Chapter 2: Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan Annual Report

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INTRODUCTION

The Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP) is the framework and guide for the restoration, protection, and preservation of the Greater Everglades ecosystem. CERP also provides for other water-related needs of the South Florida region, such as water supply and flood protection.

Section 601 of the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 2000 authorizes CERP, and requires that it be integrated with existing federal and state activities in accordance with Section 528 of the WRDA of 1996.

The goal of CERP is to restore the quantity, quality, timing, and distribution of water to the Everglades ecosystem. More than 50 major projects involving either structural or operational changes to modify the Central and Southern Florida (C&SF) Project comprise CERP. The South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD or District) is the local sponsor for implementation of most of these projects.

CERP includes pilot projects, which will resolve technical uncertainties related to the use of various technologies to accomplish the modifications necessary to restore the South Florida ecosystem. Feasibility studies will determine the need for additional projects to accomplish restoration goals that have been established for particular regions. Several critical restoration projects begun prior to the authorization of CERP have been incorporated into the plan and are under construction. Through these projects, Florida is keeping its commitment to the Everglades. Restoration of the famed "River of Grass" already is producing environmental results – saving endangered wildlife, restoring wetlands, and replenishing underground water supplies.

Section 373.470(7), Florida Statutes (F.S.), requires submission of a single CERP Annual Report from the SFWMD and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP). This report includes CERP financial information and the progress of CERP implementation information for Fiscal Year 2004 (FY2004) (October 1, 2003 through September 30, 2004).

At this stage of CERP implementation, the SFWMD and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) are acquiring land, developing and administering program-level functions, conducting pilot projects and feasibility studies, developing program and Project Management Plans (PMPs), engaging stakeholders, creating Project Implementation Reports (PIRs), performing detailed engineering and technical analyses and design, and commencing construction.

With more than 254,000 acres of land needed to complete restoration of the Everglades already in public ownership, Florida's share of Everglades restoration is ahead of schedule and under budget. Since 2000, more than $2.5 billion has been committed through the end of the decade to clean up and restore the unique mosaic of sawgrass prairies, hardwood hammocks, cypress swamps, coastal lagoons, mangroves, and pinelands that comprises the Everglades.

FISCAL YEAR 2004 HIGHLIGHTS

In December 2003, the District reached the halfway mark in acquiring lands for the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP). The District's CERP land acquisition activities for FY2004 totaled $73.7 million, which was used to purchase 7,917 acres. Lands were acquired for the Indian River Lagoon–South, Broward County Water Preserve Areas (WPAs), Lake Okeechobee Watershed, Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands, and Bird Drive Recharge Area projects.

Improved water quality and increased storage are fundamental to Everglades restoration and so during FY2004, the SFWMD committed to building three reservoirs by 2009, in order to complete a major part of the Everglades restoration plan five years ahead of schedule. The reservoirs – in Hendry County west of Lake Okeechobee, in Martin County near the St. Lucie Canal, and in Palm Beach County south of Lake Okeechobee – will provide relief for the St. Lucie and Caloosahatchee rivers. Design and construction are being coordinated with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to facilitate federal government funding of a share of the costs; more specifically, credit toward future CERP work. The SFWMD believes that its strong efforts to advance the ecosystem's restoration will win support from the U.S. Congress.

The District launched an aggressive initiative of planning, scheduling, and coordination during FY2004 to advance the funding, design, and construction of eight projects in order to step up the pace to restore America's Everglades beginning in the new fiscal year. An expedited program dubbed "Acceler8" will be inaugurated in FY2005 to achieve 70 percent of the restoration plan's goals by 2011, while maintaining the momentum of CERP. This is five years ahead of the current schedule, and over a decade ahead of anticipated federal and state cash flows. The District will finance construction with Certificates of Participation revenue bonding. Please visit the Acceler8 Website at http://www.evergladesnow.org for continuing information on this initiative and for details on the eight projects.

The Indian River Lagoon–South Plan is a cornerstone of CERP, so it is encouraging that after a decade of study and development, the project is now ready to be included in the WRDA. During FY2004, the final PIR was completed, an independent scientific review was conducted, and congressional hearings were held. The plan includes reservoir and natural area storage, Stormwater Treatment Areas (STAs), and muck removal to improve water quality in the St. Lucie Estuary (SLE) and the Indian River Lagoon. The estimated total cost of $1.2 billion will be shared equally between the state and federal governments.

During FY2004, ground was broken for the Southern Golden Gate Estates (Picayune Strand) Hydrologic Restoration project, the first project of the CERP partnership designed to save the River of Grass. Already ahead of schedule less than a year after the District began the first phase of restoration, the project's two miles of newly filled canals are reducing freshwater drainage, elevating groundwater levels, and replenishing the wetland habitat. Clearing exotic plants along canal banks is speeding the return of natural vegetation to the area. Also during FY2004, the draft PIR was completed, and over 95 percent of the 55,247 acres of land were acquired. In September

2004, the FDEP gave approval for Florida to move forward with construction of the remainder of the project – which is being renamed the Picayune Strand Hydrologic Restoration to reflect the goal of merging the land back with the state forest – ahead of congressional authorization.

For the Lake Okeechobee Water Retention/Phosphorus Removal Critical Project, a ground-breaking ceremony was held in June 2004 to mark construction on the Taylor Creek and Nubbin Slough Stormwater Treatment Areas (STAs). These projects will reduce basin runoff and improve the water quality of tributaries flowing into the lake. The 190-acre STA on Grassy Land Ranch on Taylor Creek will be completed during FY2005, and the 780-acre Nubbin Slough STA on the former New Palm/Newcomer Dairy site will be completed in FY2006.

CERP Programmatic Regulations were published in the Federal Register as a final rule in November 2003. Programmatic Regulations are required by WRDA 2000 to ensure that the goals and purposes of the plan are achieved and to set the procedural framework to guide its implementation.

The SFWMD and the USACE have been performing detailed planning and design of CERP projects in accordance with the most recent implementation schedule. The current approved version of the Master Implementation Schedule was published in July 2001. A revised Master Implementation Sequencing Plan (MISP), which is required by CERP Programmatic Regulations, is currently examining all CERP projects to see if they are correctly assembled, and that the correct relationships exist between projects; this should be completed in the FY2005.

Further information is available online at the CERP Website, at http://www.evergladesplan.org. It provides current information on all aspects of CERP implementation, including history, news, events, public meetings, resources, educational materials and progress reports for the programs, projects, and studies that comprise CERP implementation.

HISTORY

The SFWMD was created to deal with floods and drought. Today, the agency's responsibilities include regional flood control, water supply and water quality protection, as well as ecosystem protection.

In 1949, the Florida Legislature created the Central and Southern Florida (C&SF) Flood Control District (FCD), the predecessor to the SFWMD, to manage the C&SF Project, a massive flood control system designed and constructed by the USACE from 1950 through 1972. The Florida Water Resources Act of 1972 (Chapter 373, F.S.) expanded the FCD's responsibilities to include regional water resource management and environmental protection. In 1976, the Florida Legislature changed the name of the FCD to the South Florida Water Management District to more accurately reflect its broad mission

The current C&SF Project includes 1,000 miles of canals, 720 miles of levees, and several hundred water control structures. The system provides water supply, flood protection, water management, and other benefits to South Florida; the system was designed to serve two million people, but now serves a population of nearly seven million. For half a century, the C&SF Project has performed its authorized functions well; however, it has had unintended adverse effects on the unique and diverse environment that constitutes South Florida's ecosystems, including the Everglades and Florida Bay.

The Water Resources Development Acts of 1992 and 1996 provided the USACE with the authority to reevaluate the performance and impacts of the C&SF Project, and to recommend improvements and/or modifications to it in order to restore the South Florida ecosystem and to provide for other water resource needs.

A process referred to as the C&SF Project Comprehensive Review Study (Restudy) began in 1994 to reexamine and determine the feasibility of modifying the C&SF Project to achieve updated goals. During the Restudy, a multiagency, multidisciplinary team formulated and evaluated alternative plans. In 1999, a comprehensive plan was presented in the C&SF Project Comprehensive Review Study, Final Integrated Feasibility Report and Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement.

The comprehensive plan was designed to capture, store, and redistribute fresh water previously lost to tide, and to regulate the quality, quantity, timing, and distribution of water flows. The plan was approved as a framework for the restoration of the greater Everglades ecosystem in WRDA 2000. It includes more than 60 elements, will take more than 30 years to construct, and is estimated to cost $7.8 billion.

WRDA 2000 recognized the comprehensive plan, now referred to as CERP, as the framework for modifications to the C&SF Project, and required that implementation be integrated with existing federal and state activities in accordance with WRDA 1996.

OVERVIEW OF THE CERP PROCESS

The overarching purpose of CERP is to restore, protect, and preserve the South Florida ecosystem, while providing for other water-related needs of the region. Four interrelated factors essential to the restoration effort are the quantity, quality, timing, and distribution of water. To restore the timing and distribution of water, the available quantity of water first must be increased. Also, to prevent further damage to the system and to allow restoration, the quality of the water must be improved where necessary prior to its distribution.

Implementation of CERP includes 68 major components grouped into more than 50 projects representing hundreds of features. Many of the projects are interrelated and perform optimally only when other projects are implemented.

Prior to implementing projects that store water and improve water quality, numerous tasks need to be accomplished: determining the feasibility of using new technologies, defining the optimum timing and distribution of water, developing supporting programs, acquiring the land necessary for the projects, and producing detailed project designs. Furthermore, a process must be in place to monitor CERP progress and success, and to modify the plan where adjustments and improvements are necessary.

The Restudy recommended the use of several technologies to accomplish the alterations necessary to restore South Florida's ecosystem. Pilot projects will be conducted to determine the feasibility of using each of these technologies. Some of the technologies being proposed, such as Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR) and seepage control, while currently in use in Florida, have never been implemented on the scale envisioned in CERP.

The optimum timing and distribution of water within the natural Everglades ecosystem must be refined. By reviewing historical data, a picture has been developed regarding how the natural

system behaved prior to human intervention; however, detailed information is lacking for many areas. In some cases, it is neither practical nor possible to restore the system to its historical condition. Also, existing animal and plant populations have adapted in some degree to the altered ecosystem, and must be monitored closely to ensure that the restoration effort does not cause long-term negative impacts to the populations.

New programs and processes are being developed to support the restoration effort. Support is needed to control the budget, manage data, conduct land surveys, collect supporting data, communicate with the public, ensure environmental equity, enhance recreation, monitor progress, and update the plan when necessary.

Given the scale and complexity of CERP, the effects of its implementation on ecosystem restoration may not be apparent for many years. A number of projects must be implemented before the hydrologic improvements necessary for ecosystem restoration can begin. The timing and distribution of water by the C&SF Project can be altered only after water storage capacity has been increased, along with any necessary water quality improvements. As each of the components to improve the timing and distribution of water are completed, the ecosystem should begin to recover.

