Information provided regularly via public notices PDT meeting and summaries, newsletters, internet, etc.

Manage and enhance technical expertise and professionalism

SAJ, SFWMD and SFWMD consultants have premier experience in dams and reservoirs construction, overwash rates, etc. Numerous technical papers presented on design and test cells

Invest in research

Work with SFWMD on test cells for impoundments to mitigate risk and provide technical information

Next Steps to Project Implementation

- Detailed design underway via State of Florida's Acceler8 program with expected completion dates as follows:

  -C-9 Impoundment: January 2010

  -C-11 Impoundment: November 2009

  -WCA 3A/3B SMA: July 2009

- Initial construction scheduled to begin via Acceler8:

  -C-9 Impoundment: June 2010

  -C-11 Impoundment: April 2010

  -WCA 3A/3B SMA: January 2010

  - Section 404 Permit Record of Decision is expected in July 2007

Schedule for Project Implementation

- CWRB: 12 Apr 2007
- Final PIR/EIS
  posted in Federal Register: 4 May 2007
- Chief of Engineer's Report expected:
  30 Aug 2007
- Record of Decision expected: 31 Oct 2007
- Project authorization and execution of Project Cooperation Agreement needed prior to construction start

Recommendation

Approval of the Process Forward
for the BCWPA
Project Implementation Report and
Environmental Impact Statement to
Proceed with
State and Agency Review

Civil Works Review Board

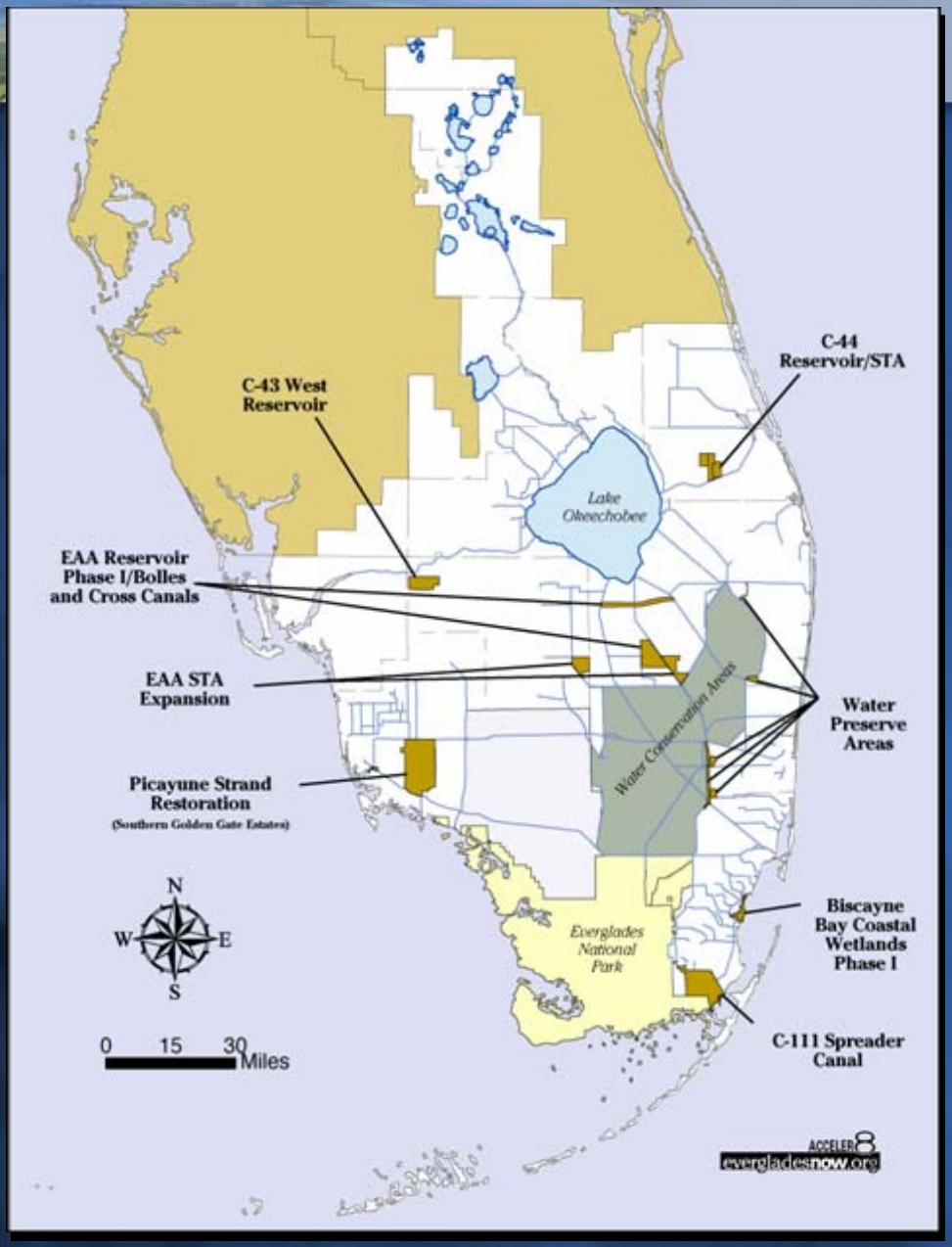
Kenneth G. Ammon, P.E.
Deputy Executive Director, CERP
South Florida Water Management District

