

Program & Project Update

South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task Force

June 1, 2023

Mindy Parrott
Principal Federal Policy Analyst
Ecosystem Restoration Division

Florida's Commitment Continues Executive Order 23-06



EXECUTIVE ORDER 23-06

Achieving *Even More* Now for Florida's Environment

WHEREAS, on January 10, 2019, I signed Executive Order 19-12, which laid out a bold plan to achieve more now for Florida's environment, and in the last four years, we have made incredible progress, entering into a golden era for conservation and protection of our treasured natural resources; and

WHEREAS, we secured unprecedented funding for the protection of our natural resources, including over \$3.3 billion in state funding for Everglades restoration and protection of our water resources, far surpassing our goal of \$2.5 billion; and

WHEREAS, we expedited Everglades restoration to reduce harmful discharges and send more water south, with more than 50 Everglades restoration projects being completed, breaking ground, or hitting a major milestone, and helped Florida Bay reach salinity goals for the first time in decades; and

WHEREAS, in 2020, I signed into law Senate Bill 712, which was the most consequential environmental legislation in decades and included a wide range of water quality protections aimed at minimizing the impact of known nutrient pollution sources, realigning the State's resources to better protect Florida's environment, and strengthening our environmental regulatory requirements; and

WHEREAS, we invested \$1.6 billion in water quality improvements, created the Wastewater Grant Program to construct, upgrade, or expand wastewater facilities, provide advanced wastewater treatment, and convert septic-to-sewer, and dedicated historic funding to increase alternative water supply and restore and protect Florida's springs; and

WHEREAS, we dedicated funding to enhance our state's water quality monitoring and identify new and innovative ways to treat, predict, and respond to blue-green algal blooms, including more than \$45 million to the Innovative Technology Grant Program and funding 20 different innovative technology projects to date; and

WHEREAS, the State, with the coordination of the Chief Science Officer, ensured that science is at the forefront of environmental protection and policy, with enhanced monitoring, innovative research, and modern data analytics to support water quality restoration and ensure that high quality, scientific data are readily available to citizens and state agencies; and

WHEREAS, we provided support to local governments for red tide cleanup efforts and established the Center for Red Tide Research within the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's (FWC) Fish and Wildlife Research Institute, which brings together state and local governments, universities, private sector partners, and community scientists to enhance statewide red tide monitoring and conduct applied research associated with tracking, predicting, and mitigating the effects of red tide; and

WHEREAS, the State, with the coordination of the Chief Resilience Officer, invested more than \$1.1 billion in resilience projects to protect our communities from flooding and sea level rise; and

WHEREAS, we established the Florida Wildlife Corridor and committed more than \$600 million to the Florida Forever Program and acquired more than 170,000 acres for conservation, nearly four times that acquired in the previous four years; and

WHEREAS, while the achievements of the first four years are historic, protecting our water resources, investing to make our communities more resilient, and preserving our conservation lands are essential to our economy and way of life, and we must continue the momentum of the last four years to achieve even more now for Florida's environment and ensure that we leave Florida to God better than we found it.



Signing of Executive Order 19-12 on January 10, 2019.



Gov. DeSantis signs Senate Bill 712.



Dr. Mark Hains, Chief Science Officer.



Dr. Wes Brooks, Chief Resilience Officer.

