



LAKE OKEECHOBEE WATERSHED RESTORATION PROJECT UPDATE

Components of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP)

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Governing Board Meeting

Proposed Tentatively Selected Plan (TSP)

Alternative 1BW Wetland Attenuation Feature (WAF): Estimated Cost \$1.4 - 1.8 B

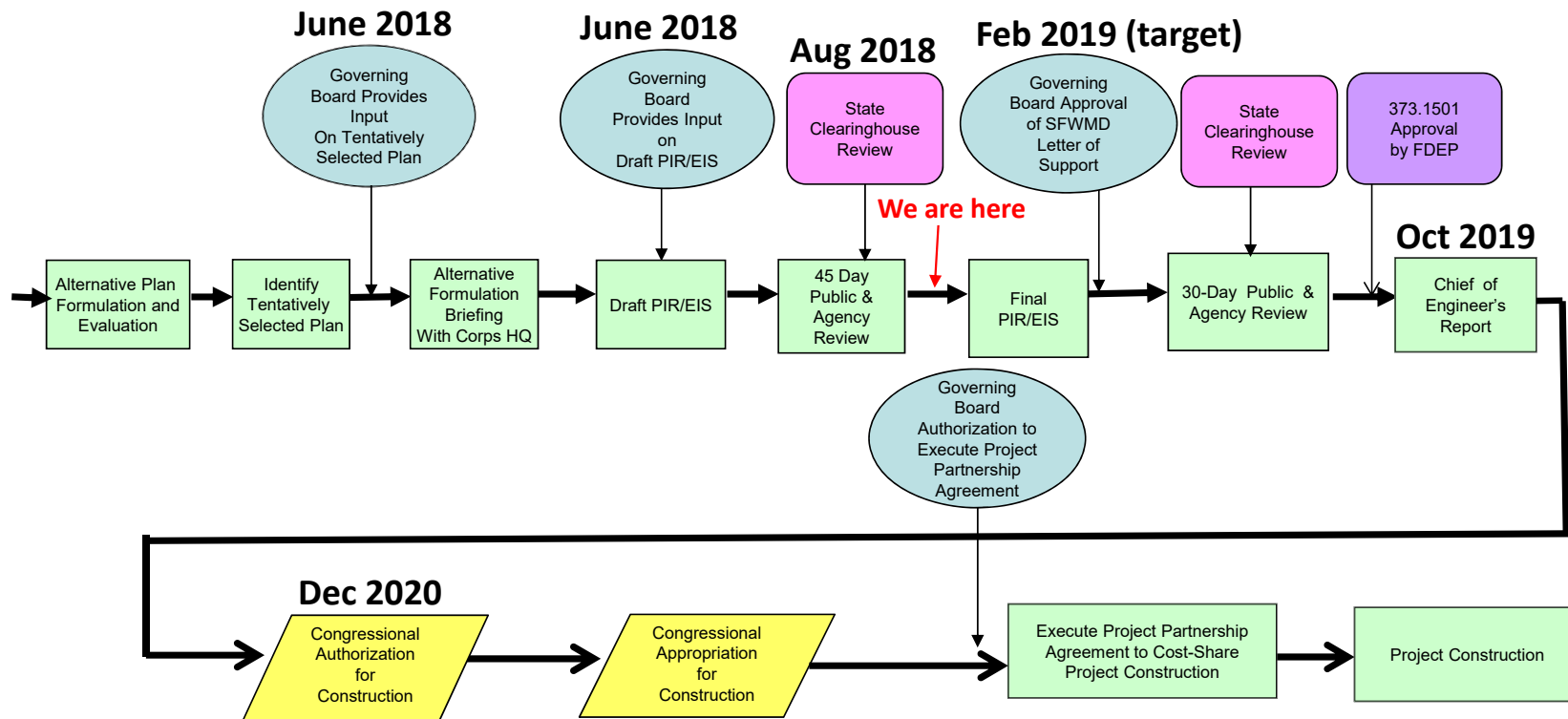


- Promotes resiliency of northern estuaries
- Promotes sustainability of Lake Okeechobee
- Increases spatial extent of wetlands in watershed
- Improves reliability of water supply
- The TSP will achieve the CERP goal of **80%** reduction in discharge events from Lake Okeechobee to the Northern estuaries. (When combined with the Everglades Agricultural Area Reservoir/CEPP planned by SFWMD last year)

<u>SHALLOW STORAGE:</u>	<u>AQUIFER, STORAGE & RECOVERY</u>	<u>WETLAND RESTORATION</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ K-05 WAF ~ 13,700 acres ▪ 48,000 acre-feet of storage 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 80 ASR wells ▪ 448,000 acre-feet of storage per year (400 MG/Day) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ KRC: ~1,200 acres ▪ PR: ~3,500 acres

*Lake Okeechobee Regulation Schedule revision/study starts in February 2019

State Input and Decision Points During Corps Project Implementation Process



Challenges

- **Water Quality***
 - **Aquifer storage and recovery wells (ASR) are a key element of northern storage that provide water that is essential to everglades restoration and water supply. Proposed USACE language:**
 - Is inconsistent with water quality policy (Woodley memo 2007)
 - Places cost share at risk
 - Is not aligned with DEP underground injection permitting requirements
- **Funding***
 - **Federal government is not meeting funding obligations for Operations, Maintenance, Repair, Rehabilitation and Replacement (OMRR&R)**
- Land acquisition
- Feedback from stakeholders
 - Seminole Tribe of Florida (STOF) community concerns
 - Glades County

**Broad implications to CERP program and cost share balance*



Staff Recommendation and Discussion

1. Staff strongly supports the benefits of the proposed Tentatively Selected Plan
2. Continue to seek resolution to challenges at the agency leadership level and also seek legislative support due to the broad implications for cost share in the CERP program
3. Prepare conditional letter of support and resolution for Governing Board consideration

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