April 12, 2007

Accelerating Restoration

October 14, 2004 : Decision to Pursue Alternative Funding to Expedite Functional Ecosystem Restoration

State Response



- **Acceler8**
- Accelerate design and construction of 8 key projects sooner rather than later
- Announced by the Governor in October 2004
- Cost : $1.5 billion
- Funding: Certificates of Participation (COPs)

Benefits of Acceleration

- **Achieves Restoration Goals Faster**
  - Provides approximately 50% of planned CERP surface water storage
  - Earlier improvements in water quality
  - Reduces excess deliveries to estuaries
  - Earlier improvements in Lake Okeechobee habitat
  - Earlier improvements in water flow and timing / hydropatterns to natural system
  - Provides greater flood control and water supply management flexibility

Project Selection

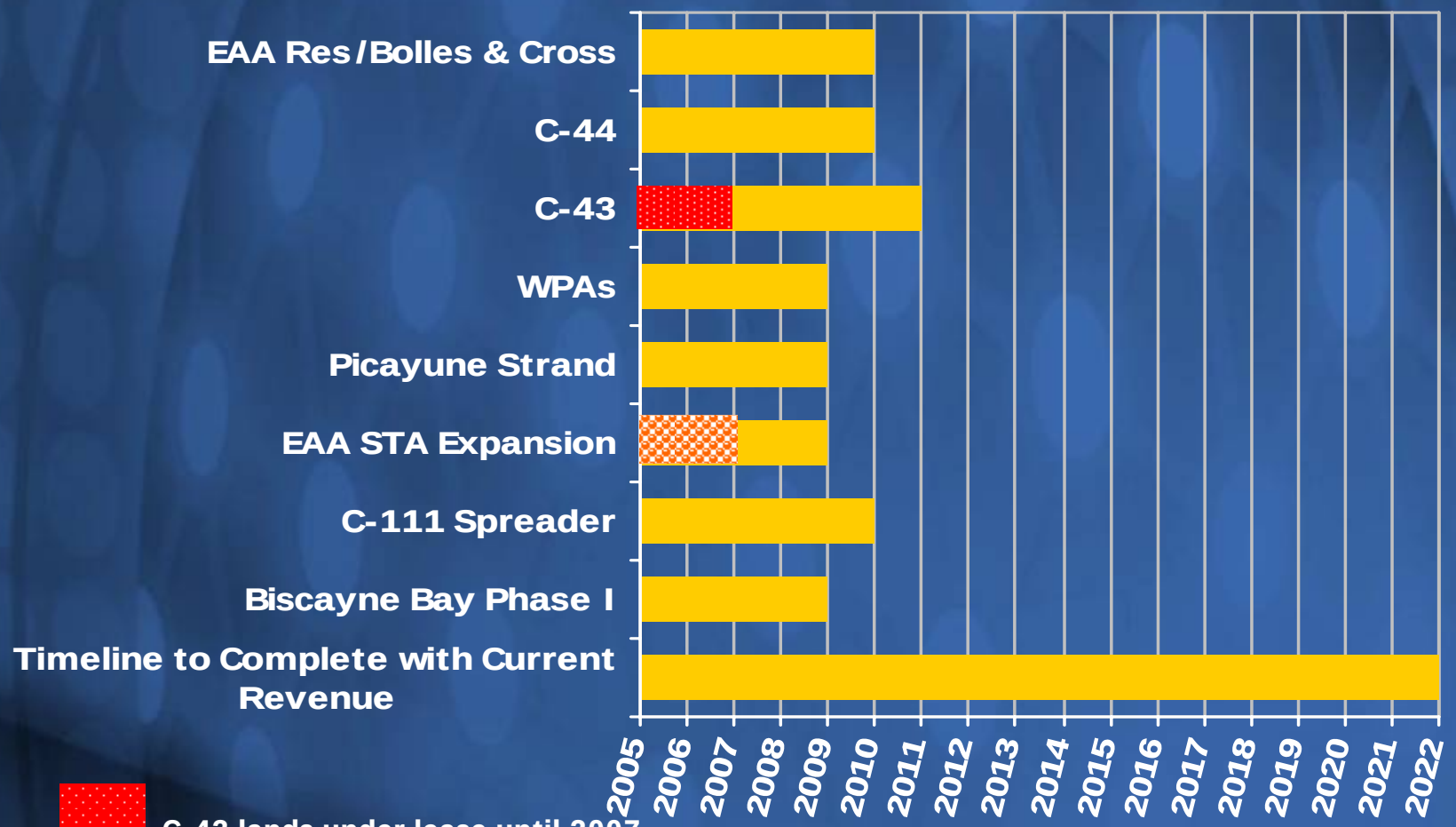
- **How the Acceler8 Projects Were Selected**
  - Provide immediate benefits to the Everglades and the South Florida ecosystem
  - A majority of the projects were a part of the 10 initially authorized projects in WRDA 2000
  - Most of the land already in public ownership – acquired with both federal and state partnership funds
  - Projects are in accordance with the Master Implementation Sequencing Plan identified for CERP

Land Acquisition Status

State & SFWMD have committed nearly $1 Billion for land

- **Land needed for Acceler8 – <u>99% complete</u>**
- **Land needed for CERP – <u>over 55% complete</u>**