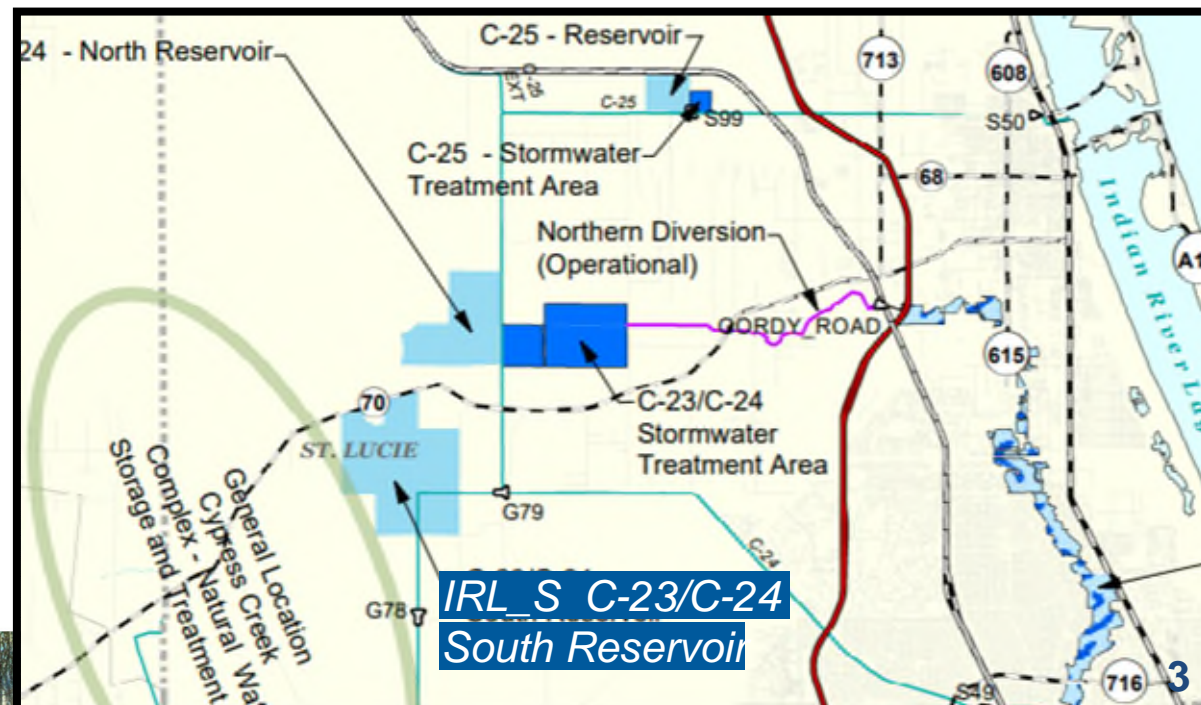
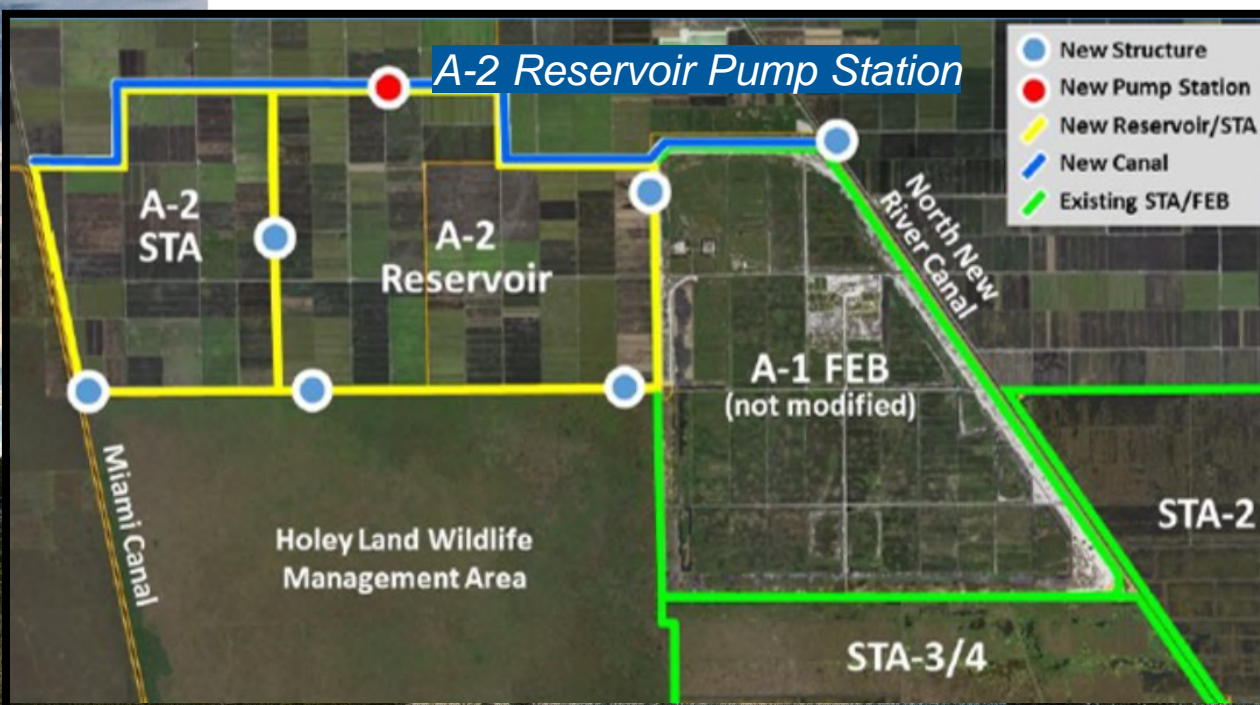
\$3.5 billion for Everglades restoration and water resources over next four years

- Expedite projects that minimize the risk of harmful discharges and send water south.
- Ensure meaningful progress on storage :
 - Everglades Agricultural Area (EAA) Reservoir
 - Lake Okeechobee Watershed
 - Indian River Lagoon-South (IRL-S)
- **Year 1: \$600M+** Appropriated for Everglades

Expedite Everglades Restoration Projects

SFWMD to accelerate construction of:

- Everglades Agricultural Area (EAA) A-2 Reservoir Pump station
- Indian River Lagoon- South (IRL-S) C-23/24 South Reservoir