DESIGN AGREEMENT

Design Agreements have been executed between the USACE and three local sponsors: the SFWMD, Palm Beach County and Lee County.

The first Design Agreement between the USACE and the SFWMD for the design of elements of CERP and the South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Project was executed on May 12, 2000. This agreement covers activities related to planning, engineering and design of CERP implementation. The Design Agreement establishes the method to calculate the 50-50 cost sharing between the SFWMD and the USACE for all projects for which SFWMD is the local sponsor. This agreement requires the development of a Master Program Management Plan (MPMP), and the establishment of a Design Coordination Team (DCT); further, a Project Management Plan (PMP) will be developed for each project covered by the agreement.

The USACE and Palm Beach County executed a second design agreement covering all aspects of engineering and design for the Winsberg Farm Wetland Restoration Project on January 3, 2002.

The USACE and Lee County executed a third Design Agreement covering all aspects of engineering and design for the Lakes Park Restoration Project on January 17, 2003. Design Agreements for other projects are pending with the FDEP, Miami-Dade County, and the Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida.

Unless otherwise noted, this CERP Annual Report refers to the Design Agreement between the SFWMD and the USACE. The Design Agreement establishes the method to calculate the 50-50 cost sharing between the SFWMD and the USACE for all projects for which the SFWMD is the local sponsor.

MASTER PROGRAM MANAGEMENT PLAN

Pursuant to the Design Agreement, the MPMP was developed to describe the framework and process to be used by the USACE and the SFWMD in managing and monitoring CERP implementation. This document provides the agencies with a common understanding of the business processes and protocols to be applied, and includes descriptions and cost estimates for design work, performance schedules with deadlines, a schedule for planning and implementing program-level and project activities, and a budget.

The initial CERP MPMP was completed in August 2000. It specified completion of program management plans for several program-level activities. These efforts involve or affect a number of projects or the entire restoration program. Nine major efforts now comprise the program-level activities for CERP. The status of these activities is discussed in Part (C) – Implementation Status – of this chapter.

The Recreation and Interagency Modeling Center program-level activities were not included in the original MPMP, but will be added in an update that began in FY2003. The update will delete a number of appendices that have been incorporated into various CERP Guidance Memoranda. Project names and descriptions will be modified for consistency in the update. Revised descriptions of some program-level activities, specifically RECOVER and Environmental and Economic Equity, will also be included in the update. Update requirements will be revised to indicate annual revisions for both Volumes I and II of the MPMP.

PROJECT-LEVEL ACTIVITIES

Project-level activities conducted under the Design Agreement include planning, engineering, design, and project management efforts specific to individual projects. A PMP is developed, which provides a detailed description of each project's scope, activities, tasks, schedule, cost estimates, and agency responsibilities.

Once a PMP has been approved, a PIR is developed to conduct additional project formulation and evaluation, and to provide more detailed engineering and design. During this process, structural and nonstructural alternatives are evaluated for economic, environmental, and engineering effectiveness. Criteria for site suitability are established, and a siting analysis is conducted. The completed PIR then serves as the authorization document for the project.

When necessary, a Design Documentation Report (DDR) is produced to provide the technical basis for a project's plans and specifications, and to serve as a summary of engineering and design decisions made during project development and implementation. The DDR covers the time from preconstruction engineering through project completion. Plans and specifications are then prepared for construction of the project.

The status of the implementation of CERP projects is discussed later in this section. Pilot projects, feasibility studies, critical restoration projects, and other CERP efforts also are addressed.

REGIONAL PROJECT DELIVERY TEAMS

Regional Project Delivery Teams (PDTs) ensure an open forum for interagency involvement and stakeholder participation in reviewing restoration progress. This approach, which moved the

SFWMD and the USACE from individual project teams to two regional (central and southern) teams, was implemented in June 2004 to focus expertise and resources, increase senior leader participation, and reduce duplicate efforts.

Participation in regional PDT meetings is all-inclusive, providing the forum and opportunity for Native American tribes and other federal, state, and local agencies to participate in the development, review, discussion and resolution of issues. The meetings also provide stakeholders and the public with an opportunity to review progress and decisions made on all CERP projects within either the central or the southern region, and to provide input to the process through public comment.

DESIGN COORDINATION TEAM

The DCT is comprised of members of the SFWMD, FDEP, and USACE. It meets monthly to provide consistent and effective communication, coordination, and issues resolution on projects included in the Design Agreement. The DCT ensures agreement on the design work, as well as on the scheduling and costs for the work.

The DCT provides technical and managerial oversight on issues related to design, including design plans, schedules, and budgets; work products; construction plans and specifications; updates of the MPMP; real property and relocation requirements; contract scopes of work, modifications and costs; cost projections; anticipated requirements for the operation and maintenance of projects; RECOVER efforts; and development of program-level procurement strategies.

CERP 470 REPORT

Section 373.470(7), F.S., requires the SFWMD and FDEP to submit by January 31 of each year a single CERP Annual Report to the governor, the president of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives. The report's purpose is to "provide enhanced oversight of and accountability for the financial commitments established under this section (Everglades Restoration) and the progress made in the implementation of the comprehensive plan."

The statute also requires that this report be made available to the public. The SFWMD and FDEP fulfill this mandate by producing the CERP Annual Report, which is also referred to as the CERP 470 Report.

The CERP Annual Report is divided into three parts, based on the portion of the statute that each fulfills:

- In Part (A), the SFWMD and FDEP jointly identify funding sources and amounts, itemizes FY2004 expenditures and fund balances, and provides a schedule of anticipated expenditures for FY2005.
- In Part (B), the FDEP provides a detailed report on all funds appropriated and expended by the state on current projects related to CERP. Final credit toward the nonfederal share of funding will be determined in each project cooperative agreement.

- In Part (C), the SFWMD and FDEP provide a detailed report on progress made in the implementation of CERP, including the status of all projects initiated after the effective date of the Everglades Restoration Investment Act (Section 373.470, F.S.).

For FY2004, this report has been consolidated with other annual reports in the *2005 South Florida Environmental Report – Volume II* (2005 SFER), pursuant to Chapter No. 2004-53, Laws of Florida, which was passed by the Florida Legislature in 2004.

PART (A) FUNDS – SFWMD AND FDEP

BACKGROUND

Pursuant to Section 373.470(7)(a), F.S., Part (A) of the CERP Annual Report contains information on revenues, expenditures, fund balance, and anticipated expenditures related to implementation of CERP. The following series of tables contains the information:

- **Table 2-1 –** Revenues
- **Table 2-2 –** Expenditures
- **Table 2-3 –** Unemcumbered balance of funds remaining in trust funds or other accounts
- **Table 2-4 –** Anticipated expenditures for the next fiscal year

Only revenues, expenditures, and unencumbered balances dedicated to CERP are included within this report. The financial information contained in this annual report is taken from unaudited FY2004 records.

Audited FY2004 information should be available during the second quarter of FY2005. Any changes to the financial information presented here will be reflected in the District's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report, as well as future CERP annual reports. No federal revenues or expenditures are shown in these schedules.

The SFWMD is funding its share of CERP with revenues from several sources. *Ad valorem* taxes and state appropriations comprise the largest portion of these revenues. Other sources include, but are not limited to, investment earnings on available cash balances, contributions from local governments, mitigation revenues, Florida Forever Program funds, and Preservation 2000 Trust funds and grants.

BASIS OF PRESENTATION

Accounting principles, policies, and practices of both the SFWMD and the FDEP conform to generally accepted accounting principles for state and local governments, and are structured in accordance with the requirements of the Government Accounting Standards Board. These principles require the use of fund accounting.

A fund is a separate fiscal and accounting entity having a self-balancing set of accounts. Fund accounting is designed to segregate transactions related to certain functions or activities to ensure resources are applied to finance the activities and objectives for which the resources are received, and to demonstrate compliance with legal and contractual obligations.

Table 2-1. CERP revenues for FY2004.[1]

Source	SFWMD[2]	FDEP	Other Local Sponsors	Total
Save Our Everglades Trust Fund Investment Earnings		4,961,097		4,961,097
Save Our Everglades Trust Fund – Total		4,961,097		4,961,097
Ad Valorem	64,783,964			64,783,964
Investment Earnings	1,126,043			1,126,043
Florida Forever Trust Fund	11,888,234	4,203,930		16,092,164
Florida P2000 Trust Fund		9,418,990		9,418,990
Water Management Lands Trust Fund	15,200			15,200
Other Income[3]	1,637,077		60,736	1,697,813
Transfers In[4]	14,071,922			14,071,922
Earmarked for Future Reimbursement from the State's Save Our Everglades Trust Fund[5]	51,426,499			51,426,499
TOTAL REVENUES	**144,948,939**	**18,584,017**	**60,736**	**163,593,692**

[1] Federal expenditures are not listed in this table.
[2] This information is being presented prior to the completion of the SFWMD annual audit. Any changes will be reflected in subsequent annual reports.
[3] For the SFWMD, this represents program income from a variety of sources (sale of surplus property, lease revenue, etc.). The amount shown under "Other Local Sponsors" represents the revenues required to fund FY2004 expenditures for Lee County's Lakes Park Restoration project.
[4] Of this transfer, $14,062,172 resulted from rolling the Critical Restoration Project Fund (409) into the CERP *Ad Valorem* Fund (410) at the start pf FY2004.
[5] This figure represents expenditures incurred or encumbered by the SFWMD for the acquisition of CERP land for which reimbursement has or will be requested from the state's Save Our Everglades Trust Fund in subsequent years.