Acceler8 – Timeline

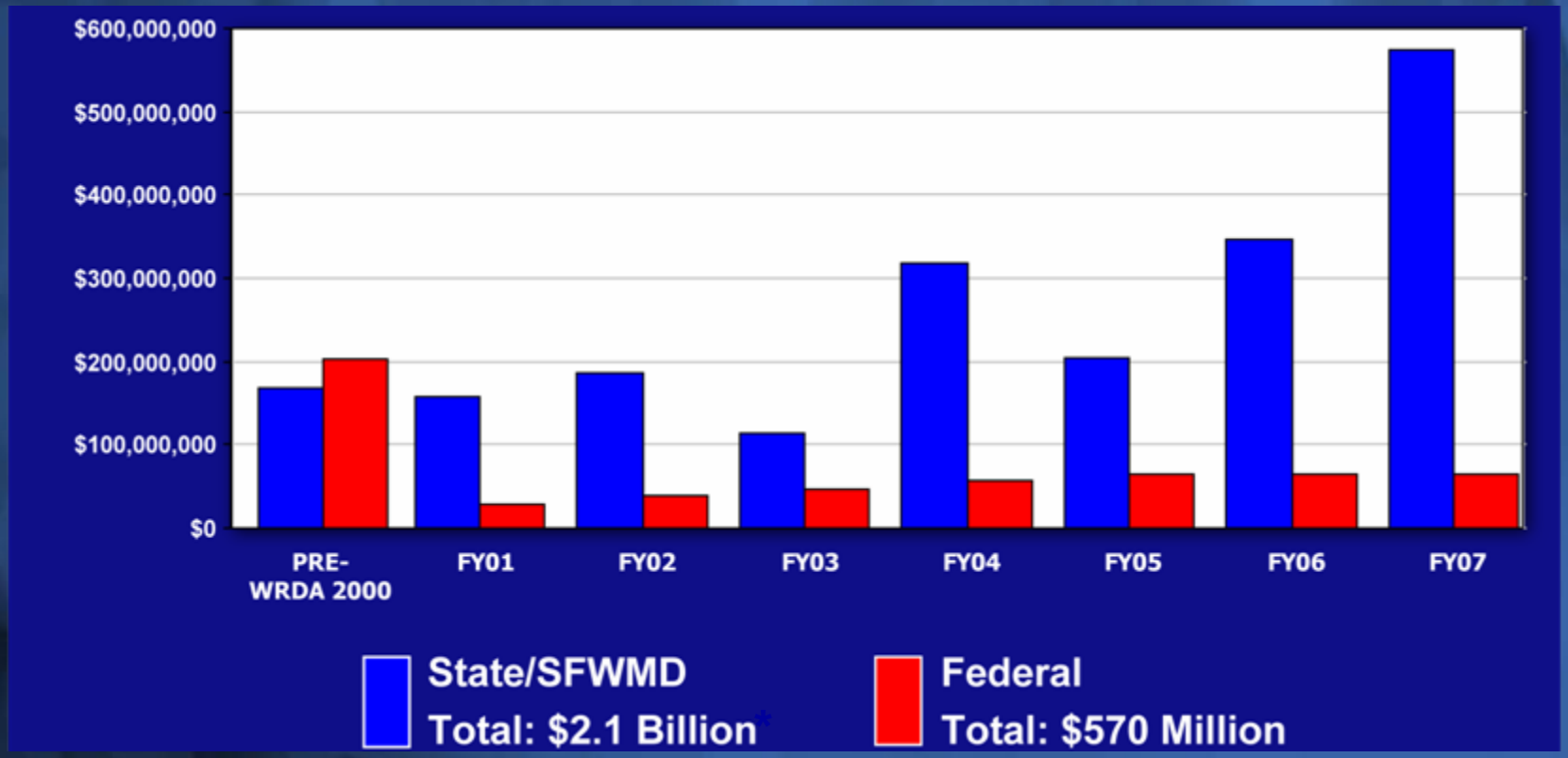


C-43 lands under lease until 2007

STA Phase I Expansion

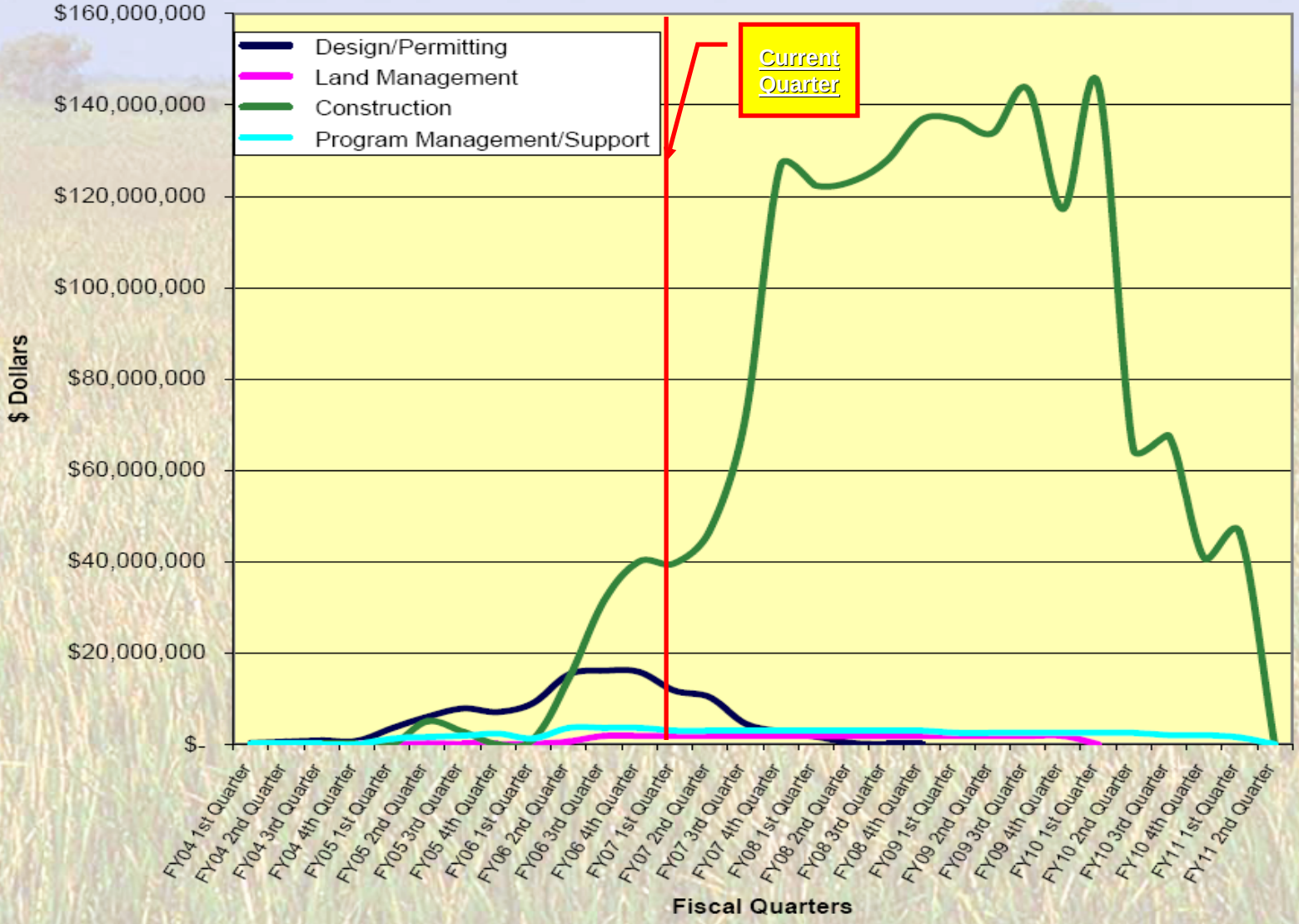
So, where do we stand?

Thanks to the strong commitment of the Florida Legislature, the Administration and the SFWMD Governing Board, the State has committed $3.35 billon for Everglades Restoration!