Expedite Northern Storage

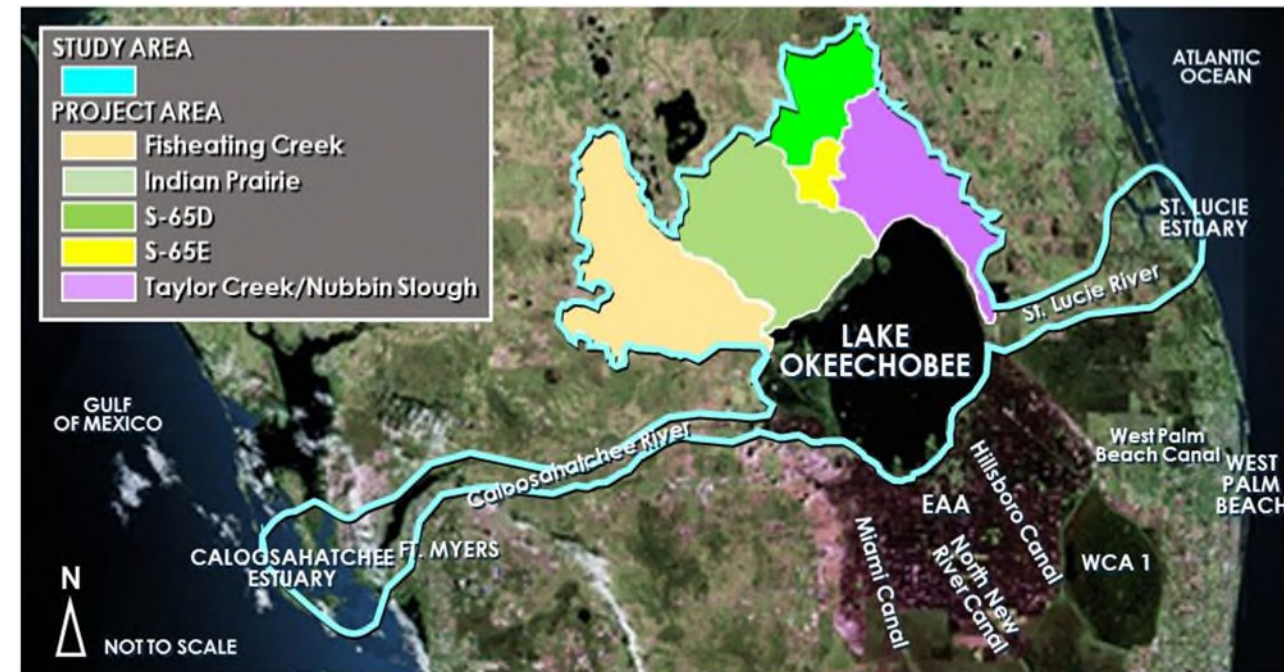
- SFWMD is preparing a Feasibility Study under Section 203 of the Water Resources Development Act
- Evaluate CERP Component A - a 200,000 ac-ft above ground storage reservoir
- Purpose is to retain water during wet periods for later use during dry periods for the benefit of Lake Okeechobee

LOCAR Planning Schedule:

- ✓ Project Scoping – April 2023
- Identify Alternatives/Recommended Plan – May 2023
- Draft Feasibility Study – September 2023
- Final Feasibility Study – December 2023

Information on the LOCAR project can be found at : www.sfwmd.gov/LOCAR

Lake Okeechobee Component A Reservoir (LOCAR) Study Area



Restoring Lake Okeechobee

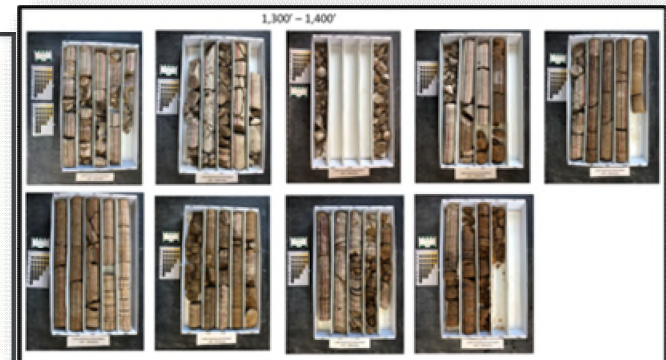


2022 Aquifer Storage and Recovery
SCIENCE PLAN
DRAFT - OCTOBER 2022

Mechanical Integrity Test at L63N Test/Exploratory Well Drilling at C38S Proof of Concept Testing Kissimmee River ASR Well

