

**Project Name:** Long-Term Plan for Achieving Water Quality Goals for Everglades Protection Area Tributary Basins  
**Project ID:** 1520  
**Lead Agency:** South Florida Water Management District  
**Authority:** Florida's Everglades Forever Act (EFA)

**Strategic Plan Goal(s) Addressed:** 1.B.1

**Secondary:** 1.A.3

**Measurable Output(s):** 57,000 acres of Everglades Stormwater Treatment Areas (STAs) were constructed by 2012 with additional STA expansions and flow equalization basins (FEBs) to be constructed by 2025 under the Restoration Strategies Program to achieve compliance with a Water Quality Based Effluent Limit (WQBEL) for total phosphorus in discharges from Everglades STAs to the Everglades Protection Area. As of April 2015, Best Management Practices (BMPs) have been implemented on 640,000 acres of land and have reduced phosphorus loads by 56 percent since 1996, far exceeding the goal of 25 percent. Through April 2015, Best Management Practices (BMPs) and STAs have retained more than 4,860 metric tons of phosphorus that would have otherwise entered the Everglades.

**Project Synopsis:** The Long-Term Plan for Achieving Water Quality Goals for Everglades Protection Area Tributary Basins (Long-Term Plan) was developed to achieve compliance with water quality standards in the Everglades Protection Area, including the phosphorus criterion established in Rule 62-302.540. The original 40,000 acres of Everglades STAs, which were completed by 2006, were expanded by 17,000 acres in 2012 and have been continuously improved with structural and vegetative enhancements and STA optimization research. In 2013, the Florida legislature modified the EFA and redefined the Long-Term Plan to include the Restoration Strategies (RS) Regional Water Quality Plan, as defined in Section 373.4592(13), F.S. The February 1994 cost estimate for implementation of the original 40,000 acres of STAs was \$468.6 million, however, STA acreage has been significantly increased and will be further expanded with the implementation of the Restoration Strategies Plan. The cost estimates below reflect all Long-Term Plan costs, including Restoration Strategies Plan expenditures.

**Current Status:** To date, 57,000 acres of Everglades STAs are being operated as part of the state's comprehensive efforts to meet the Everglades water quality goals. The implementation of the Restoration Strategies Regional Water Quality Plan will add significant new project features at an estimated cost of \$880 million.

**Cost Estimate:** Approximately \$2.7 billion (Long-Term Plan at \$1.8 billion) and Restoration Strategies at \$880 million)

**Detailed Project Expense Information**

	Actual FY 1992-2015
Long-Term Plan	\$ 1,800,000,000 <sup>(1)</sup>
Restoration Strategies	\$ 184,137,853
Total	\$ 1,984,137,853

<sup>(1)</sup> Estimated actual costs include land, design, construction, operations and maintenance, monitoring and debt service for Everglades STAs; costs do not include those incurred by the USACE to construct STA-1E.

**Hyperlink:** [www.sfwmd.gov/sta](http://www.sfwmd.gov/sta)

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