Table 2-2. CERP expenditures for FY2004.[1]

Projects	SFWMD	FDEP	Total
Local Sponsor – South Florida Water Management District[2, 3]			
Pilot Projects			
Lake Okeechobee ASR Pilot	1,241,957		1,241,957
Caloosahatchee (C-43) River ASR Pilot	1,386,905		1,386,905
Hillsboro ASR Pilot	306,157		306,157
ASR Regional Study	834,157		834,157
Lake Belt In-Ground Reservoir Technology Pilot	95,576		95,576
L-31N Seepage Management Pilot	582,824		582,824
Wastewater Reuse Technology Pilot	223,062		223,062
Kissimmee River and Lake Okeechobee Region			
Lake Okeechobee Watershed	10,533,110		10,533,110
Lake Istokpoga Regulation Schedule	0		0
Lake Okeechobee Aquifer Storage and Recovery	0		0
Caloosahatchee River Region			
C-43 Basin Storage Reservoir – Part 1	1,507,208		1,507,208
C-43 Basin Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR) – Part 2	0		0
Caloosahatchee Backpumping with Stormwater Treatment	0		0
Upper East Coast Region			
Indian River Lagoon–South	9,184,716	42,607,163	51,791,879
Everglades Agricultural Area			
Everglades Agricultural Area (EAA) Storage Reservoirs - Phase 1	7,031,917		7,031,917
EAA Storage Reservoirs - Phase 2	0		0
Big Cypress Region			
Big Cypress/L-28 Interceptor Modifications	0		0
Water Conservation Areas and Everglades Region			
Flow to NW & Central WCA-3A	0		0
WCA-3 Decomp and Sheetflow Enhancement - Part 1	1,153,569		1,153,569
WCA-3 Decomp and Sheetflow Enhancement - Part 2	0		0
Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge Internal Canal Structures	0		0
Modify Holey Land Wildlife Management Area Operation Plan	0		0
Modify Rotenberger Wildlife Management Area (RWMA) Operation Plan	0		0
Melaleuca Eradication and Other Exotic Plants	543		543
Lower East Coast Region			
North Palm Beach County - Part 1	4,881,075	39,295,539	44,176,614
North Palm Beach County - Part 2	0		0
ACME Basin B Discharge	326,482		326,482
Strazzula Wetlands	97,448		97,448
Site 1 Impoundment	316,041		316,041
Broward County WPA	8,514,917	23,202,615	31,717,532
C-4 Structure	0		0
Bird Drive Recharge Area	630,086	7,740,474	8,370,560
PBC Agriculture Reserve Reservoir – Part 1	12,234	560,023	572,257

Table 2-2. Continued.

Projects	SFWMD	FDEP	Total
Local Sponsor – South Florida Water Management District[2, 3]			
Lower East Coast Region			
PBC Agriculture Reserve Aquifer Storage & Recovery – Part 2	0		0
Hillsboro Aquifer Storage & Recovery – Part 2	0		0
Diverting WCA Flows to CLB to Downstream Natural Areas	0		0
Broward County Secondary Canal System	4,368		4,368
North Lake Belt Storage Area	0	23,485	23,485
Central Lake Belt Storage Area	0	663,730	663,730
Everglades National Park (ENP) Seepage Management	0		0
Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands	2,848,535	1,596,852	4,445,387
C-111 Spreader Canal	436,042		436,042
Southwestern Florida Region			
Southern Golden Gate Estates Hydrologic Restoration	3,387,087	12,655,740	16,042,827
Florida Bay and Florida Keys Region			
Florida Keys Tidal Restoration	136,756		136,756
Critical Restoration Projects			
Ten Mile Creek	5,072,245		5,072,245
Western Tamiami Trail Culverts	160,935		160,935
Western C-4 Water Control Structure	23,654		23,654
Southern Crew/Imperial River Flowways	3,155,239		3,155,239
Lake Trafford Restoration	361,566		361,566
Lake Okeechobee Water Retention/Phosphorus Removal	238,346		238,346
Western C-11 Water Quality Improvement	1,046,421		1,046,421
Critical Restoration Program Controls	2,418		2,418
Reconnaissance, Feasibility, and Planning Studies			
Southwest Florida Feasibility Study	803,663		803,663
Florida Bay and Florida Keys Feasibility Study	1,008,162		1,008,162
Indian River Lagoon (IRL) Feasibility Study	0		0
Water Preserve Areas Feasibility Study	0		0
Monitoring and Evaluation			
RECOVER	2,346,925		2,346,925
Adaptive Assessment and Monitoring	4,774,223		4,774,223
Program Management & Support			
Program Management	9,603,324		9,603,324
Program Support	236,062		236,062
Program Controls	2,138,213		2,138,213
Public Involvement and Outreach	457,296		457,296
Socioeconomic and Environmental Justice	92,403		92,403
Data Management	2,413,693		2,413,693
Interagency Modeling Center	3,043,617		3,043,617
Master Recreation Plan	48,580		48,580
Programmatic Regulations	197,100		197,100
CERP Precursors			
C-111 Project Implementation	484,744		484,744

Table 2-2. Continued.

Projects	SFWMD	FDEP	Total
Other Local Sponsors[4]			
Comprehensive Integrated Water Quality Feasibility Study (FDEP)			0
Biscayne Bay Feasibility Study (Miami-Dade DERM)			N/A
Seminole Tribe Big Cypress Reservation Water Conservation Plan (Seminole Tribe)			N/A
Henderson Creek/Belle Meade Restoration (FDEP)			0
Lakes Park Restoration (Lee County)			60,736
Winsburg Farms Wetlands Restoration (Palm Beach County)			N/A
Miccosukee Water Management Plan (Miiccosukee Tribe County)			N/A
Restoration of Pineland and Hardwood Hammocks in C-111 Basin (Miami-Dade County)			N/A
West Miami-Dade Reuse (Miami-Dade County)			N/A
South Miami-Dade Reuse (Miami-Dade County)			N/A
TOTALS[5]	**93,381,598**	**128,345,621**	**221,787,955**

[1] Federal expenditures are not listed in this table.
[2] Expenditures include indirect costs that are charged to the program by applying a federally approved rate to direct salaries.
[3] This information is being presented prior to the completion of the SFWMD annual audit. Any changes will be reflected in subsequent annual reports.
[4] Expenditures for local sponsors other than the SFWMD are presented in the Total column only. An N/A indicates that the information is not available.
[5] The SFWMD figure includes $16,210,074 in expenditures incurred by the SFWMD for the acquisition of CERP land for which reimbursement will be requested from the state's Save Our Everglades Trust Fund in a subsequent year.

Table 2-3. CERP unencumbered fund balance for FY2004.[1]

	SFWMD[2]	FDEP	Other Local Sponsors	Total
Fund Balance as of September 30, 2003	68,003,189	206,666,731	N/A	274,669,920
Add: Revenues[3]	144,948,939	18,584,017	60,736	163,593,692
Less: Expenditures[4]	93,381,598	128,345,621	60,736	221,787,955
Adjustments[5]	(271,065)			(271,065)
Transfers Out	397,601			397,601
Kissimmee River Restoration Land Acquisition[6]	18,291,001			18,291,001
Fund Balance as of September 30, 2004	101,152,993	96,905,127	N/A	198,058,120
Less: Encumbrances[7]	67,226,574	0	N/A	67,226,574
Unencumbered Balance as of September 30, 2004	33,926,419	96,905,127	N/A	130,831,546

[1] Federal expenditures are not listed in this table.
[2] This information is being presented prior to the completion of the SFWMD annual audit. Any changes will be reflected in subsequent annual reports.
[3] Revenues include $51,426,499 in expected reimbursements from the state's Save Our Everglades Trust Fund for expenditures incurred on encumbered by the SFWMD.
[4] This figure includes $16,210,074 in expenditures incurred by the SFWMD for the acquisition of CERP land for which reimbursement will be requested from the state's Save Our Everglades Trust Fund.
[5] Adjustment to reconcile project expenditures in Fund 410 to Trial Balance, as of 12/17/04.
[6] The Governing Board approved the use of District CERP funds for the acquisition of land for the Kissimmee River Restoration project.
[7] This figure includes $42,435,038 in encumbrances incurred by the SFWMD for the acquisition of CERP land for which reimbursement will be requested from the state's Save Our Everglades Trust Fund in subsequent years.

Table 2-4. CERP anticipated expenditures for FY2005.[1, 2]

Projects	Total Anticipated Expenditures
Local Sponsor – South Florida Water Management District	
Pilot Projects	
Lake Okeechobee ASR Pilot	117,010
Caloosahatchee (C-43) River ASR Pilot	73,449
Hillsboro ASR Pilot	63,870
ASR Regional Study	761,149
Lake Belt In-Ground Reservoir Technology Pilot	29,107
L-31N Seepage Management Pilot	198,845
Wastewater Reuse Technology Pilot	238,861
Kissimmee River and Lake Okeechobee Region	
Lake Okeechobee Watershed	476,217
Lake Istokpoga Regulation Schedule	0
Lake Okeechobee Aquifer Storage and Recovery	0
Caloosahatchee River Region	
C-43 Basin Storage Reservoir – Part 1	1,286,040
C-43 Basin ASR– Part 2	0
Caloosahatchee Backpumping with Stormwater Treatment	0
Upper East Coast Region	
Indian River Lagoon–South	6,112,750
Everglades Agricultural Area	
EAA Storage Reservoirs – Phase 1	599,670
EAA Storage Reservoirs – Phase 2	0
Big Cypress Region	
Big Cypress/L-28 Interceptor Modifications	0
Water Conservation Areas and Everglades Region	
Flow to NW & Central WCA-3A	0
WCA-3 Decomp and Sheetflow Enhancement - Part 1	888,024
WCA-3 Decomp and Sheetflow Enhancement - Part 2	0
Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge Internal Canal Structures	0
Modify Holey Land Wildlife Management Area Operation Plan	0
Modify RWMA Operation Plan	0
Melaleuca Eradication and Other Exotic Plants	0
Lower East Coast Region	
North Palm Beach County – Part 1	55,899,186
North Palm Beach County – Part 2	0
ACME Basin B Discharge	96,574
Strazzula Wetlands	37,209
Site 1 Impoundment	140,230
Broward County WPA	1,373,769
C-4 Structure	0
Bird Drive Recharge Area	750,000
PBC Agriculture Reserve Reservoir – Part 1	12,839
PBC Agriculture Reserve Aquifer Storage & Recovery – Part 2	0
Hillsboro ASR– Part 2	0
Diverting WCA Flows to CLB to Downstream Natural Areas	0
Broward County Secondary Canal System	0
North Lake Belt Storage Area	0
Central Lake Belt Storage Area	0

Table 2-4. Continued.

Projects	Total Anticipated Expenditures
Local Sponsor – South Florida Water Management District	
Lower East Coast Region	
ENP Seepage Management	0
Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands	1,601,796
C-111 Spreader Canal	522,622
Southwestern Florida Region	
Southern Golden Gate Estates Hydrologic Restoration	12,927,797
Florida Bay and Florida Keys Region	
Florida Keys Tidal Restoration	96,172
Critical Restoration Projects	
Ten Mile Creek	317,992
Western Tamiami Trail Culverts	5,096,157
Western C-4 Water Control Structure	0
Southern Crew/Imperial River Flowways	2,069,811
Lake Trafford Restoration	7,913,327
Lake Okeechobee Water Retention/Phosphorus Removal	212,170
Western C-11 Water Quality Improvement	200,000
Critical Restoration Project Implementation Support	1,000,000
Reconnaissance, Feasibility, and Planning Studies	
Southwest Florida Feasibility Study	794,048
Florida Bay and Florida Keys Feasibility Study	1,045,381
IRL Feasibility Study	0
Water Preserve Areas Feasibility Study	0
Monitoring and Evaluation	
RECOVER	1,486,858
Adaptive Assessment and Monitoring	3,445,758
Land Acquisition	
Land Acquisition and Associated Costs[3]	89,123,024
Program Management and Support	
Program Management	11,601,232
Geodetic Vertical Control Surveys	0
Program Controls	497,251
Public Involvement and Outreach	522,101
Environmental and Economic Equity	54,326
Data Management	826,647
Master Recreation Plan	89,804
Interagency Modeling Center	1,119,791
Programmatic Regulations	106,649
Project Implementation Support	5,500,000
CERP Indirect Costs[4]	7,742,241
CERP Precursors	
C-111 Project Implementation	9,551,569
CERP Reserves	
Reserves[5]	50,378,980

Table 2-4. Continued.

