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quick facts on...

# Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan Program

OCTOBER 2006

**The South Florida Water Management District** is a regional, governmental agency that oversees the water resources in the southern half of the state. It is the oldest and largest of the state's five water management districts.

**Our Mission** is to manage and protect water resources of the region by balancing and improving water quality, flood control, natural systems, and water supply.

## 2006 Key Accomplishments

- **Land acquisition for CERP** – over 55% complete
- **Land acquired for *Acceler8***
- **Construction complete for:**
  - *Ten Mile Creek*
  - *Taylor Creek and Nubbin Slough*
  - *Tamiami Trail Culvert installation for Picayune Strand*
- **Five *Acceler8* groundbreakings in 2006**



## The Comprehensive Everglades Restoration

Plan (CERP) provides the foundation for the largest ecosystem restoration project

in the world. Congress approved the plan to restore America's Everglades under the Water Resources Development Act of 2000 and authorized the first ten full-scale projects and six pilot projects. As the major local sponsor, the South Florida Water Management District has partnered with the USACE to implement the CERP, as well as related feasibility studies for Southwest Florida and Florida Bay/Florida Keys and seven Critical Restoration Projects.

The plan to restore the River of Grass is focused on increasing water storage and improving the timing, quality and distribution of water deliveries to the Everglades ecosystem through a series of projects to be implemented over more than three decades. Major components include planning, design, real estate acquisition and construction. Operation, maintenance and monitoring will ensue. The success of this monumental initiative is being continuously evaluated through Restoration Coordination and Verification (RECOVER).

In 2004, an ambitious plan was launched to accelerate the restoration of America's Everglades. As part of the state-federal partnership to implement the CERP, the South Florida Water Management District is expediting funding, design and construction to complete eight major multi-component Everglades restoration projects over the next seven years at substantial savings to taxpayers. These *Acceler8* projects include construction of nearly 20,000 acres of treatment marshes and above-ground reservoirs that will offer 418,000 acre-feet of water storage.

## Agency Strategic Priority

**Expedite Everglades restoration through completion of *Acceler8* projects**

## Program Goal

**To restore, preserve and protect South Florida's ecosystem while providing for other water-related needs of the region, including water supply and flood protection**