L63N Continuous Coring Program Samples

500 - 510 feet bls 1,800 - 1,810 feet bls



State Projects to Restore Water Resources



Bluefield Grove Water Farm



Brighton Valley Dispersed Water Mgmt



Lakeside Ranch STA



Lake Hicpochee



El Maximo



Taylor Slough Flow Improvement Project



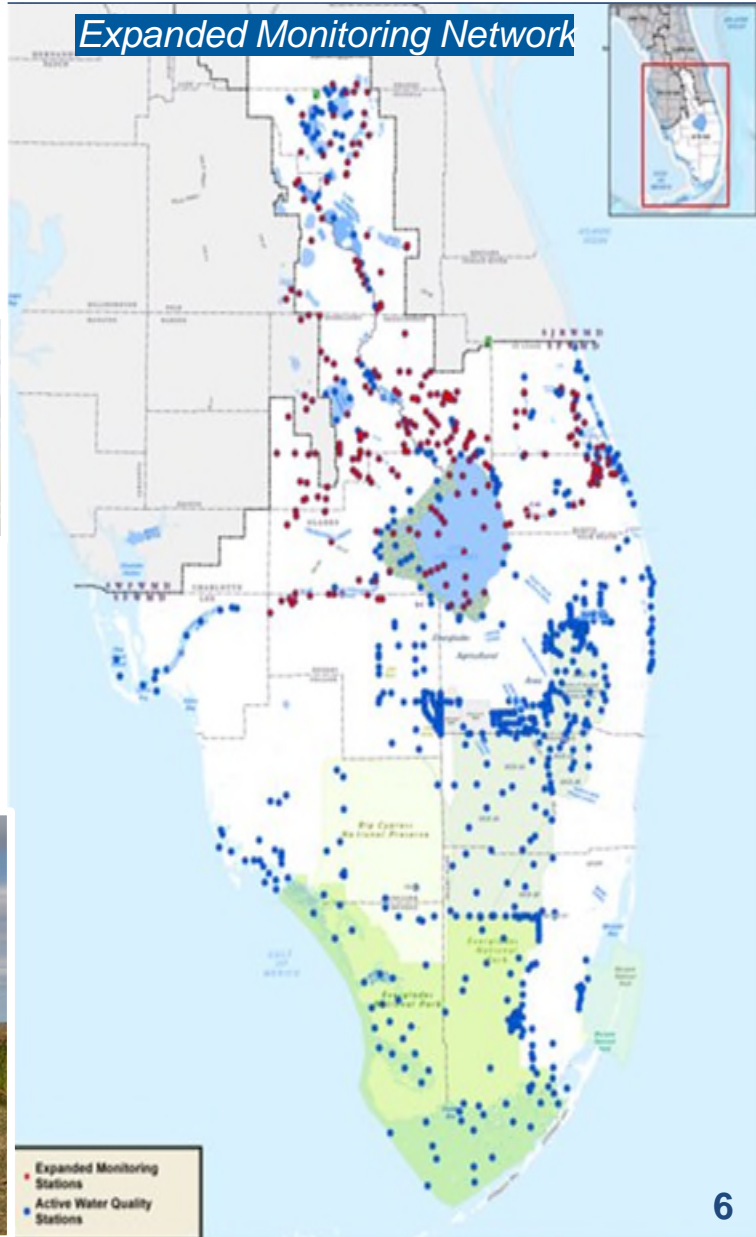
BOMA



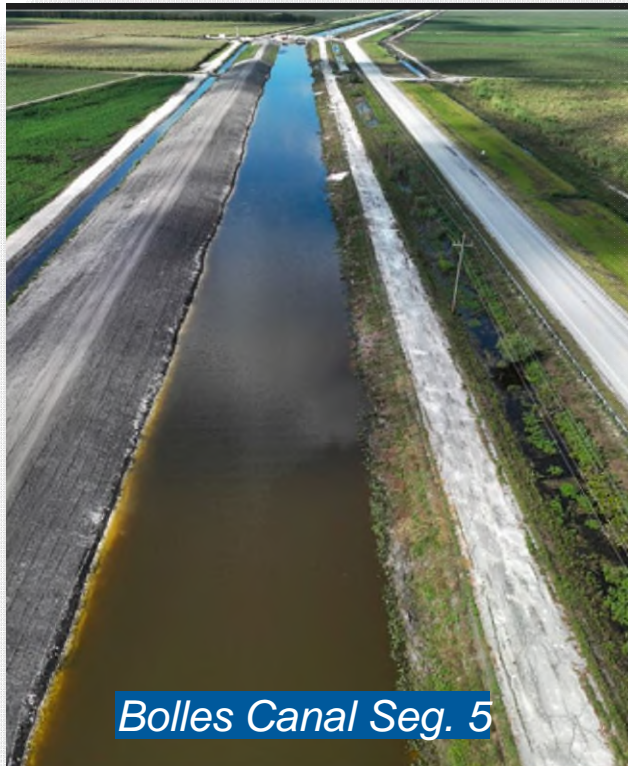
C-139 FEB



Scott Water Farm



Sending Clean Water to the Everglades



Bolles Canal Seg. 5



STA 1 West Expansion 2



STA 2



STA planting

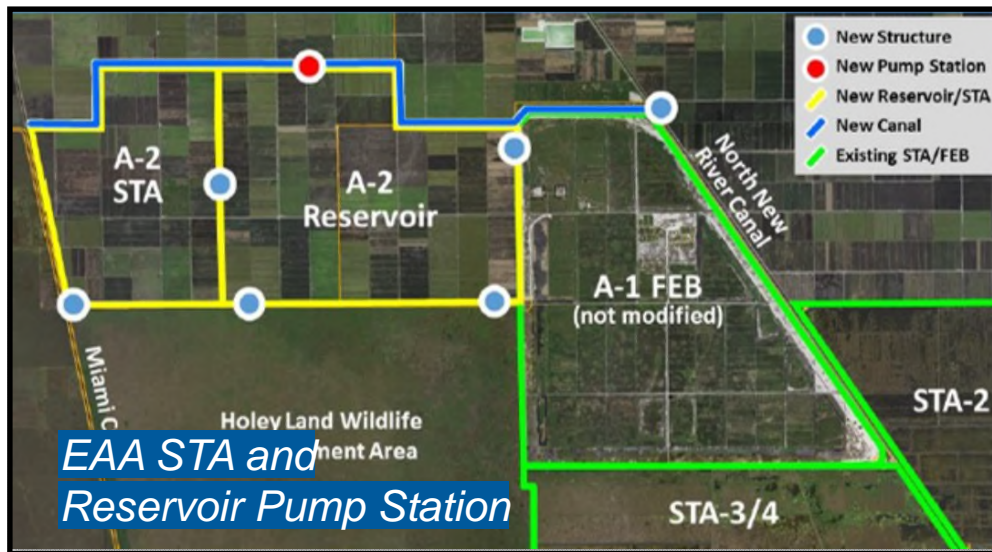


C-139 FEB

Sending Clean Water to the Everglades



