

# Chapter 8C: Land Acquisition in Support of Projects in the Everglades Region

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Acquiring the land necessary for water resource management is a critical component of restoring the Everglades. The South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD or District) continues to be successful in aggressively acquiring lands in support of various projects and programs throughout the region. The District's acquisition progress is guided by a strategy that promotes the timely and cost-effective purchase of land. This acquisition strategy prioritizes the purchase of land based on authorized project construction schedules, willing sellers, land threatened by potential development, and land in areas of rapidly escalating property values. In Water Year 2003 (WY2003) (May 1, 2002 through April 30, 2003), the District successfully executed this strategy to acquire 13,165 acres of land to be used for reservoirs and Stormwater Treatment Areas (STAs) and improve the region's flood control system, drainage, and water supply. Land acquisitions during WY2003 are summarized and described by project in **Table 8C-1**.

The majority of the land acquired in WY2003 will go toward addressing land requirements of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP). Slightly less than 92 percent of lands acquired, or 12,057 acres of the lands acquired in WY2003, are earmarked for use by CERP projects. The remaining 1,108 acres, or 8 percent of the lands acquired within the Everglades region, contribute to the total District Save Our Rivers (SOR) lands that are not linked to a CERP project.

Lands acquired for CERP will be used to provide enhanced water quality, quantity, timing, and distribution. The 9,342 acres of land acquired for the Indian River Lagoon-South project will be used for the C-23 North Reservoir, the C-23 South Reservoir, and the Allapattah Complex. The 1,220 acres acquired for the North Palm Beach County - Part 1 project will be used for the C-51 and L-8 Reservoir. The 253 acres acquired for the Broward County Water Preserve Area (WPA) project will be used for construction of the C-11 Impoundment, the C-9 Impoundment, and the Water Conservation Area 3A/3B (WCA-3A/3B) Levee Seepage Management Area. Approximately 80 percent of the land required for the Broward County WPA project has been acquired. Additional acquisitions within the WPA region included 126 acres for the WPA Conveyance project, 571 acres for the Palm Beach County Agriculture Reserve Reservoir - Part 1 project, and 28 acres for the Central Lake Belt Storage - Part 1 project. The District continues its aggressive acquisition program in Miami-Dade County, acquiring 101 acres for the Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetland project and 418 acres for the Bird Drive Recharge Area project.

Several major acquisitions were accomplished in WY2003 to increase District land holdings for CERP projects. The District completed acquisition of 7,260 remaining acres of Allapattah Ranch for the Indian River Lagoon-South project. Acres acquired for the North Palm Beach County - Part 1 project include the Palm Beach Aggregates, Inc. acquisition, a combined

purchase of land and construction over six years of the L-8 Reservoir. This design-build acquisition will allow the component to be placed into service six years before the original CERP, yellow book schedule.

The 12,057 acres acquired in WY2003 increased the total lands available for use by CERP projects to 192,627 acres, representing 48 percent of the estimated land needed for CERP projects. The remaining acres acquired in WY2003 were located within SOR projects. These non-CERP acquisitions included the purchase of 771 acres within the East Coast Buffer, Water Preserve Areas, and 337 acres within the Water Conservation Areas.

The District's acquisition successes of WY2003 were possible only with the support of and through coordination with local, state, and federal governments, state and federal agencies, and the general public.

**Table 8C-1.** Land acquisitions for Water Year 2003 (WY2003).

<b>CLOSINGS FOR WY2003 (MAY 1, 2002 THROUGH APRIL 30, 2003)</b>	
<b>CERP PROJECTS (ID)</b>	<b>LAND AREA (ACRES)</b>
<b>Indian River Lagoon-South (7), C-23 North Reservoir, C-23 South Reservoir, and Allapattah Complex</b>	9,342
<b>North Palm Beach County - Part 1 (17), C-51 and L-8 Reservoir</b>	1,220
<b>Palm Beach County Agriculture Reserve Reservoir - Part 1 (20)</b>	571
<b>Central Lake Belt Storage - Part 1 (26)</b>	28
<b>Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetland (28)</b>	101
<b>Bird Drive Recharge Area (43), Deep and Shallow Water</b>	418
<b>Broward County Water Preserve Areas (45), C-11 Impoundment, C-9 Impoundment, and WCA- 3A/3B Levee Seepage Management</b>	253
<b>WPA Conveyance (49)</b>	126
<b>Acres (percent) of land acquired during WY2003 for use by CERP projects</b>	<b>12,057 (91.6%)</b>

SOR PROJECTS	PURPOSE OR COMMENT	LAND AREA (ACRES)
<b>East Coast Buffer, Water Preserve Areas</b>	Marshes, reservoirs, and groundwater recharge areas that abut East Coast protective levee	771
<b>Water Conservation Areas</b>	Part of the original Central and Southern Florida Flood Control project	337
<b>Acres (percent) of land acquired during WY2003 for SOR projects</b>		<b>1,108 (8.4%)</b>
<b>Total Acres (percent) acquired during WY2003</b>		<b>13,165 (100%)</b>