

April 2014

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Chairman's Message

Daniel O'Keefe, Governing Board Chairman



A key step took place this month when the Governing Board unanimously agreed to provide a Letter of Support and Statement of Financial Capability to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, moving forward the Central Everglades Planning Project, known as CEPP.

When implemented, CEPP will deliver a suite of restoration projects to allow more water to be directed south into the central Everglades, Everglades National Park and Florida Bay. The plan has garnered widespread support, with speakers at the Board's April meeting including the U.S. Department of the Interior, Miccosukee Tribe, Audubon of Florida, Sierra Club, Everglades Law Center and many representatives in business and agriculture. As part of its federal process, the Corps is now conducting further review, and the District remains hopeful that this important and much-supported effort will remain on track toward Congressional authorization.

As the District plans ahead for restoration projects, we also continue to refurbish and improve the existing water management infrastructure. This month the Board approved construction in the Big Cypress Basin to replace Miller Canal Weir No. 3, which will improve local flood protection and increase water storage; work in Broward County to improve bank stabilization on a 10-mile segment of the Hillsboro Canal; and work in western Palm Beach County on the S-150 culvert replacement and automation project.

Also at the April meeting, the District joined dozens of municipalities and the State of Florida in formally recognizing April as Water Conservation Month. An ongoing commitment to water conservation helps to minimize the impacts of dry weather throughout central and southern Florida, especially with the extremes of drought and storms that we experience. This year is the 16th consecutive year that the District has highlighted this effort during April. And at the same time we are raising awareness about water conservation, we are also preparing for the 2014 wet season, just weeks away.

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Central Everglades Planning Project Takes Another Step Forward

SFWMD submits letter of support for the project



At its April meeting, the South Florida Water Management District Governing Board approved a resolution signing on as the local sponsor of the Central Everglades Planning Project (CEPP) and affirming the District's financial capability for the project.

Part of the larger Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP), CEPP identifies and plans for projects on land already in public ownership to allow more water to be directed south of Lake Okeechobee to the central Everglades, Everglades National Park and Florida Bay while protecting coastal estuaries. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has been leading the planning effort since October 2011 in partnership with the District.

For more details on the Central Everglades Planning Project, click [here](#).

SFWMD Recognizes April as Water Conservation Month

April is historically a dry month



Highlighting an ongoing commitment to protecting South Florida's water resources, the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) is observing April as Water Conservation Month.

"Water conservation remains one of our most effective strategies to achieve our mission to protect the regional water supply for residents, visitors and the environment," said SFWMD Executive Director Blake Guillory. "Each year during the dry season, we remind residents and businesses that a year-round water conservation ethic will help achieve that goal."

For 16 consecutive years, Florida has recognized Water Conservation Month in April, the height of the South Florida dry season. While the District is not currently in a water shortage or drought, a portion of the region has been in a drought at some point in nine of the last 14 years. A long-term commitment to water conservation helps to minimize the impact of dry times.

Dry Season Rainfall Update

Evapotranspiration, the loss of water from the ground and growing plants, increases in April, speeding the decline of surface water levels.

Overall, District-wide rainfall across 16 counties was near average from Nov. 1, 2013, through April 24, with 12.41 inches, representing 91 percent of average. Areas from the Upper Kissimmee Basin to the Southwest Coast were drier with below-average rainfall. Martin, St. Lucie and Palm Beach counties saw near-average rain while Broward and Miami-Dade counties experienced wet conditions with above-average rainfall.

Water Conservation is a Year-Round Ethic

Water conservation is essential year-round for addressing the impacts of weather extremes and growing demands on a limited water supply needed by South Florida's 7.9 million residents, economy and environment.

Water conservation can be practiced indoors and outside. Basic water conservation practices include:

- Replacing aerators in kitchen and bathroom sinks with models rated for 1.5 gallons per minute or less
- Watering the lawn based on its actual needs and following the District's year-round landscape irrigation water conservation measures and/or local ordinances
- Installing low-flow appliances, such as a dishwasher or energy-efficient washing machine
- Installing low-flow water fixtures, such as showerheads

When water shortage orders are not in place, the District follows Year-Round Water Conservation Measures that target outdoor irrigation, which accounts for up to half of the water used per person per day in South Florida. The Year-Round Landscape Irrigation Rule is just one of many initiatives implemented under the District's Comprehensive Water Conservation Program.

For more information, see:

- [Water Conservation](#)
- [Year-Round Landscape Irrigation Conservation Measures](#)
- [Weather/Rainfall Data](#)

SFWMD Continues Major Canal Upgrade

A section of the Hillsboro Canal is being dredged, repaired and stabilized

To ensure continued flood protection for South Florida's communities, the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) in April approved a construction contract for the next phase of repair work on the Hillsboro Canal, located along the Broward-Palm Beach county line.

"The Hillsboro Canal is one of our flood control system's main arteries," said Jeff Kivett,



SFWMD Director of Operations, Engineering and Construction. "These repairs and upgrades are part of a multiyear effort to ensure the canal continues functioning well for decades to come."

Regular inspections on the decades-old canal revealed a 10.5-mile reach — from Boca Raton to Parkland — that needed significant repairs. Sections of the bank had eroded and fallen into the canal. In addition, sediment had accumulated near a coastal structure that moves floodwater to the coast, potentially limiting the flow of water during storms.

Work on the Hillsboro Canal Bank Stabilization Project began in 2012 with extensive public outreach to more than 700 property owners outlining the scope and benefits of the project. Following 18 informational sessions and individual meetings with more than 100 property owners, District staff was able to incorporate public input into some of the project features.

Construction on Phase 1 began in October 2013 on a section from U.S. 441/S.R. 7 to three miles west. Work on that segment is now about 50 percent complete.

This month's investment of \$7.9 million allows Arbor Tree & Land Inc., the lowest responsive bidder, to begin work on Phase 2, a section just west of Military Trail near Boca Raton to U.S. 441/S.R. 7. The work includes dredging of approximately one mile of the canal.

Phase 3, the final portion of the project, will repair the segment in Parkland to the end of Loxahatchee Road.

For more information on the project, see [Quick Facts on Hillsboro Canal Bank Stabilization Project Updates](#).

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