EAA STA



EAA STA and Reservoir Pump Station



CEPP EAA- STA Inflow/outflow Canal- complete



5-5-23 S635 Coffler Cell & Monitoring Platform Pile Installation



EAA STA- Seepage filter



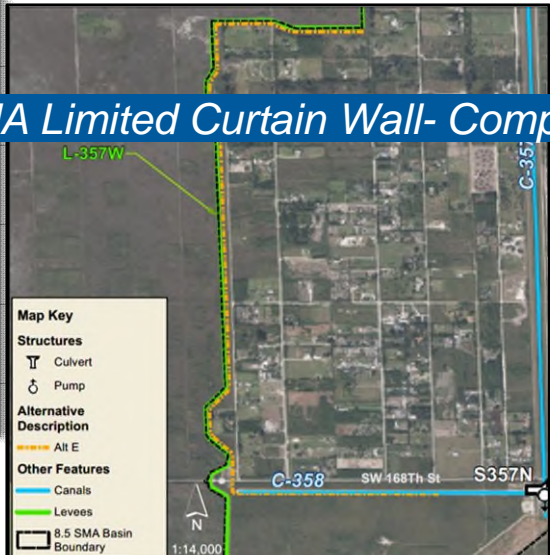
CEPP EAA Reservoir Groundbreaking

Distributing Clean Water and Keeping it in the Everglades

CEPP New Water Seepage Cutoff Wall



8.5 SMA Limited Curtain Wall- Complete



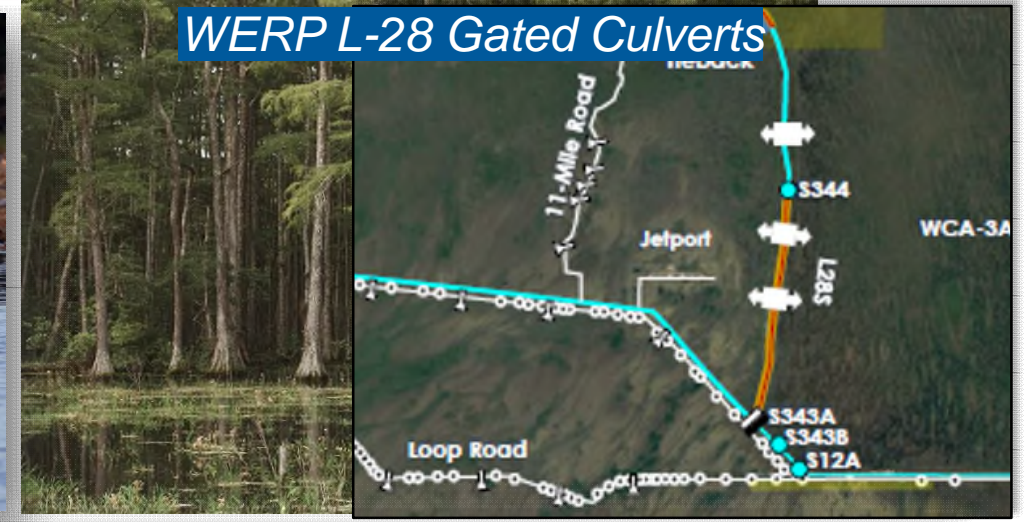
CEPP North S-620 Groundbreaking May 2023



Restoring and Reconnecting the Everglades



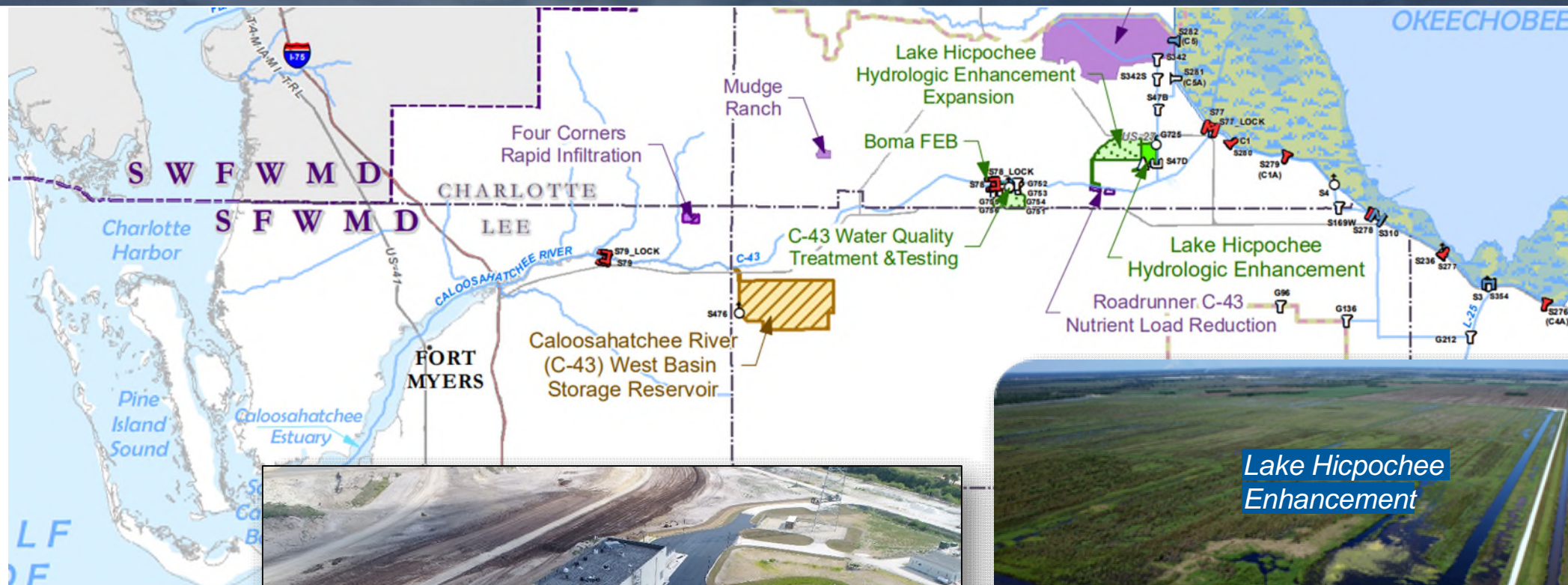
Sam Jones Abiaki Prairie Wetland Restoration