Projects	Total Anticipated Expenditures
Other Local Sponsors	
Comprehensive Integrated Water Quality Feasibility Study (FDEP)	0
Biscayne Bay Feasibility Study (Miami-Dade DERM)	N/A
Seminole Tribe Big Cypress Reservation Water Conservation Plan (Seminole Tribe)	N/A
Henderson Creek/Belle Meade Restoration (FDEP)	0
Lakes Park Restoration (Lee County)	**2,151,886**
Winsburg Farms Wetlands Restoration (Palm Beach County)	0
Miccosukee Water Management Plan (Miccosukee Tribe)	N/A
Restoration of Pineland and Hardwood Hammocks in C-111 Basin (Miami-Dade County)	N/A
West Miami-Dade Reuse (Miaimi-Dade County)	N/A
South Miami-Dade Reuse (Miami-Dade County)	N/A
TOTALS	**287,150,189**

[1] Management plans for projects and program-level activities may require adjustments in these estimates.
[2] No anticipated federal expenditures are listed in this table.
[3] Land Acquisition costs listed here represent program-wide projected land acquisition costs. As these costs are incurred, they will be charged to individual projects. In addition, some individual project budgets have land acquisition and land associated costs included in them.
[4] This represents the cost of District central service departments (e.g., accounting, budget, procurement, etc.) charged to the program by applying a federally approved indirect rate to direct salaries. Also includes self-insurance charges.
[5] This represents budgeted funds not set aside specifically for any one project. As these funds are needed for specific projects and costs are incurred, they will be charged to individual projects.

PART (B) FUNDS - FDEP

BACKGROUND

Pursuant to Section 373.470(7)(b), F.S., Part (B) of the CERP Annual Report contains a detailed account of all funds expended by the state toward land acquisition for CERP in FY2004. **Table 2-5** presents this information. The unencumbered fiscal year-end balance that remains in each identified trust fund is also reported. Only revenues, expenditures, and unencumbered balances dedicated to CERP are included within this report.

Every CERP project will be described in a PIR, and a Project Cooperation Agreement subsequently will be executed. The amount of expenditures to be credited toward the state's share of funding for implementation of CERP will be developed during the detailed design phase and affirmed in the Project Cooperation Agreements.

BASIS OF PRESENTATION

The FDEP's accounting policies conform to generally accepted accounting principles for state and local governmental units and are structured in accordance with the requirements of the Governmental Accounting Standards Board. These principles require the use of fund accounting. A fund is a separate fiscal and accounting entity having a self-balancing set of accounts. Fund accounting is designed to segregate transactions related to certain functions or activities to ensure resources are applied to finance the activities and objectives for which the resources are received and to demonstrate compliance with legal and contractual obligations.

The information in these special-purpose financial presentations relates to the general fund and to special revenue funds classified as a governmental fund type. Special revenue funds are used to account for specific revenue sources which are legally restricted to expenditure for specified purposes.

Table 2-5. Revenues, expenditures and encumbrances by the state for all CERP projects for FY2004.

	Save Our Everglades Trust Fund	Florida Preservation 2000 Trust Fund	Florida Forever Trust Fund	Total
REVENUES – By Source of Funds				
Florida Preservation 2000 Trust Fund		9,418,990		9,418,990
Florida Forever Trust Fund			4,203,930	4,203,930
Interest Earnings (Net)	4,961,097			4,961,097
TOTAL REVENUES	4,961,097	9,418,990	4,203,930	18,584,017
EXPENDITURES – By Project				
Bird Drive Recharge Area	7,740,474			7,740,474
Broward County WPA	23,202,615			23,202,615
PBC Agriculture Reserve Reservoir	560,023			560,023
North Lake Belt Storage Area	23,485			23,485
Central Lake Belt Storage Area	663,730			663,730
Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands	1,596,852			1,596,852
Indian River Lagoon–South	42,607,163			42,607,163
North Palm Beach County – Part 1	38,328,359	967,180		39,295,539
Southern Golden Gate Estates Restoration		8,451,810	4,203,930	12,655,740
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	114,722,701	9,418,990	4,203,930	128,345,621
ENCUMBRANCES	0	0	0	0
TOTAL ENCUMBRANCES	0	0	0	0
Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues Over Expenditures and Encumbrances	(109,761,604)	0	0	(109,761,604)
Unencumbered Balance as of September 30, 2003	206,666,731	0	0	206,666,731
Fund Balance Reserved for Encumbrances as of September 30, 2003	0	0	0	0
Unencumbered Balance as of September 30, 2004	96,905,127	0	0	96,905,127

PART (C) - IMPLEMENTATION STATUS

One portion of the statute, Section 373.470(7)(c), F.S., or Part (C), requires that the status of CERP implementation be reported annually along with the financial information. One of the efficiencies of including the CERP Annual Report in the *2005 South Florida Environmental Report* (2005 SFER) is that the Consolidated Project Report Database (Appendix 1-3 of the 2005 SFER – Volume II) contains complete project information, including the status of implementation of CERP projects. Accordingly, this section of the CERP Annual Report now contains only the briefest of project information and highlights of acccomplishments during the past fiscal year.

STATUS OF LAND ACQUISITION

The SFWMD, as the nonfederal sponsor of CERP, is responsible for acquiring the real estate needed for the construction, monitoring and operation of CERP projects. The SFWMD's land acquisition strategy for water resource management prioritizes the purchase of lands based on authorized project construction schedules, the availability of willing sellers, identification of lands threatened by development potential, and recognition of lands in areas of rapidly escalating property values. This strategy promotes timely and cost-effective acquisition of lands for Everglades restoration.

SFWMD real estate expenditures during FY2004 totaled $73.7 million in the purchase of 7,917 acres for CERP projects. In December 2003, the District reached the midpoint in acquiring lands for CERP. The acres acquired during this time increased the total lands which will be available for use by CERP projects to 206,109 acres, which represents 53 percent of the estimated land needed for CERP projects. Chapter 8 of this volume contains more detailed information on land acquisition and management.

Lands acquired for CERP will be used to provide enhanced water quality, quantity, timing, and distribution for the natural system. The foremost FY2004 acquisitions included

- **Indian River Lagoon–South**: 4,749 acres were acquired for use in the C-23/C-24 South Reservoir and STA project, and the Allapattah Complex.
- **Broward County Water Preserve Areas**: 135 acres were acquired to be used for construction of the C-11 Impoundment and the Water Conservation Areas 3A and 3B (WCA-3A/3B) Levee Seepage Management Projects.
- **Lake Okeechobee Watershed Project**: 2,730 acres were acquired for the Taylor Creek/Nubbin Slough Storage Treatment Areas component.
- **Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands**: 50 acres were acquired for this project.
- **Bird Drive Recharge Area**: 194 acres were acquired for this project.

In addition to acquiring lands, the District surplused 541 acres of the Berry Groves acquisition in exchange for 600 acres of the property to the south. The exchange represented a continuation of land acquisitions for the C-43 Basin Storage Reservoir Project. The exchange provided the benefits of realigning and squaring-off the acquisition boundary for the reservoir, reducing construction costs, and avoiding costs associated with relocating utilities in place.

STATUS OF PROGRAM-LEVEL ACTIVITIES

Given the number of projects included in CERP, as well as the many related projects that affect the systemwide restoration effort, intense and innovative management, communication, and coordination are required throughout the implementation of the plan. These nine major efforts comprise the program-level activities for implementation of CERP:

- Data Management
- Environmental and Economic Equity
- Geodetic Vertical Control Surveys
- Master Recreation Plan
- Program Controls
- Programmatic Regulations
- Public Outreach
- RECOVER (Restoration Coordination and Verification)
- Systemwide Modeling (Interagency Modeling Center)

The initial Master Program Management Plan specified completion of program management plans for Program Controls, Public Outreach, Environmental and Economic Equity, Geodetic Vertical Control Surveys, and RECOVER. Initial program management plans were completed for all these program-level activities, and for Data Management. The Recreation and Interagency Modeling Center PMPs are being developed and are scheduled to be completed during FY2005.

The Consolidated Project Report Database (Appendix 1-3 of the 2005 SFER – Volume II) and the CERP Website contain more detailed information on the program-level activities and their respective status. Brief summaries are provided below.

Data Management. As CERP's information requirements evolve, so does the SFWMD's strategy to meet these needs and provide workable solutions to support program-wide goals. The CERP Data Management Program oversight expanded to include the CERPZone, Electronic Document Management, and then WEB in March 2004, as approved by the DCT. The CERP Data Management Plan is being updated to include these new information technology areas. The updated Information and Data Management Plan is scheduled to be approved during FY2005.

Environmental and Economic Equity. As CERP is implemented, South Florida citizens' concerns, needs, and economics are considered and integrated into the project-specific and restoration-related processes and decisions. During FY2004, the equity program completed several rounds of environmental justice knowledge and sensitivity training with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) for the SFWMD and USACE. Maps presenting the analysis of low-income and minority populations important to environmental justice were produced. A sample of these maps was selected and published in the ESRI Map Book – Volume 19.

Geodetic Vertical Control Surveys. These surveys provide a common spatial datum framework for scientific data analysis, modeling, design, construction, and operations and maintenance. All spatial data collections for CERP are based on this survey, and all project elements with an elevation component are referenced to the new monuments, which were set during this project to ensure systems connectivity. The project was completed under budget and ahead of schedule in November 2003.

Master Recreation Plan. The Master Recreation Plan will take a systemwide approach to identify, evaluate, and address the effects of CERP implementation on existing recreational use

within the South Florida ecosystem, and will identify and evaluate potential new recreation, public use, and educational opportunities. The Program Management Plan is scheduled to be approved by the first quarter of FY2005.

Program Controls. This plan directs the joint implementation of a program controls function that will be able to confirm that CERP is being managed in a manner consistent with what has been agreed upon by the District and USACE. The program controls function will also be able to respond to the reporting and information needs of the wide variety of stakeholders interested and involved in the program. Project scheduling, costing, and document management activities proceeded during FY2004.

Programmatic Regulations. Section 601(h) of WRDA 2000 requires the promulgation of Programmatic Regulations to ensure that the goals and purposes of CERP are achieved. Programmatic Regulations were issued during FY2004, after public comment, with the concurrence of the Governor and the U.S. Secretary of the Interior and in consultation with the Seminole Tribe of Florida, the Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida, the USEPA, and other agencies.

