



South Florida Water Management District

WATER RESOURCES ACCOUNTABILITY AND COLLABORATION PUBLIC FORUM

AGENDA

August 27, 2020

10:00 AM

via Communications Media Technology

SFWMD.gov

FINAL

Moderator: Drew Bartlett, Executive Director, SFWMD

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Addressing High Water Levels in the Central Everglades

The Central Everglades (Water Conservation Areas) are an integral part of restoring the Greater Everglades Ecosystem. Flood protection and water management have altered the historic flow of water, resulting in billions of gallons of water being lost to tide. Various infrastructure projects and operational changes in the Central Everglades by the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) are helping to send more beneficial flows into Everglades National Park. However, current high-water levels in the Central Everglades have reduced habitat and led the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) to close the areas for the protection of wildlife. Also, current high-water levels in the Central Everglades restrict water deliveries from Lake Okeechobee.

Presenters will provide an overview of considerations for sending water south from the Central Everglades and into Everglades National Park.

- a) Historic/Natural Flows and System Alterations
Dr. Fred Sklar, Director of Everglades Systems Assessment, SFWMD
- b) Status of Restoration Projects that Address High Water Levels
 - Modified Water Deliveries, C-111 South Dade and Tamiami Trail Raising
Robert Johnson, Hydrologist and Director of South Florida Natural Resources Center, Everglades and Dry Tortugas National Parks
 - Central Everglades Planning Project (CEPP) South
Leslye Waugh, Project Manager, SFWMD

- Western Everglades Restoration Project (WERP)
Zulamet Vega-Liriano, Watershed Planning Technical Lead, U.S. Army
Corps of Engineers

 - c) Current Conditions and Operations to Reduce High Water Levels in the Central
Everglades
John P. Mitnik, Chief District Engineer and Assistant Executive Director,
SFWMD
3. Discussion from WRAC Public Forum Participants
 4. Public Comment
 5. Adjourn