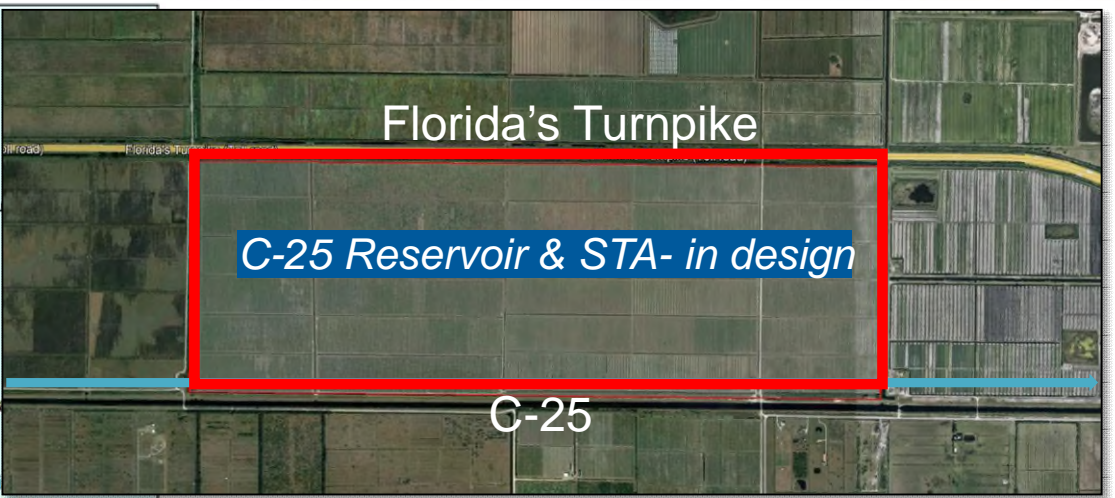
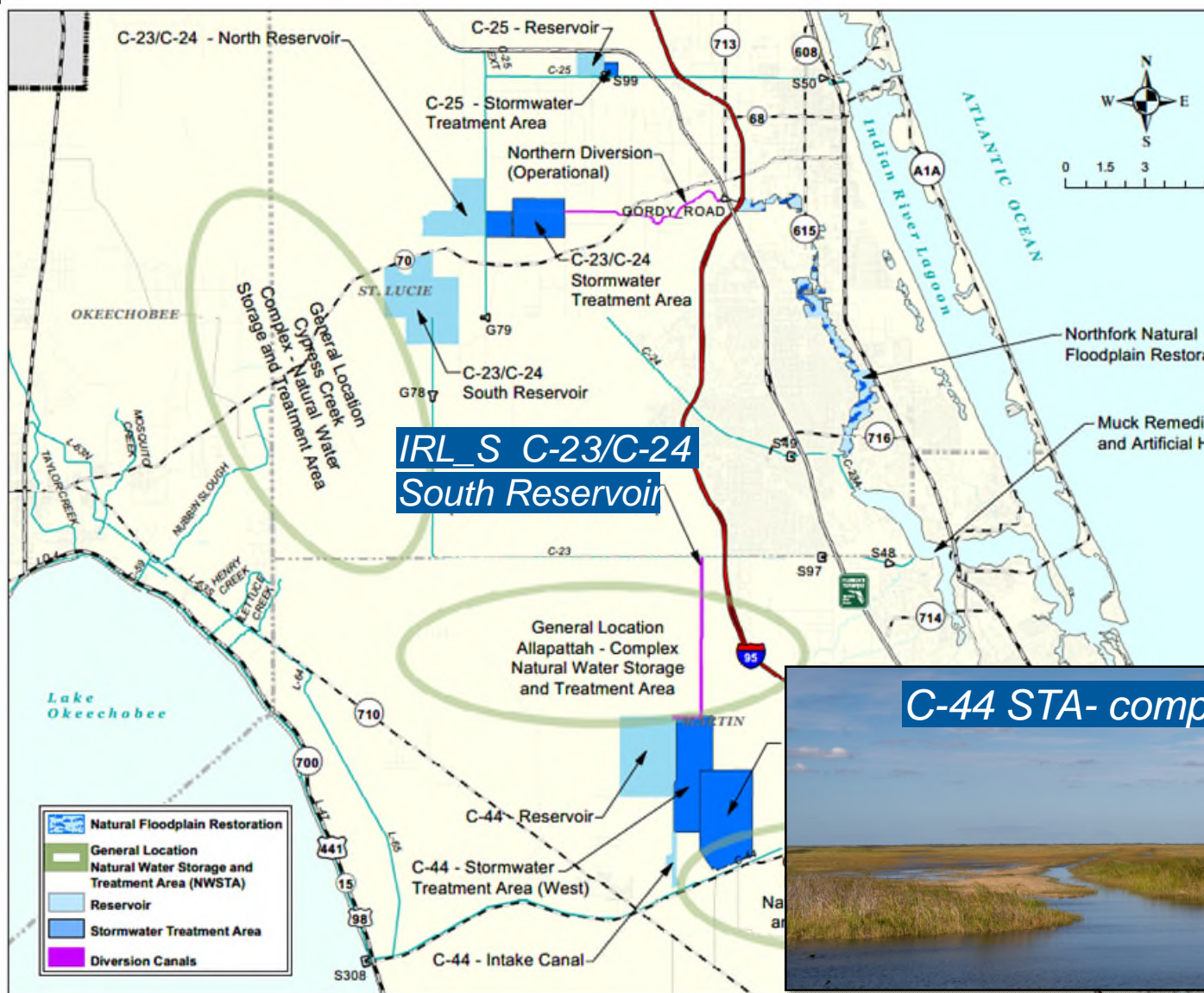
Taylor Slough Flow Improvement Project



