



Ecosystem Restoration



Flood Protection



Water Needs



Public Engagement

# Highlights from the FY 2020/21 Budget

## *Achieving More Now For Florida's Environment*

Drew Bartlett  
Executive Director  
September 2020 Governing Board Meeting

## Mission

*“To safeguard and restore South Florida’s water resources and ecosystems, protect our communities from flooding, and meet the region’s water needs while connecting with the public and stakeholders.”*



*Florida Bay*



# Gov. Ron DeSantis and Achieving More Now for Florida's Environment



*Governor DeSantis announcing the Acquisition of Nearly 20,000 Acres of Critical Everglades Wetlands in the Central Everglades in January 2020*





*Blasting at the EAA Reservoir Project Site*



# Continued Record State Funding \$422.7 Million

## ➤ \$420.4M Continued Improvements for Water Quality, Quantity and Supply

- \$368.6M Everglades and Northern Everglades Restoration
  - \$284M Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP)
  - \$32.7M Restoration Strategies
  - \$47M Northern Everglades and Estuaries Protection
  - \$5M Dispersed Water Storage/"Water Farms"
- \$22.8M Water Quality Projects (Potential DEP Grant Funding)
- \$15M Alternative Water Supply (Potential DEP Grant Funding)
- \$12.5M Indian River Lagoon (Potential Funding with SJRWMD)
- \$1.5M Expanded Monitoring (Potential DEP Grant Funding)



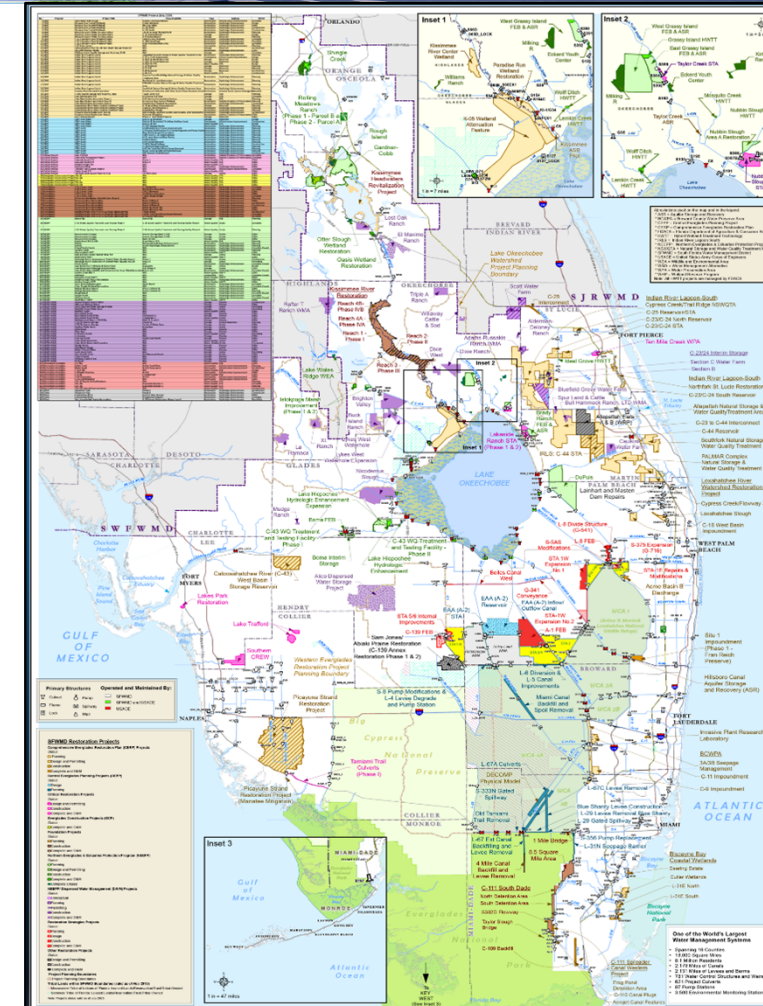
*Bald Eagle Flying Over the Central Everglades*

## ➤ \$2.3M Land Management



# Budget Highlights

- Implementing Gov. DeSantis' Executive Order 19-12
- Advancing and expediting 130+ critical projects that improve water quality, reduce discharges, and send more water south
- Increasing Opportunities for Restoration and Resiliency Projects through Grants
- Continuing increased monitoring efforts and pollution control programs and projects to address Harmful Algal Blooms
- Supporting the doubled python removal program, which has removed 3,500+ pythons from the Everglades
- Keeping benefit costs low and providing cost of living adjustments to hard-working staff
- Improving our outreach, transparency and public engagement efforts
- Investing in addressing sea level rise and coastal resiliency
- Adding more reoccurring funds for flood protection infrastructure

