2003 CERP Annual Report

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January 2004 for the period of October 1, 2002 through September 30, 2003

#### 1.7.1 C-44 Basin

The recommended plan includes four components within the C-44 Basin. These components include the C-44 West Reservoir and Stormwater Treatment Area, C-44 East Stormwater Treatment Area, and Palmar Complex – Natural Storage and Water Quality Treatment Area, It should be noted that the C-44 canal flows both to the SLE through S-80 and to Lake Okeechobee through S-308. All of the features in the C-44 Basin are located within Martin County. C-23/24 Basin

The recommended plan includes six components within the C-23/24 Basin. These components include the C-23 North Reservoir, C-23 South Reservoir, C-23/24 Stormwater Treatment Area, C-23/44 Stormwater Treatment Area, C-23/44 Stormwater Treatment Area, C-23/44 Stormwater Treatment Area, and Diversion Canal, Cypress Creek Complex - Natural Storage and Water Quality Treatment Area, and Allapattah Complex - Natural Storage and Water Quality Treatment Area. An operational feature of the IRL – South Plan know as the northern and southern diversions are accomplished via use of the construction features described for this basin. The C-23/44 Stormwater Treatment Area and Diversion Canal and the Allapattah – Natural Storage and Water Quality Treatment Area are located in St. Lucie County.

#### 1.8 Everglades Agricultural Area Storage Reservoirs (G -Phase 1)

Appendix A

This project is the first part of the of the Everglades Agricultural Area Storage Reservoir component. It includes two above ground reservoirs with a total storage capacity of approximately 240,000 acre-feet located on land associated with the Talisman Land purchase in the Everglades Agricultural Area. Conveyance capacity increases for the Miami, North New River, Bolles and Cross Canals are also included in the design of this project. The initial design for the reservoir(s) assumed 40,000 acres, divided into two, equally sized compartments with water levels fluctuating up to 6 feet above grade in each compartment. However, actual design and construction of this first phase may result in multiple reservoirs by maximizing the use of the land acquired through the Farm Bill land acquisition agreements which encompasses up to 50,000 acres.

This project is located in the Everglades Agricultural Area in western Palm Beach County on lands purchased with Department of Interior Farm Bill funds, with South Florida Water Management District funds, and on lands gained through a series of exchanges for lands being purchased with these funds. The area presently consist of land that is mostly under sugar cane cultivation. Implementation of this project will be consistent with the Farm Bill land acquisition agreements. This project will improve timing of environmental deliveries to the Water Conservation Areas by reducing damaging flood releases from the Everglades Agricultural Area to the Water Conservation Areas, reducing Lake Okeechobee regulatory releases to estuaries, meeting supplemental agricultural irrigation demands, and increasing flood protection within the Everglades Agricultural Area.

Compartment 1 of the reservoir would be used to meet Everglades Agricultural Area irrigation demands. The source of water is excess Everglades Agricultural Area runoff. Overflows to Compartment 2 could occur when Compartment 1 reaches capacity and Lake Okeechobee regulatory discharges are not occurring or impending. Compartment 2 would be used to meet environmental demands as a priority, but could supply a portion of Everglades Agricultural Area irrigation demands if environmental demands equal zero. Flows will be delivered to the Water Conservation Areas through Stormwater Treatment Areas 3 and 4. The sources of water are overflow from Compartment 1 and Lake Okeechobee regulatory releases. Compartment 2 will be operated as a dry storage reservoir and discharges made down to 18 inches below ground level.

Taylor Creek/Nubbin Slough Storage and Treatment Area Project Implementation Report (W). This Project Implementation Report includes an above ground reservoir with a total storage capacity of approximately 50,000 acre-feet and a stormwater treatment area with a capacity of approximately 20,000 acre-feet in the Taylor Creek/Nubbin Slough Basin. The initial design of this separable element assumed a reservoir of 5,000 acres with water levels fluctuating up to 10 feet above grade and a stormwater treatment facility of approximately 5,000 acres. The final size, depth and configuration of this separable element will be determined through more detailed planning, land suitability analysis and design.

The purpose of this separable element is to attenuate flows to Lake Okeechobee and reduce the amount of nutrients flowing to the Lake. The separable element is designed to capture, store, and treat basin runoff during periods when levels in Lake Okeechobee are high or increasing. The water quality treatment element of this separable element is consistent with the recommendations of the South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Working Group's Lake Okeechobee Issue Team and the Pollution Load Reduction Goals for Lake Okeechobee developed for the Lake Okeechobes Surface Water Improvement and Management Plan (SFWMD, 1997f). The water held in the rescriveir would be released to Lake Okeechobee when lake levels decline to ecologically acceptable levels.

## Figure 1 – Integration of EAA Storage Reservoir Project with STA's





Figure 2 - C44 Reservoir/STA Project





## Figure 3 – Taylor Creek / Nubbin Slough Project

Basin Outflow Time Series (S191) SFWMD DBHYDRO





## Figure 4 – Taylor Creek / Nubbin Slough STA's



#### Purpose:

The purpose of this project is to store water runoff and reduce phosphorus on various parcels in the project's basins. Two approaches are used: construction of Stormwater Treatment Areas (STAs) on publicly held lands and restoration of isolated wetlands or construction of retention ponds on private lands.

#### Goals:

- Provide flow attenuation and reduce phosphorus discharge
- Use public lands for large-scale storage and treatment of water
- Restore isolated wetlands on private lands
- · Provide storage for up to the first inch of runoff on private lands

### Taylor Creek STA Structures & Flow\*



## Nubbin Slough STA Structures & Flow\*



Construction of a 190-acre STA for Taylor Creek is planned in a publicly held portion of the Grassy Island Ranch, east of Taylor Creek. The purpose is to divert and treat about 10% of the water flow from Taylor Creek. This would be accomplished by allowing the water to flow parallel to the creek for about 1.6 miles, before returning to the creek. The goal for water quality improvement is to reduce phosphorus to the maximum extent possible, given the limited area of the STA relative to the amount of water in Taylor Creek. The project is in the final stages of plans and specifications for both STAs (see Taylor Creek diagram). Construction of a 780-acre STA for Nubbin Slough is planned in the former New Palm/Newcomer Dairy. The purpose of this STA is to divert and treat the majority of runoff from Nubbin Slough. This would be accomplished by delivering water from the slough to the east end of the STA. The water would then flow through the treatment wetland and discharge back to the slough. Currently, the phosphorus concentration in the slough is approximately 500 parts per billion (ppb). The STA is expected to reduce the concentration to below the 40-ppb target for Lake Okeechobee (see Nubbin Slough diagram).

A 4,700-acre water management facility is planned on the west side of Taylor Creek to store and treat the majority of the water in the creek. This is part of a separate effort called the Comprehensive Everalades Restoration Plan (CERP).