***Additional $1.25 billion in COPs funding anticipated in future years**

Acceler8 Quarterly Expenditures Totaling $1.8 Billion



Acceler8 Construction Update

January 2007

In Construction: $151.1 Million

STA 2 Expansion (Gulf Group)	$ 18.7 Million	90 % complete
STA 5 Expansion (Interlaken)	$ 12.9 Million	95 % complete
STA 6 Expansion (Harry Pepper)	$ 23.4 Million	84 % complete
Acme Basin B (Harry Pepper)	$ 13.3 Million	35 % complete
C-43 Test Cells (Barnard)	$ 10.2 Million	99 % complete
C-44 Test Cells (Barnard)	$ 9.0 Million	99 % complete
C-44 TIWCD Reconfig (CAN Const)	$ 1.2 Million	91 % complete
C-44 Site Prep Phase I (Overland)	$ 0.5 Million	90 % complete
Picayune - Demolition (Cross)	$ 1.5 Million	86 % complete
Picayune – Prairie Canal (Globetec)	$ 2.4 Million	97 % complete
Picayune – Road Removal (AEM)	$ 3.9 Million	82 % complete
EAA Reservoir – GMP#1 (BPJV)	$ 53.7 Million	49 % complete
Manatee Barriers (LJ Clark)	$ 0.4 Million	100% complete

Upcoming Projects:

EAA Reservoir - GMP #2 (BPJV)	$109 Million
C-44 Site Prep Phase II (Running W Citrus)	$ 4.3 Million

Picayune Strand

C-43 West Storage Reservoir Test Cell Pilot Project

C-44 Reservoir Test Cell Pilot Project

EAA Reservoir A1 Phase

Everglades Agricultural Area Storage Reservoir

Current (2005)

Future (2010)

Questions ?

US Army Corps
of Engineers

One Team – Relevant, Ready, Responsive, Reliable

Presentation
to the

Civil Works Review Board

Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan

Broward County Water Preserve Areas,
Final Project Implementation Report
and Environmental Impact Statement

by

BG Joseph Schroedel
Commander
South Atlantic Division

12 April 2007

Key Partners

- South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD)
  - Ken Ammon and Dewey Worth
- Department of Interior
  - Rock Salt
- Florida Department of Environmental Protection
  - Secretary Mike Sole
- Other State and Federal Resource Agencies

SFEER Headquarters Team Members

- Gary Hardesty, GS-15 Program Manager
- Vacant, Planning and Policy, SAD-RIT
- John Furry, SAD-RIT, OWPR
- Cliff Fitzsimmons, SAD-RIT, OWPR
- Lee Ware, OWPR
- Jeanette Gallihugh, OWPR
- Brenda Johnson-Turner, SAD-RIT Real Estate
- Phil Steffen, Counsel
- Jerry Webb, Engineering
- Dave Shepp, Engineering

Rationale for SAD Support

- Concur with District Commander's findings & recommendations.
- Report complies with all applicable policy & laws in place at this time.
- Plan supported by sponsor and congressional delegation.
- Recognize advance work planned and supported by SFWMD
- Plan is consistent with Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan
- Plan will provide positive environmental benefits
- Anticipate favorable response to the draft Chief's Report.

Certification of Legal & Policy Compliance

- Legal certification of the final Project Implementation Report made by SAJ District Counsel on 15 Feb 07.
- Technical and Policy Compliance:
  - External ITR certification complete, all ITR comments have been resolved.
  - Ecosystem PCX – MVD Certification, 30 Mar 07.
  - Policy compliance issues have been resolved.

SAD Quality Assurance Activities

- Continuous involvement throughout development of the PIR.
- Assisted PCX in establishment/oversight of external ITR compliance review mechanism.
- SAD Final Report Processing Checklist used to keep PDT focused on policy and ensure proposed plan reflects district leadership support.
- Review of Policy Compliance Memo: all issues have been adequately addressed.
- Examples of policy issues resolved.
  - Project features interdependency (single vs. multiple project authorization).
  - Project assurances evaluation

SAD Recommendation

- Approve Final Report
- Release for State and Agency Review
- Complete Chief's Report

Civil **Works** **Review** **Board**

Significant *Policy* *Review* *Concerns*

Central & Southern Florida Project
Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan

Broward County Water Preserve Areas

John C. Furry, Senior Ecologist
Office of Water Project Review
Planning and Policy Compliance Division

Washington, DC – April 12, 2007

Areas of Policy Concern:

- Authority Changes
- North New River segment
- Existing 404 mitigation sites
- Cost Effectiveness
- Sponsor Credit

Authority Changes

Concern: Implementation of the proposed BCWPA project requires deauthorization of three authorized projects and a post-authorization change of a fourth. PIR must explain why the change is needed.