Restoring the Caloosahatchee River

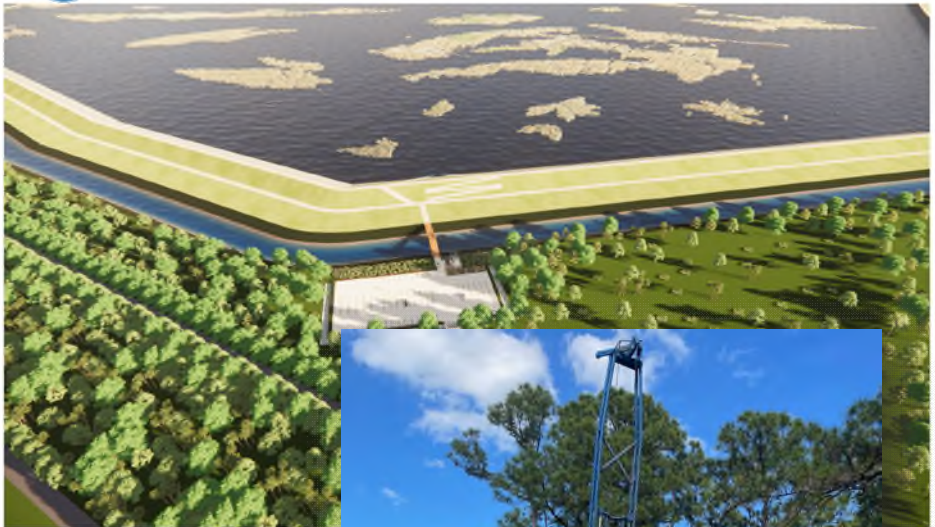


Restoring the Indian River Lagoon and St. Lucie River



Restoring the Loxahatchee River Watershed

Loxahatchee River Watershed Restoration Project
 C-18W Reservoir Architectural Rendering



Flow Way 3

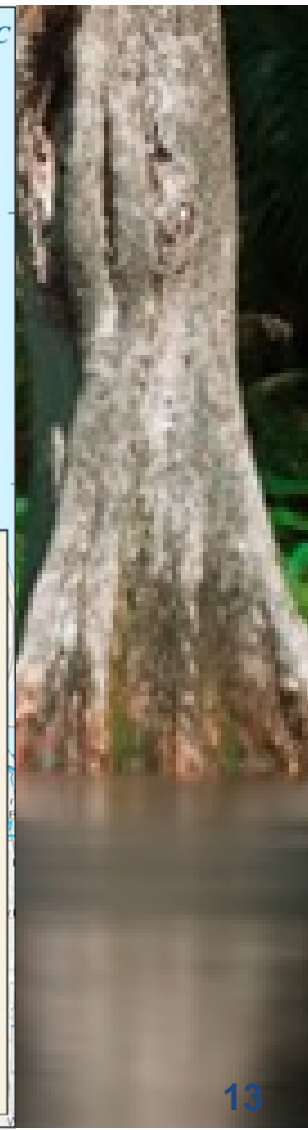
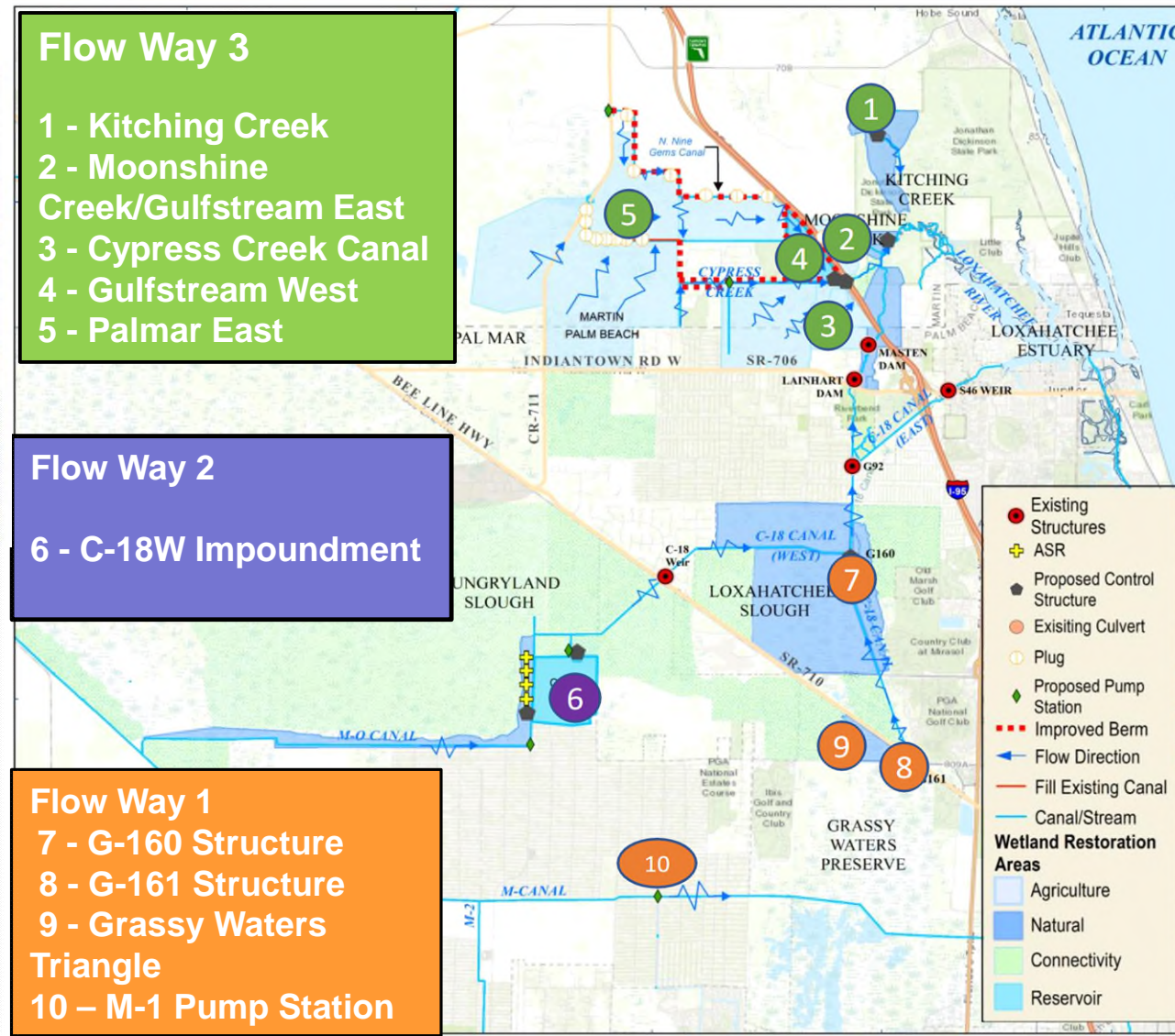
- 1 - Kitching Creek
- 2 - Moonshine Creek/Gulfstream East
- 3 - Cypress Creek Canal
- 4 - Gulfstream West
- 5 - Palmar East