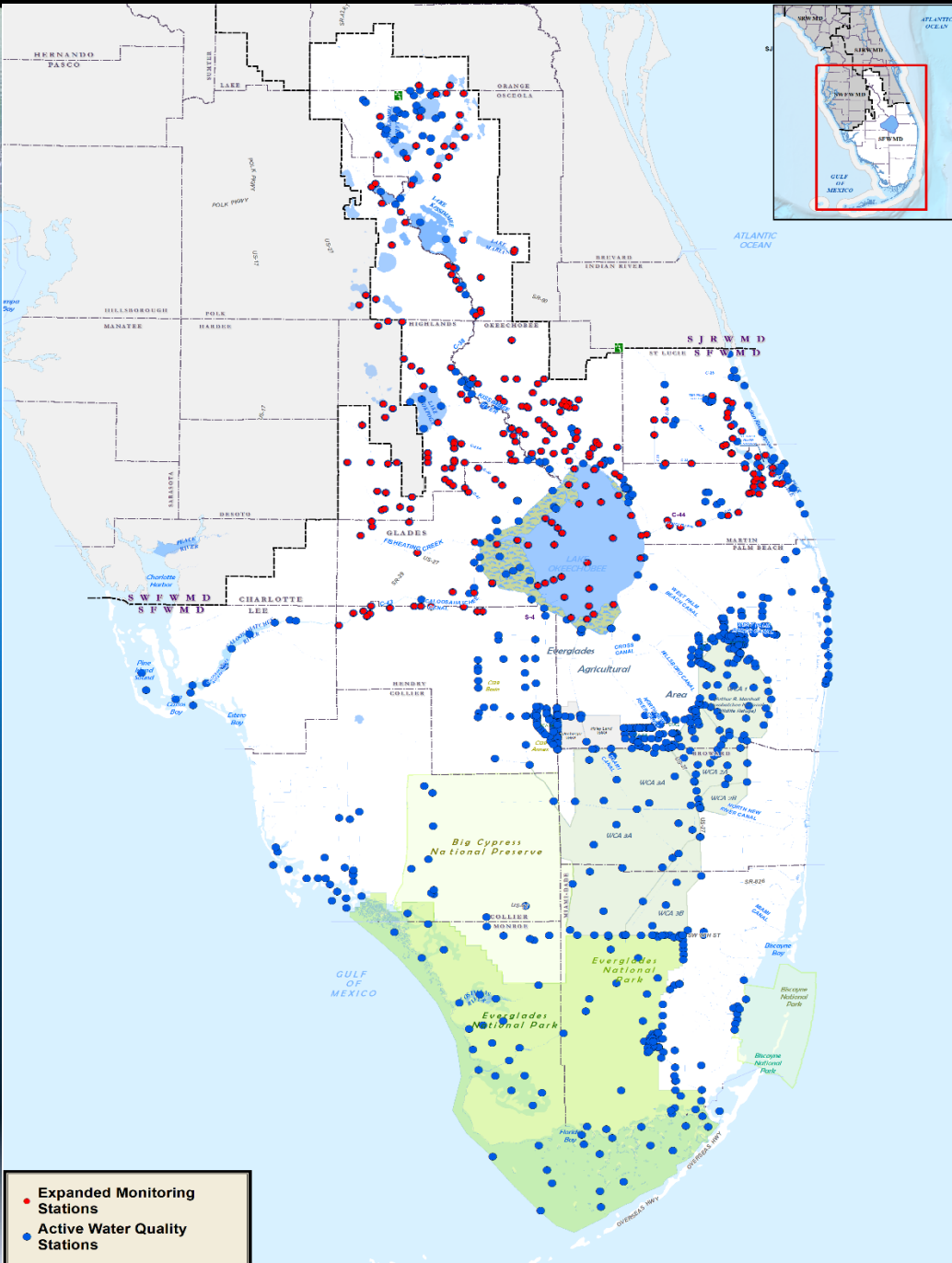


130+ Active Projects

Presenter: Drew Bartlett 6



## Science, Monitoring, Water Supply \$70.2 Million



Water Quality Sampling on Lake Okeechobee



# Science and Monitoring

## \$32.7 Million Research, Data Collection, Analysis & Monitoring

- Expanded Northern Everglades Monitoring
- Lake Okeechobee Watershed Protection plan including in-lake assessment projects & expanded monitoring
- Biscayne and Florida Bay Assessments
- Lake Worth Lagoon Monitoring
- On-going C&SF project monitoring and assessment
- Regional modeling and analysis
- Regional Water Quality monitoring and assessment
- CERP Recover and Adaptive Assessment and Monitoring
- STA operations monitoring
- Everglades research and evaluation



