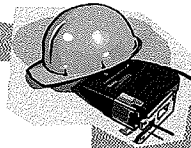


Public Works at Work



Published by Public Works Administration to highlight
Transportation, Construction, Utility and Environmental projects.

Inside this Issue:

Map of Current ProjectsPgs. 2-3

Captiva Drive Restoration.....Page 4

Household Chemical Waste Dates.....Page 4

Natural Resources Division

Caloosahatchee River and Estuary Receives Additional Protection from the State Legislature and Governor Crist

This year, the Florida Legislature unanimously passed landmark environmental legislation to expand the Lake Okeechobee Protection Act to safeguard and restore the entire northern Everglades system, including the Lake Okeechobee watershed as well as the Caloosahatchee and St. Lucie rivers and estuaries. Over the next two years, the law calls for the development of far-reaching plans to protect and improve the quality, quantity, timing and distribution of water in the northern Everglades ecosystem.

This year alone, Lee County, the State and the South Florida Water Management District will dedicate \$15 million for the Caloosahatchee River and Estuary while the South Florida Water Management District will contribute another \$200 million to benefit the Everglades, Lake Okeechobee and the Caloosahatchee and St. Lucie rivers and estuaries. In total, an additional \$2 billion through 2020 will allow Florida to continue work already underway to restore the Everglades.



Commissioner Tammy Hall joins Governor Crist for the signing ceremony making the Northern Everglades/Estuary Protection Act law.

Caloosahatchee River and Estuary *(continued from page 1)*

The new law will help to fast-track planning and construction of projects that will provide additional water storage, and reduce harmful discharges to the Caloosahatchee estuary. The Florida Department of Environmental Protection and the South Florida Water Management District are charged with working with the local governments to develop the restoration plans and report back to the Florida Legislature as soon as next year. Much of the effort will be concentrated on projects to the north of Lake Okeechobee. These projects will improve both the quality and quantity of water flowing from the Kissimmee Basin into Lake Okeechobee, helping to preserve and protect the lake, the St. Lucie and Caloosahatchee estuaries. The funding that has been earmarked specifically for the Caloosahatchee watershed is a major step toward improving local and regional problems in the Caloosahatchee watershed.

As part of the plan to improve the health of the northern Everglades, Florida will set aside land, construct treatment wetlands and identify the water storage areas needed to improve the quality, timing and distribution of water into the natural system.

Additionally, the protection plans for Lake Okeechobee and the coastal estuaries will require improved best farming practices, the use of the best available "green" technologies to clean up pollutants, more stringent regulations for the application of wastewater residuals in the watershed and an accelerated timeline for implementing a Total Maximum Daily Load for the Caloosahatchee.

Project Manager: Kurt D. Harclerode, Operations Manager

The law extends the Save Our Everglades Trust Fund for 10 years through 2020 and expands its scope. Florida 2007 09