Public Outreach. Public Outreach enables interested and affected individuals, organizations, agencies, and other governmental entities to be informed of a project and its goals, and to have the opportunity to participate in the decision-making process. Outreach efforts include "The CERP Report, a monthly e-newsletter which highlights the community outreach initiatives of CERP, and issuance of a seasonal **"**Community Outreach in Action" newsletter, targeting minority communities. Other activities included development of a media initiative to inform the public and stakeholders of restoration activities, and production of Everglades video news clips airing weekly on various evening news stations that highlight restoration benefits. In addition, community events are sponsored or attended by SFWMD and USACE outreach staff.

RECOVER. The role of RECOVER is to organize and apply scientific and technical information in ways that are most effective in supporting CERP objectives. RECOVER links science and its tools to a set of systemwide planning, evaluation, and assessment tasks. In September 2004, RECOVER updated its Quality Assurance Systems Requirements manual, which lays out the protocols and procedures for environmental data-gathering activities, the foundation of the CERP quality assurance and control program. Additional information on RECOVER is presented in Chapter 7 of the 2005 SFER – Volume I.

Systemwide Modeling (Interagency Modeling Center). Systemwide model results will be used by RECOVER teams to evaluate the systemwide performance of particular CERP projects, and Project Development Teams will be able to review systemwide model results of plan alternatives. The South Florida Water Management Model simulates the hydrology and management of the southern Florida water resources system from Lake Okeechobee to Florida Bay. The Everglades Landscape Model predicts landscape response and water quality changes as a result of water management scenarios. The Lake Okeechobee Water Quality Model, which became available in June 2003, simulates the eutrophication process in water column and underlying sediments in Lake Okeechobee to produce estimates of total phosphorus.

STATUS OF PROJECT-LEVEL ACTIVITIES

The SFWMD and the USACE are fully engaged in detailed planning, design, and implementation of CERP projects generally in accordance with the implementation schedule of the original plan as revised in 2001. The implementation schedule was revised to incorporate

changes based on new state and federal legislation and other factors. Also, changes were made as a result of reduced technical uncertainties and clarified relationships between external milestones and specific CERP projects. The most recent schedule was published in July 2001; revisions commenced during 2003, following the promulgation of Programmatic Regulations as required by WRDA 2000. The MISP is under development and may be completed during the first quarter of FY2005.

This section of the CERP Annual Report highlights the individual projects and milestones, such as development of PMPs and PIRs, which have been initiated or completed. For purposes of this section, the projects have been grouped into five classifications: advanced work projects, Acceler8 projects (new for FY2005), pilot projects, feasibility studies, critical projects, and other CERP projects.

Because improved water quality and increased storage are critical to Everglades restoration, during FY2004 the SFWMD began moving forward with three reservoir projects to complete a major part of CERP years ahead of schedule. The SFWMD started designing and will begin building these advanced work projects while the USACE carries out planning and environmental studies. This is a shift from "business as usual," in which the work waits until the studies are completed.

The Acceler8 initiative will include the advance work projects and others in a major boost for Everglades restoration. This program will accelerate eight restoration projects, beginning in FY2005. Acceler8 is an expedited course of action for achieving Everglades restoration benefits ahead of schedule and under budget, and when completed, will provide immediate environmental, flood control, and water supply benefits. These completed projects will provide the foundation for other CERP efforts.

The SFWMD and the USACE are performing detailed planning and preliminary design of seven pilot projects, three feasibility studies, and a number of other capital or construction projects. In addition, the agencies have continued implementing seven critical projects that commenced prior to CERP authorization.

Advanced Work Projects

Reservoirs are among the highest priorities of CERP, and during FY2004 the SFWMD determined to develop three large reservoirs under an advanced work schedule. Suburban and farm runoff as well as excess lake water currently flows into the east and west coast estuaries because there is nowhere to put it. The reservoirs, along with water stored in the Palm Beach Aggregates rock pits, will remove the equivalent of 1.5 feet of water off Lake Okeechobee.

The SFWMD is coordinating with the USACE to ensure federal cost sharing for these projects. By constructing these reservoirs by 2009, a major part of the Everglades restoration plan will be implemented years ahead of schedule. These three projects are individually discussed below.

C-43 West Storage Reservoir. The C-43 West Storage Reservoir Project is a component of the C-43 Basin Project, and includes an aboveground storage reservoir in Hendry County, adjacent to the Caloosahatchee River. The project is designed to provide water supply for the Caloosahatchee Estuary, water supply benefits for agriculture, urban users, estuary flow benefits, and some water quality benefits. Work completed during FY2004 includes design criteria development and initiation of the 30 percent design effort. Design-level

geotechnical investigation, analysis and mapping were performed on the project. Real estate has been fully acquired, and existing property leases are being coordinated with site preparation activities. Planning effort coordination with the federal PIR process also continued. This project will be included in Acceler8 for FY2005.

C-44 Reservoir/Stormwater Treatment Areas. The C-44 Reservoir/STA Project is a component of the Indian River Lagoon–South Project, and includes an aboveground reservoir along the St. Lucie Canal, with adjacent STAs in rural Martin County to improve water quality and quantity flowing into the SLE. A public/private partnership agreement was executed during FY2004, and a feasibility analysis of a conceptual design that meets the requirements of a PIR was completed. An independent design and cost estimate are being developed.

EAA Reservoir. The EAA Reservoir Project includes a reservoir and enlargement of two filter marshes on former Talisman land in western Palm Beach County, which will protect both the St. Lucie and Caloosahatchee estuaries by receiving regulatory releases from Lake Okeechobee, along with runoff from the EAA. During FY2004, a work order was executed to initiate the 30 percent design of the reservoir and associated pump stations, and regulatory agencies were consulted on permitting and environmental-impact reporting. Real estate has been 99 percent acquired.

Sound principles guided the selection of these three advanced work projects. The SFWMD considered whether the projects were necessary to serve the public interest, and whether private partners were available. The best long-term value (in terms of risk, cash flow, and least-cost alternative) to the public was determined. Whether each project increased total investment in the Everglades by adding private financing was analyzed. Finally, whether the project delivery schedule could be improved was critical to the decision. Privatization of water will not occur with any of these projects.

Acceler8

Acceler8 is a major boost for Everglades restoration, which reaffirms the commitment of the federal/state/local partnership to revitalize the ecosystem by stepping up the pace on eight restoration projects. Although this initiative was launched early in FY2005 – on October 14, 2004 – its importance in the restoration of America's Everglades merits discussion in this report.

Acceler8 is an expedited course of action for achieving Everglades restoration benefits ahead of schedule and under budget. It consists of eight projects, some with multiple components that will, when completed, provide immediate environmental, flood control, and water supply benefits. These completed projects will serve as the foundation for other comprehensive restoration efforts to follow.

The Acceler8 projects are the following:

- C-44 (St. Lucie Canal) Reservoir/Stormwater Treatment Area
- C-43 (Caloosahatchee River West) Reservoir
- EAA Reservoir – Phase 1 with Bolles and Cross Canals Improvements
- EAA STA Expansion
- Water Preserve Areas – Includes Site 1, C-9, C-11, Acme Basin B, WCA-3A/3B

- Picayune Strand (Southern Golden Gate Estates) Restoration
- Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands – Phase 1
- C-111 Spreader Canal

By accelerating the funding, design, and construction of these projects, the Everglades will experience positive benefits much sooner, and in a more cost-effective manner. As opposed to the "pay as you go" approach, taxpayer dollars needed for construction will be significantly leveraged.

The District will finance project construction with Certificates of Participation (COPs) revenue bonding. Florida Statutes define COPs as a type of revenue bond that a water management district may issue "to finance the undertaking of any capital or other project for the purposes permitted by the State Constitution." COPs are statutorily authorized tax-exempt certificates showing participation through ownership of a share of lease payments for a capital facility of a government agency. Financing and fast-tracking these projects will avoid expected increases in construction materials and labor costs.

Most of the land for these projects has been acquired, with much of it purchased in partnership with the federal government. Acceler8 further strengthens the state and federal partnership to restore the Everglades.

Building these projects on an accelerated pace is a major economic undertaking that is expected to generate a large demand for goods and services. Special efforts are being made to ensure that a wide variety of vendors and contractors will be utilized, and partnerships are under way with local workforce development organizations to help prepare and train area workers with needed job skills.

In addition to the environmental improvements, these projects will also provide additional flood control and water supply options, along with the potential for recreational opportunities. The District and the USACE will continue their partnership in implementing CERP. Acceler8 projects will continue in a dual-track mode with the USACE and the District continuing in the planning phases for these and all CERP projects, while the District proceeds with the detailed design and construction of the Acceler8 projects. Additional information can be found on the official Acceler8 Website at http://ww.evergladesnow.org.

Pilot Projects

Seven pilot projects will be conducted to assist in the implementation of CERP. Four are designed to address the technical and regulatory uncertainties regarding regional implementation of ASR projects. The other three are designed to test other proposed technologies. Project Management Plans have been completed for all of the projects, and the PDTs are now working on the Pilot Project Design Reports for each pilot project. A map depicting the location of these seven pilot projects is presented in **Figure 2-1**.

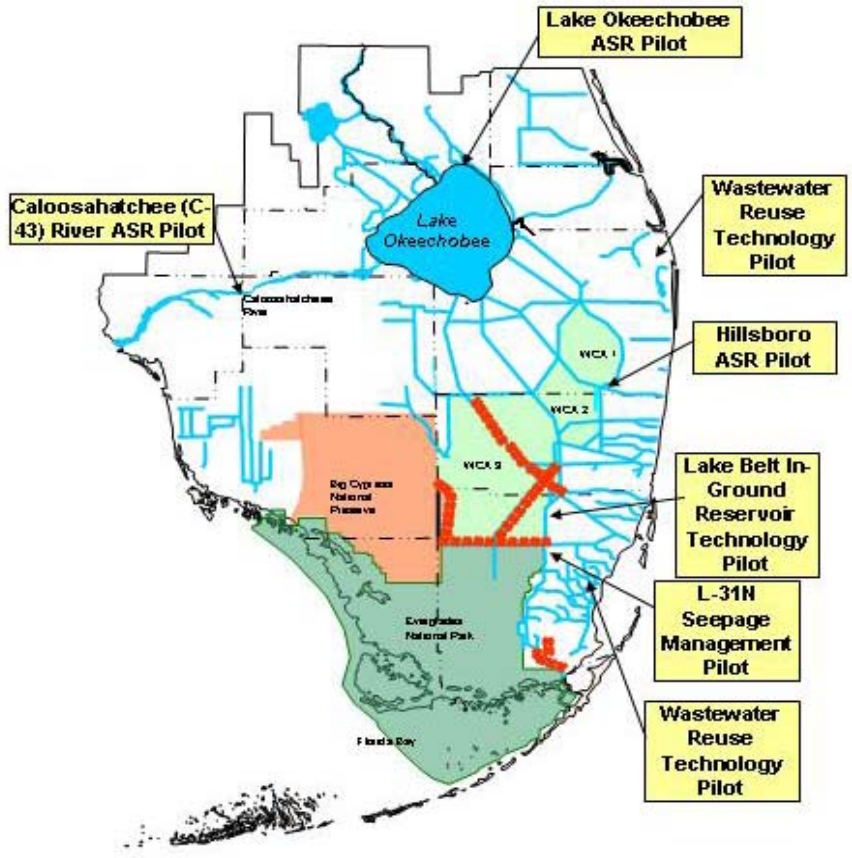

Figure 2-1. General location of CERP pilot projects.