*Biscayne Bay*



# Water Management Planning and Supply

## \$37.5 Million Water Management Planning & Water Supply Development Assistance

- Alternative Water Supply Projects
- Regional and Sub-Regional Water supply plan development
- Hydrogeologic data collection
- Estuary Research and Monitoring Watershed Protection plan implementation
- Central Florida Watershed Initiative (CFWI)



*Reclaimed Water is often recognized by the use of purple pipes*



*Sunset in South Florida*



# Everglades Restoration Projects: \$739 Million



*Recent Blasting at the EAA Reservoir Project Site*



*Governing Board Member Charlette Roman Visiting the Caloosahatchee Reservoir with Major General Graham*



# Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP)

## \$519.4 million for CERP Projects:

- EAA Reservoir Project
- Central Everglades Project
- Lake Okeechobee Watershed Restoration Plan
- Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetland
- Caloosahatchee Reservoir



*Alley North Colony in the Central Everglades*



# Northern Everglades & Estuaries Protection Program (NEEPP)

## \$122 million for Northern Everglades & Estuaries Protection Program (NEEPP) Projects:

- 9 Proposed New Water Quality Grant Projects
- Indian River Lagoon WQ Projects
- 25 Dispersed Water Management Projects
- Lakeside Ranch Phase II
- Brady Ranch
- Grassy Island
- Taylor Creek/Nubbin Slough/S191 Basin ASR
- Lake Hicpochee Restoration
- C-43 Boma



*Black-bellied Whistling Ducks at the Lykes West Waterhole Project*



# Restoration Strategies

## \$98 million for Delivering Clean Water to America's Everglades

- STA-1 West Expansion 2
- Bolles Canal Hydrologic Conveyance Improvements Construction
- C-139 Flow Equalization Basin (FEB)
- STA-1 East Enhancements



*Stormwater Treatment Areas provide both water quality benefits and excellent habitat for wildlife (STA-1W)*



# Flood Protection Infrastructure, Conservation Lands, and Harmful Plants and Animals: \$305.4 million



*SFWMD Control Room*



*Water Control Structure*



*Removing Harmful Vegetation*



*Natural Biocontrols Help  
Manage Invasive Plants*



# Operating and Maintaining Flood Protection Infrastructure

➤ **\$237.3 million for the management of 4,310 miles of canals and levees, 785 water control structures & weirs, 621 smaller project culverts, 87 pump stations**

- \$60 million for maintenance of South Florida's flood protection system
- \$100 million for ongoing operations and maintenance of the Central and Southern Florida Project (C&SF), Basin and STAs
- \$6.6 million to address Coastal Resiliency and Sea Level Rise
- \$61 million Hurricane/Emergency Reserves



*SFWMD Pump Stations provide important flood protection to many South Florida communities.*



# Stewarding Conservation Lands and Managing Harmful Plants and Animals

## ➤ \$33.7M Invasive and Harmful Exotic Plant and Species Control

- Implement herbicide reduction goals
- Continuation of Python Program as directed by Gov. DeSantis
- Exotic/harmful plant and animal management
- Bio-controls

## ➤ \$34.4M Land Management

- Protection and management of 400,000+ acres
- Land stewardship of conservation lands
- Restoration and monitoring, prescribed burns, public use and security, vegetation management
- C-139 Annex Restoration Project



*New SFWMD Python Removal Agent Amy Siewe recently captured this massive 17-foot python*



# Regulation and Enforcement Public Engagement: \$25.4 Million



*Ensuring Water Resources are Protected through Permitting*



*Irrigation Ordinances with Local Governments Help Save Water*



# Regulation and Enforcement Outreach, Public Engagement, and Transparency

## ➤ \$22.3 million Regulation

- Monitoring to meet source control requirements
- Enforcement and Compliance Activities
- Regulation & Consumptive Use Permitting
- Environmental Resource Permitting

## ➤ \$3.1 million Outreach, Public Engagement, and Transparency

- Provide critical emergency communications and coordination during storms
- Provide clear, concise, and consistent information to support the District's mission.
- Increase awareness of flood protection, restoration work, and water management resource issues.
- Engage and educate the public and stakeholders.



*Emergency Communications*



*Control Room*



# Attracting and Keeping the Best and Brightest Staff

## \$51 Million

### ➤ \$51 Million for Making SFWMD an Employer of Choice

- Providing cost of living adjustments to hard-working staff
- Absorbing Cost of Rising Healthcare Premiums
  - No Increase in Premiums for Employees
- Keeping Benefit Costs Low
- Education/Tuition Reimbursement
- Professional Development
- Uniform Stipends
- Competitive Vacation/Leave Time



#### August Employee of the Month

**Kevin Pagan**  
Sr. Purchasing Specialist



*SFWMD's Dedicated Staff*





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Flood Protection



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Public Engagement

Learn More  
[SFWMD.gov/Budget](https://sfwmd.gov/Budget)