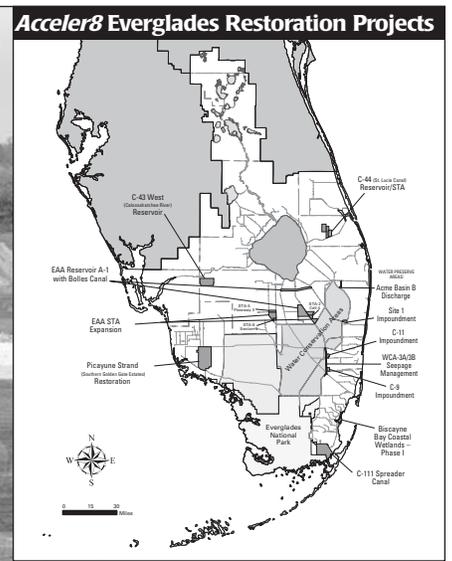
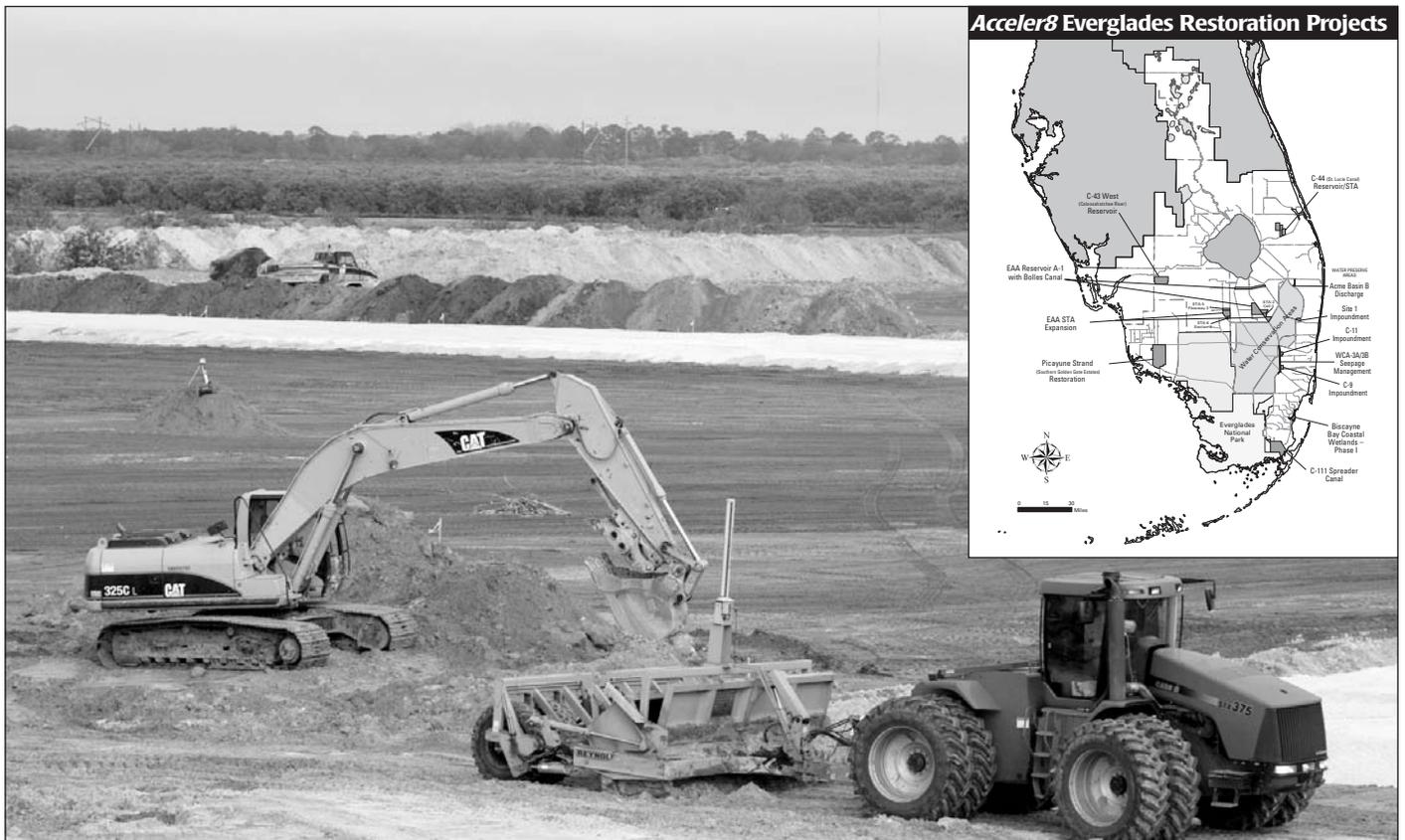
*Five Acceler8 groundbreakings this year alone have launched construction on critical reservoirs and treatment wetlands that will improve the Everglades ecosystem, our coastal estuaries and Lake Okeechobee.*

## Strategies

- Implement *Acceler8* projects in a dual-track mode, in which the partners continue planning for all CERP - including *Acceler8* projects, while the South Florida Water Management District, using Certificates of Participation, proceeds with detailed design and construction of the *Acceler8* projects
- Continue to acquire necessary land
- Complete Project Implementation Reports (PIRs)
- Complete engineering and project design
- Initiate project construction
- Implement program-level management activities, including adaptive assessment and monitoring
- Outreach and partner with stakeholders and communities
- Coordinate *Acceler8*, CERP Planning and other South Florida ecosystem projects

## Success Indicators

- Acquire all lands necessary for *Acceler8* projects by December 2007
- Complete PIRs for all *Acceler8* projects by September 2008
- Complete construction of all Critical Restoration Projects by September 2008
- Complete PIRs for all CERP Band 1 projects by September 2009
- Project schedules met
- Project scopes satisfied
- Project budgets not exceeded
- Lands needed to implement CERP projects acquired
- Pre-drainage hydrological and biological characteristics recovered
- Native wetland animals/wading birds abundance
- Water storage and water supply increased
- Flood protection level of service maintained
- Acres of restored habitat/wetlands



Since February 2006, the state has expanded three Everglades Agricultural Area treatment wetlands and launched construction on the C-43 (Caldosahatchee River) West Storage Reservoir test cells, the C-44 (St. Lucie Canal) Reservoir/Stormwater Treatment Area test cells, Water Preserve Area/Acme Basin B Discharge Project and the Everglades Agricultural Area Reservoir.



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### SERVICE CENTERS

Big Cypress Basin/Naples  
 239-597-1505  
 Broward  
 954-713-3200  
 Florida Keys (Plantation Key)  
 305-853-3219 or 800-464-5067  
 Lower West Coast  
 239-338-2929 or 800-248-1201

Martin/St. Lucie  
 772-223-2600 or 800-250-4100  
 Miami-Dade  
 305-377-7274 or 800-250-4300  
 Okeechobee  
 863-462-5260 or 800-250-4200  
 Orlando  
 407-858-6100 or 800-250-4250  
 Palm Beach County  
 561-682-2283 or 800-432-2045