Restoring any major part of the Everglades will involve some technical exploration, so the SFWMD and the USACE are moving forward with the pilot projects for ASR, which is untried on the scale envisioned in CERP. During FY2004, Pilot Project Design Reports and Environmental Impact Statements were under development for the three ASR pilot projects, and public meetings were held to solicit comments on the documents.

If the wells utilizing this 35-year-old technology work as expected, then they can help replenish urban drinking-water supplies, irrigate farmland, and nourish natural areas while requiring very little land for a very large water return. Following are some FY2004 highlights of these and other CERP pilot projects. More detailed information and status reporting can be found on the CERP Website and in the Consolidated Project Report Database (Appendix 1-3 of this volume).

Lake Okeechobee ASR Pilot. In June 2004, redesign of the pilot project began, and the 90 percent redesign was completed in early September 2004. The Final Pilot Project Design Report and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) document were published on schedule in the Federal Registrar on September 30, 2004.

Caloosahatchee River (C-43) Basin ASR Pilot. During FY2004, the contractor completed the exploratory well testing, and the consultant completed the 90 percent design of the surface facilities. The continuous core well, which is an ASR Regional Study task, will be completed at this site. This project is on time and within budget.

Hillsboro ASR Pilot. The Final Pilot Project Design Report and NEPA document were published on schedule in the Federal Registrar on September 30, 2004.

ASR Regional Study. Baseline Ecological Monitoring commenced, and a full year of baseline water quality and sediment monitoring at the pilot sites was completed. The Notice to Proceed for the Continuous-Core Monitor Well at the Caloosahatchee site was issued, and work is now in progress.

Lake Belt In-Ground Reservoir Technology Pilot. This project was on hold during FY2004.

L-31N Seepage Management Pilot. The Baseline Water Quality Monitoring Plan was completed, as were two of the four prescribed quarterly water quality monitoring sampling events. Two newly constructed project well clusters were instrumented with real-time telemetric pressure transducers; development of real-time flow meters was contracted and is well under way. Isotope analysis within the various transmissive zones is under way. Geotechnical analysis and a regional drawdown test have been completed in order to gain additional understanding with respect to the region's unique hydrogeology. Eight Evaluation Criteria were developed during FY2004, and hydrologic modeling was performed to simulate alternatives under consideration. A tentatively recommended site has been selected, and alternative formulation is nearing completion. The USACE and the SFWMD are attempting to shorten the overall project duration, despite this project being currently on time and within budget.

Wastewater Reuse Technology Pilot. During FY2004, the preliminary report on the Treatment Technologies was completed; the final report will be distributed in the first quarter of FY2005. Emergent pollutants of concern (EPOC) monitoring at the South Miami-Dade facility continued during the year. This project is on time and within budget.

Feasibility Studies

The time frame of the Restudy did not permit a thorough investigation of all the regional water resource challenges of South Florida. Accordingly, a handful of new studies were proposed. These studies will be conducted under the authority of WRDA 1996, which allows for the continuation of studies and analyses that are necessary to further CERP. These studies will investigate conceptual designs, and make regional recommendations for meeting the future needs of agricultural, urban, and environmental users.

CERP includes one reconnaissance study – Additional Water for the ENP and Biscayne Bay – and seven feasibility studies: Water Preserve Areas (WPAs), Indian River Lagoon–South, Southwest Florida, Florida Bay and Florida Keys, Biscayne Bay, and Comprehensive Integrated Water Quality. The WPAs, Indian River Lagoon–South, and Biscayne Bay feasibility studies were authorized prior to CERP; therefore, PMPs were not required. The expected completion dates of the PMPs and final feasibility report are listed in **Table 2-6**. The locations of five of the feasibility studies are presented in **Figure 2-2**.

Notably in FY2004, after a decade of study and development, the PIR for the Indian River Lagoon–South plan, an important CERP project, was completed and submitted to the U.S. Congress in August 2004. The project is now ready to be included a Water Resource Development Act.

Table 2-6. Final approval of PMPs and final studies for feasibility studies.

Feasibility Study	PMP Completion	Study Completion
Additional Water for ENP and Biscayne Bay Reconnaissance Study	Authorized Prior to CERP	June 2003 (Actual)
Comprehensive Integrated Water Quality Feasibility Study	August 2003 (Actual)	December 2006 (Planned)
Florida Bay and Florida Keys Feasibility Study	February 2002 (Actual)	March 2006 (Planned)
Indian River Lagoon–North Feasibility Study	April 2003 (Actual)	TBD
Indian River Lagoon–South Feasibility Study	Authorized Prior to CERP	August 2002 (Actual)
Southwest Florida Feasibility Study	January 2002 (Actual)	June 2006 (Planned)
Water Preserve Areas Feasibility Study	Authorized Prior to CERP	Split to Projects

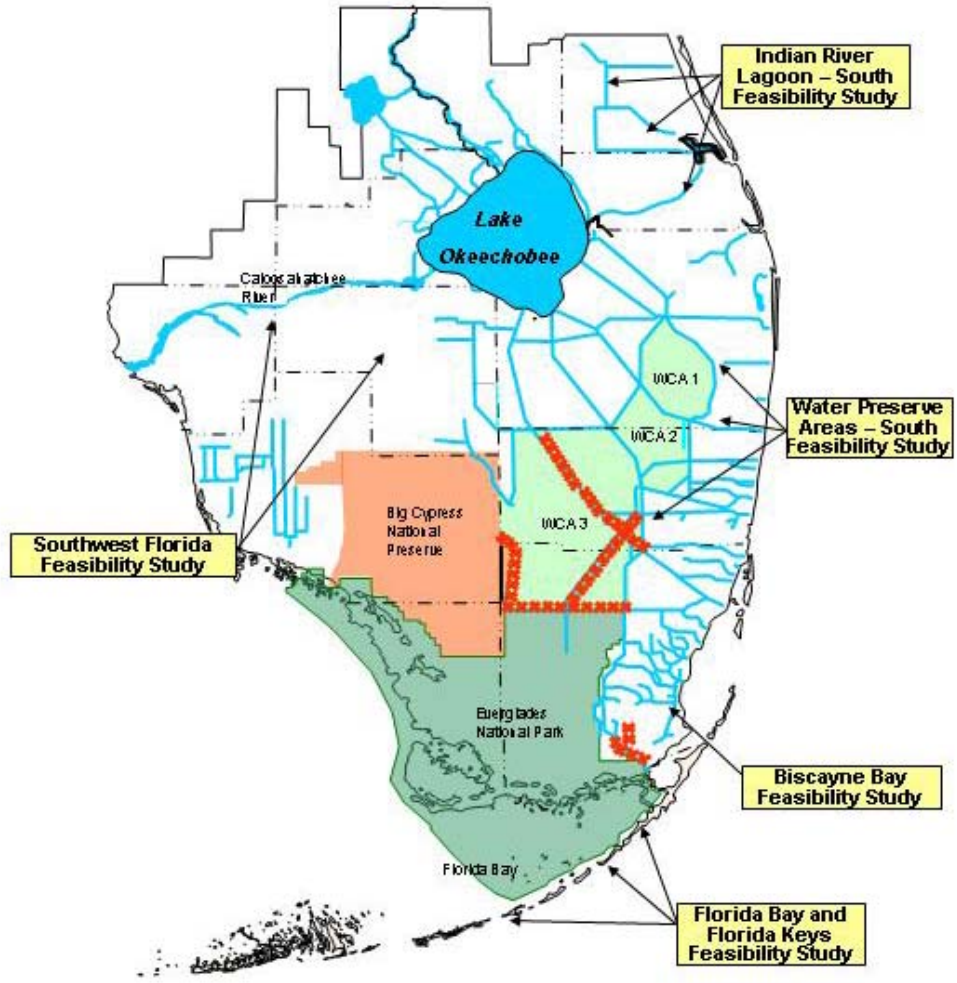

Figure 2-2. General locations of feasibility studies within the SFWMD.

Additional Water for Everglades National Park (ENP) and Biscayne Bay Reconnaissance Study. The USACE final reconnaissance report confirmed that federal participation is warranted to proceed to a feasibility-level study; however, a nonfederal sponsor for the feasibility phase must be identified. The report also recommended deferral of the feasibility phase until completion of the technical documentation report to be prepared for the Initial CERP Update, which is under way by RECOVER.

Comprehensive Integrated Water Quality Feasibility Study. The PMP was presented for the Project Review Board's approval during FY2004. Negotiation of a Feasibility Study Cost-Sharing Agreement between the USACE and the FDEP is pending.

Florida Bay and Florida Keys Feasibility Study. Performance measures and evaluation models were under development during FY2004. Navigational servitude and modeling strategy issues also were addressed during the year.

Indian River Lagoon–North Feasibility Study. The St. Johns River Water Management District is the local sponsor for this effort, which will improve habitat, circulation, and water quality; develop a sediment strategy; provide better control of runoff; remove exotic vegetation; and increase recreational opportunities.

Indian River Lagoon–South Feasibility Study. The results of this study produced a final PIR dated March 2004. This project is ready to be included in WRDA.

Southwest Florida Feasibility Study. During FY2004, work continued on development of the regional simulation model and the four sub-basin simulation models. Development of agriculture and urban demand projections continued, as did the development of ecological assessment tools.

Water Preserve Areas Feasibility Study. Each of the projects which resulted from this study is highlighted in the *Other SFWMD CERP Projects* section of this chapter, and is detailed in the Consolidated Project Report Database (Appendix 1-3 of this volume), and on the CERP Website.

Critical Restoration Projects

Seven relatively small projects, which were determined to be crucial to the restoration of the South Florida ecosystem, to be undertaken by the USACE and SFWMD, were authorized in 1996 prior to CERP.

Active critical projects for which the SFWMD is the local sponsor include Lake Okeechobee Water Retention/Phosphorus Removal, Lake Trafford Restoration, Southern CREW/Imperial River Flowway, Ten Mile Creek, Western C-11 Water Quality Treatment, and Western Tamiami Trail Culverts.

These projects, which are depicted in **Figure 2-3,** are being implemented along with CERP projects. Brief "letter reports" were prepared for each of these projects, instead of PMPs or PIRs, and are available on the USACE's Jacksonville District Website: http://www.saj.usace.army.mil/.