Flow Way 2

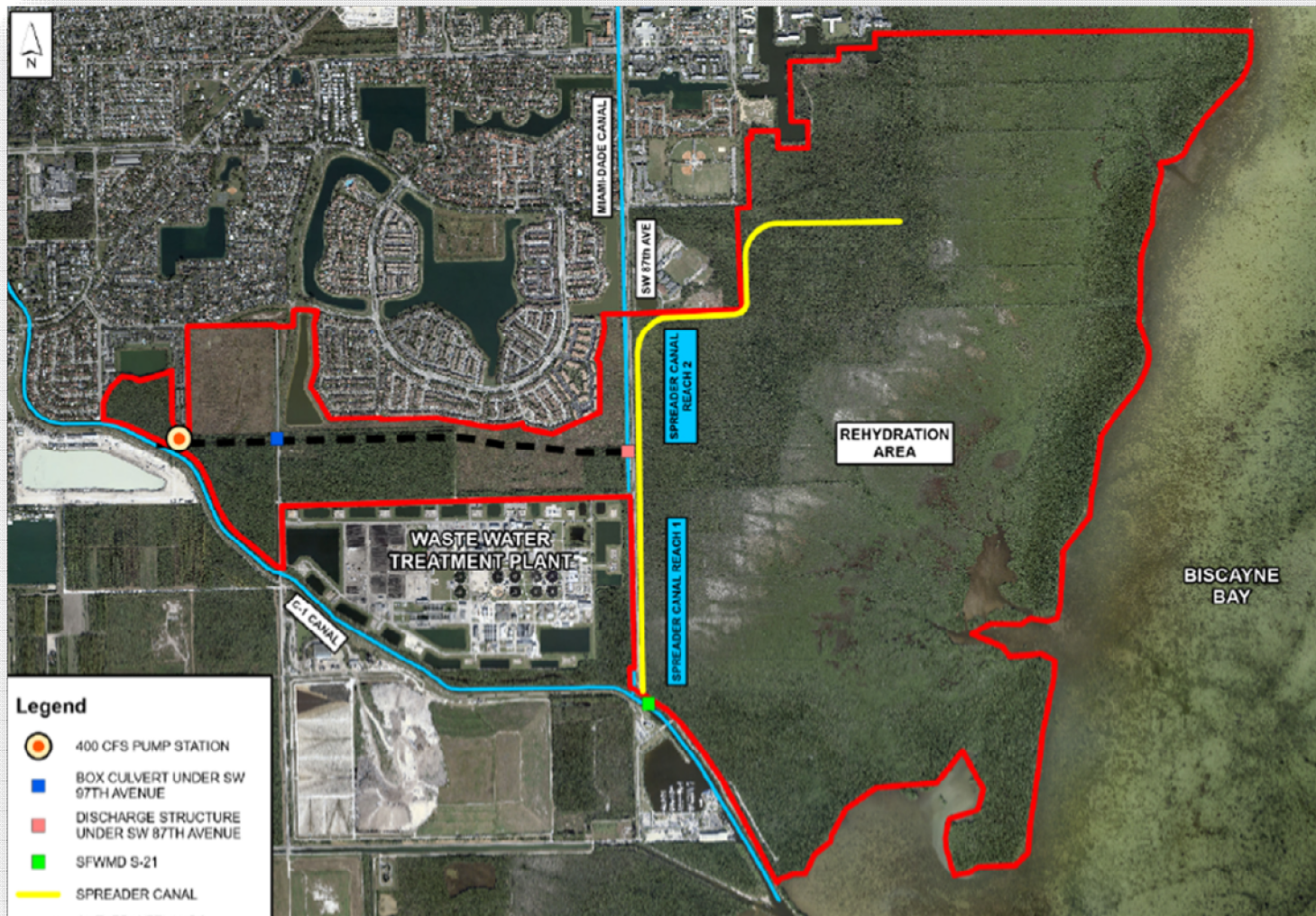
- 6 - C-18W Impoundment

Flow Way 1

- 7 - G-160 Structure
- 8 - G-161 Structure
- 9 - Grassy Waters Triangle
- 10 - M-1 Pump Station



Restoring Water Flow to Biscayne Bay



Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands (BBCW) S-701 Pump Station- March 2023 Groundbreaking



Questions?

mparrott@sfwmd.gov