Reason: Proposed project is authorized as three separate projects plus part of a fourth.

Resolution: The PIR must explain the why the authorized projects will not accomplish the CERP goals, why a “super project” can, and specifically recommend the necessary authority changes.

Resolution Impact: “Super project” cannot be implemented until Congress makes the authority changes.

North New River segment

Concern: PIR recommends implementing a portion of the authorized North New River Improvements Project, but does not adequately describe the authorized plan, the portion to be implemented herein, and the future of the remainder.

Reason: Proposed modifications of authorized projects should be fully explained to the Congress (Section III, Appendix G, ER 1105-2-100).

Resolution: Add descriptions to the PIR, including the recommendations and specify in the Chief of Engineers Report.

Resolution Impact: Minimal – the more complete disclosure of impacts of recommendation to Congress will be prepared while report is out for State & Agency review.

Existing Section 404 mitigation sites

Concern: Four existing mitigation sites that cannot be completely avoided are located within the BCWPA project site. They must be replaced to offset loss of the benefits they would contribute to the system.

Reason: The Clean Water Act requires mitigation of wetland impacts. Full replacement mitigation conforms with “no net loss of wetlands” policy. This mitigation plan should be separate from other project benefits.

Resolution: A mitigation plan to replace the permitted 404 mitigation sites is included. Mitigation benefits slightly exceed impacts to 404 sites.

Resolution Impact: This concern is resolved.

Cost Effectiveness

Concern: FPIR lacks rationale that each of the various water control and water conveyance features are necessary and that each one is scaled appropriately (i.e., most cost effective means of providing the recommended level of outputs)

Reason: P&G requires that we demonstrate the selected plan is cost effective, i.e. no less costly means of achieving the same output

Resolution: The PIR must present rationale or analyses as basis for concluding each significant feature is needed and appropriately scaled

Resolution Impact: Would make recommended plan more defensible.

Sponsor Credit

Concern: SFWMD may proceed with design and construction under the Acceler8 program and may seek legislation to receive credit for any work performed.

Reason: Congressional authorization is required to provide credit for work accomplished by a sponsor in advance of the PCA execution. ASA(CW) approves credits subject to a determination that the work is integral to the project, done to appropriate standards, and costs are reasonable.

Resolution: The recommendations section of the report has been revised to reflect support for authorization of sponsor credits, subject to the above conditions. Since the report must be processed to Congress for authority changes, sponsor credit would also be authorized.

Resolution Impact: No impact on S&A review.

HQUSACE Policy Compliance Review Team

RECOMMENDATION

Release the PIR/EIS for S&A Review Pending:

1) inclusion of North New River Project discussion

2) inclusion of Cost Effectiveness presentation

District Challenges Encountered – Lessons Learned

- Acceler8 process challenges
  - Two phases (Planning and Design) occurring simultaneously
    - Good idea cut off line
  - Information discipline
- Incremental evaluation and justification
  - Difficult to analyze a small piece of a comprehensive plan and determine effects on a large system
  - Requirement for regional modeling
- Necessity of having a CERP-specific dedicated team at all levels
  - Timely issuance of programmatic and project-specific guidance and continued coordination on all aspects of program are essential
- Additional CERP requirements (WRDA 2000, Pro Regs, etc.)
  - Requirements and reviews have significant adverse effects on our ability to meet schedules and stay within budgets
  - Guidance being developed as study is being conducted
- Importance of linking Regulatory actions to Planning activities

SAD Lessons Learned

- **Importance of continuous coordination with SFWMD when they are advancing design activities (e.g. recreation, levee vs. dam standards).**
- **Need to ensure appropriate coordination with PCX. Earlier involvement of outside ITR reviewers has been beneficial.**
- **Participation by other agencies on the PDT and open PDT meetings improves the quality of the decision document.**