Highlights of critical project accomplishments in FY2004 are as follows:

- Excellent progress was made in levee construction and excavation for structural features of the Ten Mile Creek Project, including successful relocation of gopher tortoises at the site.
- The project to restore Lake Trafford, the largest natural lake south of Lake Okeechobee, moved forward with award of a contract in June to dredge tons of muck from the lake. The lake bottom, which tests show has been there for thousands of years (but the original project would have dredged), will not be removed. The original project also was adjusted to avoid affecting bald eagles, scrub jays, and gopher tortoises.
- A ground-breaking ceremony was held to mark construction on the Taylor Creek and Nubbin Slough STAs, a component of the Lake Okeechobee Water Retention/Phosphorus Removal Project.

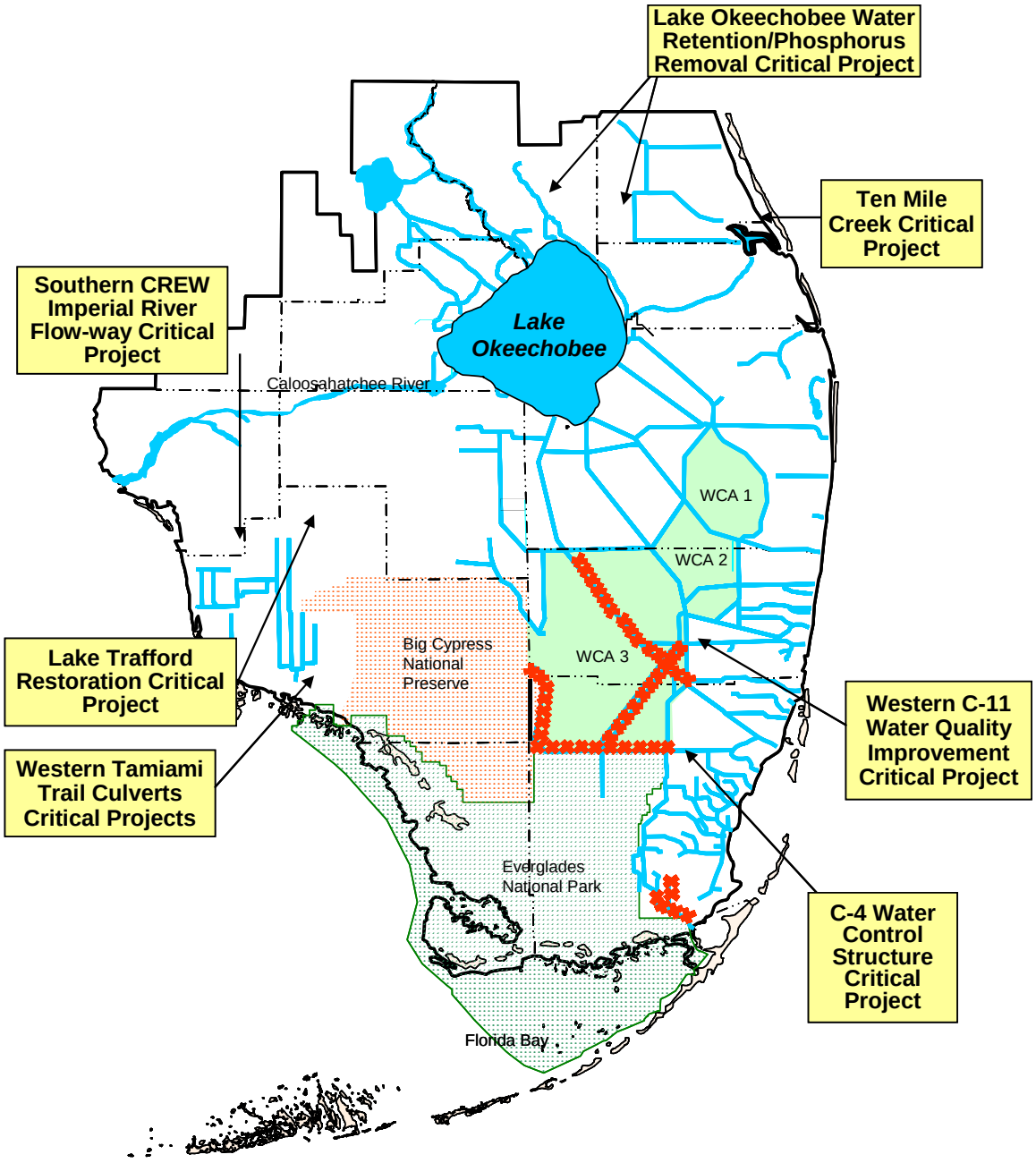

Figure 2-3. General location of Critical Restoration Projects.

Ten Mile Creek. The construction Notice to Proceed was issued in October 2003, and ground breaking was celebrated in November 2003. Levee and pump station work progressed during FY2004. Archaeological evaluation of data continued throughout the year, as did preparation of the Draft Water Control Plan. Construction for this project, which is on time and within budget, is scheduled to be completed in December 2005.

Western Tamiami Trail Culverts. A contract for construction was awarded during June, and Phase I construction commenced with issuance of the Notice to Proceed in September 2004. Construction for this project, which is currently on time and within budget, is scheduled to be completed in May 2006.

Western C-4 Water Control Structure. Construction was completed in May 2003.

Southern CREW/Imperial River Flowway. Phases II and III, which consist of land acquisition and restoration of historic sheetflow to approximately 2,720 and 1,280 acres, respectively, were in progress throughout FY2004. During the year, the SFWMD worked with homeowners on closings and relocations; removed portions of County Line Road to allow the sloughs to flow into the project site; plugged canals within Section 25 and other flow-ways; and completed title work and alignment activities. The project remains within budget and on time to meet its scheduled completion date of October 2004.

Lake Trafford Restoration. The construction contract was awarded in June 2004, and the project is within budget and on time to meet its scheduled completion date of September 2006.

Lake Okeechobee Water Retention/Phosphorus Removal. A ground-breaking ceremony was held on June 30, 2004 to mark construction on the Taylor Creek and Nubbin Slough STAs. The 190-acre STA on Grassy Land Ranch on Taylor Creek will be completed during 2005 and the 780-acre Nubbin Slough STA on the former New Palm/Newcomer Dairy site will be completed in early 2006.

Western C-11 Water Quality Improvement. FY2004 activities focused on the last phase of the project which involves construction of a new divide structure in the C-11 canal. Excavation of the cofferdam is complete, as is installation of sheet pilings, whalers, bracing, production anchors, and placement of concrete. The project is within budget, and completion is on target for December 2004.

Other SFWMD CERP Projects

Work has commenced on a number of other CERP projects; the SFWMD is the local sponsor for most of these other projects (**Table 2-9** and **Figure 2-4**). The PMPs have been completed for many of these projects, and PIRs have been initiated. As this report goes to publication, the MISP is nearing completion. Therefore, finalization of a number of project documents is shown below as TBD, or “to be determined”. Up-to-date information on these newly rescheduled projects can be found on the CERP Website at http://www.evergladesplan.org.

Table 2-9. Final approval of PMPs and PIRs for other CERP projects for which the SFWMD is the local sponsor.

SFWMD CERP Project Name	PMP Completion	PIR Completion
Acme Basin B Discharge	October 2003 (Actual)	April 2006 (Planned)
Big Cypress / L-28 Interceptor Modifications	TBD	TBD
Bird Drive Recharge Area	TBD	TBD
Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands	August 2002 (Actual)	June 2006 (Planned)
Broward County Secondary Canal System	TBD	TBD
Broward County Water Preserve Area	May 2004 (Actual)	September 2007 (Planned)
C-4 Structure	TBD	TBD
C-43 Basin ASR– Part 2	TBD	TBD
C-43 Basin Storage Reservoir – Part 1	February 2002 (Actual)	April 2007 (Planned)
C-111 Spreader Canal	March 2002 (Actual)	September 2010 (Planned)
Caloosahatchee Backpumping with STA	TBD	TBD
Central Lake Belt Storage	September 2011 (Planned)	March 2014 (Planned)
EAA Storage Reservoir – Part 1	January 2002 (Actual)	July 2005 (Planned)
EAA Storage Reservoir – Part 2	March 2005 (Planned)	September 2007 (Planned)
ENP Seepage Management	December 2006 (Planned)	December 2008 (Planned)
Florida Keys Tidal Restoration	April 2002 (Actual)	September 2004 (Planned)
Flow to NW & Central WCA-3A	May 2003 (Planned)	September 2004 (Planned)
Hillsboro ASR	October 2009 (Planned)	May 2011 (Planned)
Indian River Lagoon – South	July 2003 (Actual)	March 2004 (Planned)
Lake Istokpoga Regulation Schedule	N/A	N/A
Lake Okeechobee ASR	May 2010 (Planned)	October 2013 (Planned)
Lake Okeechobee Watershed	July 2001 (Actual)	September 2006 (Planned)
Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge Internal Canal Structures	September 2003 (Planned)	December 2004 (Planned)
Melaleuca Eradication and Other Exotics	September 2004 (Actual)	November 2007 (Planned)
Modify Holey Land Wildlife Management Area Operation Plan	June 2004 (Planned)	N/A

SFWMD CERP Project Name	PMP Completion	PIR Completion
Modify RWMA Operation Plan	June 2004 (Planned)	N/A
North Lake Belt Storage Area	September 2011 (Planned)	March 2014 (Planned)
North Palm Beach County – Part 1	December 2003 (Planned)	June 2005 (Planned)
North Palm Beach County – Part 2	October 2009 (Planned)	April 2012 (Planned)
Palm Beach County Agricultural Reserve Reservoir	June 2006 (Planned)	May 2008 (Planned)
Site 1 Impoundment	November 2003 (Planned)	January 2006 (Planned)
Southern Golden Gate Estates Hydrologic Restoration	March 2001 (Actual)	October 2004 (Planned)
Strazzulla Wetlands	December 2003 (Planned)	N/A
WCA-3A & 3B Flows to Central Lake Belt	TBD	TBD
WCA-3 Decomp and Sheetflow Enhancement – Part 1	April 2002 (Actual)	TBD
WPA Conveyance	TBD	TBD

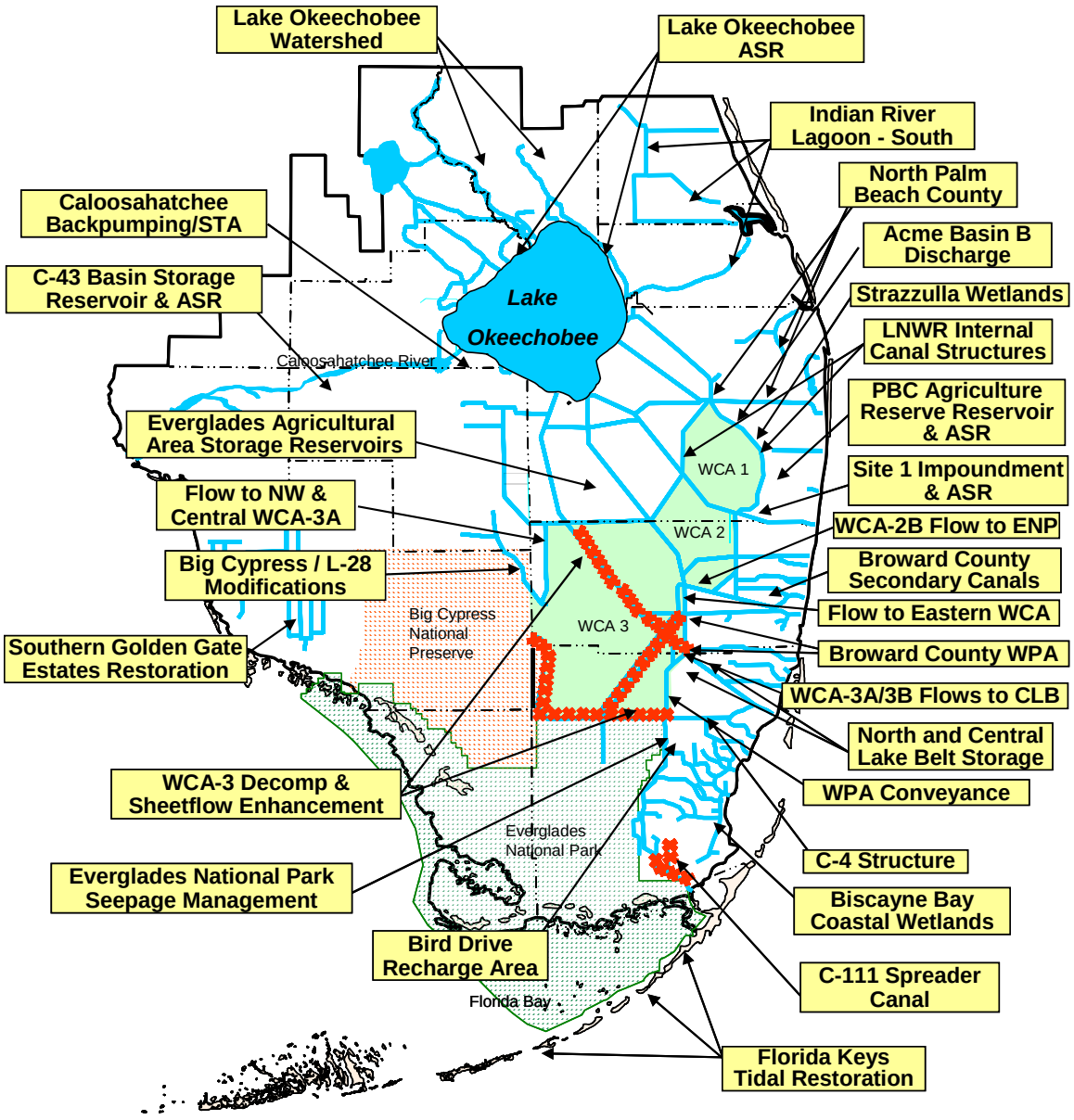

Figure 2-4. General locations of other CERP projects currently being implemented.

Acme Basin B Discharge. The PMP was completed in October 2003. The SFWMD is evaluating the option of initiating design prior to project authorization, or pursuing the project on a dual track with PIR development in order to comply with the Everglades Forever Act target date of December 2006. Work is on time and within budget to meet the scheduled completion date of September 2009.

Bird Drive Recharge Area. This project previously was accelerated three years, but was placed on hold during FY2004, while work continued on developing the project schedule and cost estimates, which will be incorporated into a PMP.

Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands. During FY2004, land acquisition, salinity data acquisition, and model development continued, and wells were installed in the project area. This project is on time and within budget.

Broward County Secondary Canal System. This project has not started.

Broward County Water Preserve Area. Development of the PIR was in progress during FY2004. This project is on time and within budget.

C-4 Structure. This project is on hold; work may be proposed under a separate authority, or performed by the SFWMD.

C-43 Basin ASR– Part 2. This project has not started.

C-43 Basin Storage Reservoir – Part 1. The PMP is under revision to reflect updated information that is needed to complete the PIR.

C-111 Spreader Canal. During FY2004, PIR activities were in progress: real estate mapping was completed, performance measures were finalized, and alternative plans and screening criteria were developed. Seventy-three percent of the real estate has been acquired for this project. Work continues on model development and data analysis. This project is on time and within budget.

Caloosahatchee Backpumping with STA. This project has not started.

Central Lake Belt Storage Area. This project has not started.

EAA Storage Reservoirs – Phase 1. The SFWMD is undertaking an effort to expedite this project, which will result in starting the initial construction phase in 2006; completion is scheduled for 2009, which is three years ahead of schedule.

EAA Storage Reservoirs – Phase 2. This project has not started.

ENP Seepage Management. This project has not started.

Florida Keys Tidal Restoration. With the exception of the baseline monitoring collection effort, which has progressed under an external contract, this project was placed on hold during FY2004 pending implementation of the MISP. All other work on delivery of PIR products has been halted at the direction of the USACE.

Flow to Northwest and Central WCA-3A. The PMP was initiated in October 2002, but was stopped in March 2003, and has remained on hold throughout FY2004.

Hillsboro ASR– Part 2. This project has not started.

Indian River Lagoon–South. The USACE Chief's Report was completed and signed on August 6, 2004. Surveys in the C-23/24 STA were completed, and additional lands were acquired for the STA and reservoirs during FY2004. Analysis of the C-44 Reservoir and STA public/private partnership proposal continues, as do cultural resource surveys. An independent consulting firm has been contracted by the SFWMD to develop 30 percent plans.

Lake Istokpoga Regulation Schedule. The Lake Istokpoga Regulation Schedule Review Project was incorporated into the Lake Okeechobee Watershed Project, which will enable efficient consideration of operational and structural solutions that address water resources issues in both lakes.

Lake Okeechobee Aquifer Storage and Recovery. This project has not started.

Lake Okeechobee Watershed. The draft PMP was released in December 2003, and the final document was approved in June 2004. Also during FY2004, optimization of Planning Area Alternatives and model development were in progress as part of the PIR process.

Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge Internal Canal Structures. This project has not started.

Melaleuca Eradication and Other Exotic Plants. The PMP was developed during FY2004. The SFWMD is now the local sponsor for this project, which is on time and within budget.

Modify Holey Land Wildlife Management Area Operation Plan. This project has not started.

Modify Rotenberger Wildlife Management Area (RWMA) Operation Plan. This project has not started.

North Lake Belt Storage Area. This project has not started.

North Palm Beach County – **Part 1.** The PMP was completed in July 2004. Early work on the PIR started with modeling activities to support alternatives development. The L-8 Reservoir Phase 2 and 3 Operations Plan was completed. Work continued on the L-8 Reservoir Testing Project implementation of Water Quality Monitoring Plan and Operating Plan.

North Palm Beach County – Part 2. This project has not started.

Palm Beach County Agricultural Reserve Reservoir – Part 1. This project has not started.

Site 1 Impoundment. Alternatives formulation, modeling, NEPA activities, and PIR development efforts were in progress throughout FY2004. This project is on time and within budget.

Southern Golden Gate Estates (Picayune Strand) Hydrologic Restoration. The SFWMD accelerated construction of the first phase of this project, breaking ground in the first quarter of FY2004 to return sheetflow by backfilling Prairie Canal seven years ahead of schedule. In the fourth quarter, the FDEP approved the final phase to restore 50,000 acres of wetlands.

Strazzulla Wetlands. The PMP was completed in October 2003. This project is on time and within budget.

WCA-3A and 3B Flows to Central Lake Belt. This component was on hold during FY2004 until further analysis determines the most feasible location.

WCA-3 Decomp and Sheetflow Enhancement – Part 1. This project previously was placed on hold pending resolution of the Modified Water Deliveries Project 8.5 Square Mile Area flood mitigation endeavor. During FY2004, PIR activities again were halted pending revision of the PMP.

Water Preserve Area Conveyance. This project is currently on hold.

Other CERP Projects for which the SFWMD is not the Local Sponsor

Big Cypress/L-28 Interceptor Modifications. This project is scheduled to start in March 2005, although no local sponsor has been designated.

Henderson Creek/Belle Meade Restoration. The FDEP is the local sponsor of this project, which has not started.

Lakes Park Restoration. PMP development progressed during FY2004; the final document is anticipated to be approved in December 2004. This project is on time and within budget.

Miccosukee Water Management Area. An agreement is pending for this project.

Restoration of Pineland and Hardwood Hammocks in C-111 Basin. An agreement between the USACE and Miami-Dade County is pending for this project.

Seminole Tribe Big Cypress Reservation Water Conservation Plan. An agreement between the Seminole Indian Tribe of Florida and the USACE is pending for this project.

South Miami-Dade Reuse. An agreement between the USACE and Miami-Dade County is pending for this project.

West Miami-Dade Reuse. An agreement between the USACE and Miami-Dade County is pending for this project.

Winsberg Farms Wetlands Restoration. The PMP was completed in May 2004.

LEGAL FRAMEWORK

Section 373.470(7), F.S., requires the submission of a single CERP Annual Report from the SFWMD and the FDEP.

Section 601(h) of the Water Resources Development Act of 2000 states that the overarching purpose of the Comprehensive Plan is the restoration, preservation, and protection of the South Florida ecosystem, while providing for the other water-related needs of the region including water supply and flood protection. The subsection, entitled "Assurances of Project Benefits," directs that the plan be implemented to achieve and maintain the benefits to the natural system and human environment described in the plan. As part of these assurances, Section 601(h) requires that the Secretary of the Army promulgate programmatic regulations to ensure that the goals and purposes of the Comprehensive Plan are achieved. Section 601(h) requires that these programmatic regulations be developed within two years of the date of enactment; after notice and opportunity for public comment; with the concurrence of the governor and the secretary of the interior; and in consultation with the Seminole Indian Tribe of Florida; the Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida; the administrator of the USEPA; the secretary of commerce; and other federal, state, and local agencies.

The Everglades Forever Act, which was passed by the Florida Legislature in 1994, replaces the Marjory Stoneman Douglas Act.

The Preservation 2000 Trust Fund was created in 1990 (Section 259.101, F.S.)

The Water Resources Development Act of 2000 (WRDA 2000, Public Law 106-541) requires that the CERP be integrated with existing federal and state activities in accordance with Section 528 of the WRDA 1996 (Public Law 104-303).

Water Resources Development Act of 1996, in Section 528, authorized the USACE to develop the Comprehensive Plan and requires that it be submitted to Congress by July 1, 1999. It also authorizes the Critical Projects Program at a maximum federal cost of $75 million.