

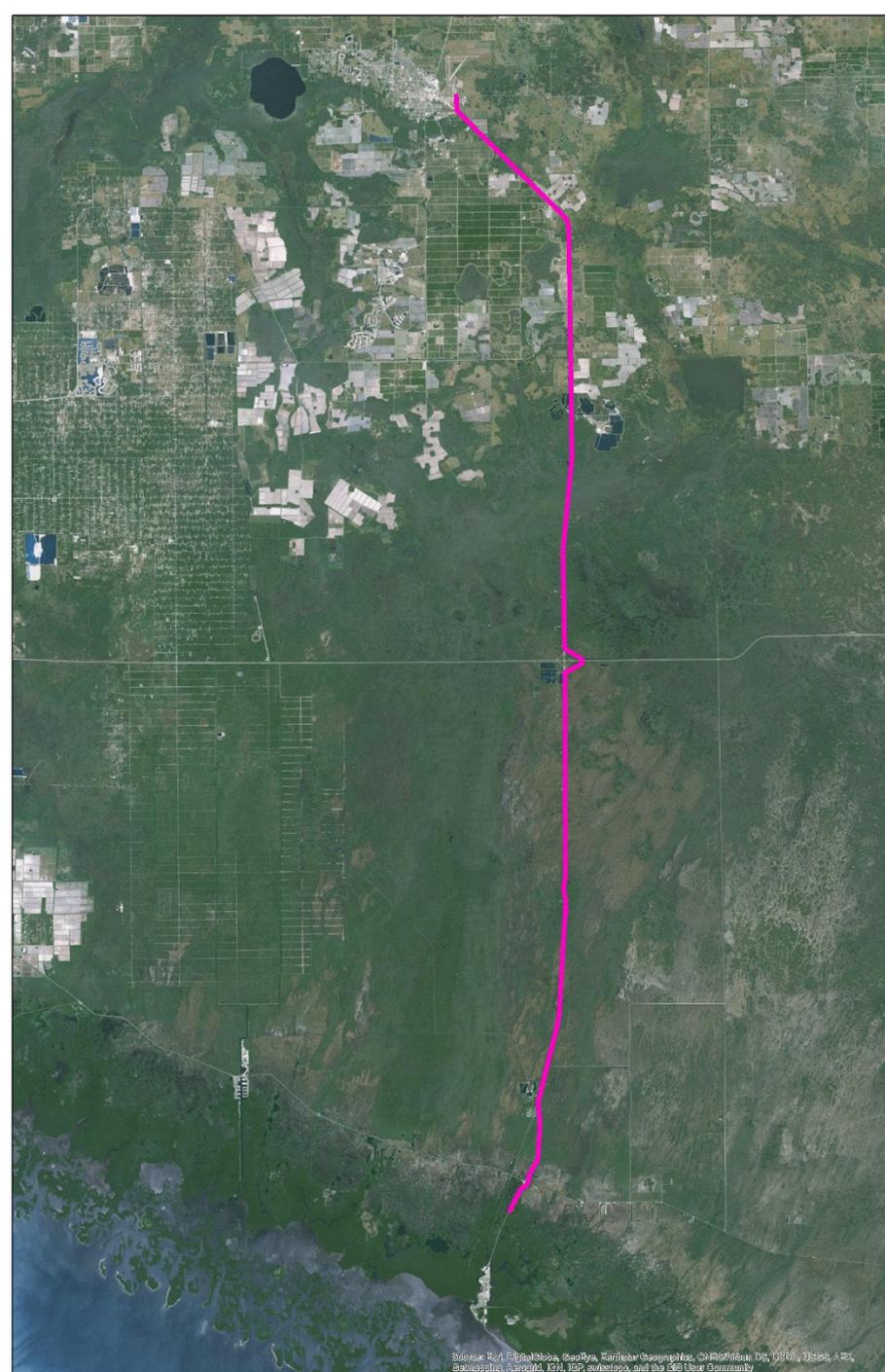
Barron (SR-29) Canal

January 28, 2016



Barron Canal

- We are before you today to talk to you about a multi-agency maintenance program for the Barron (SR-29) Canal.
- The canal runs from Immokalee to Everglades City.



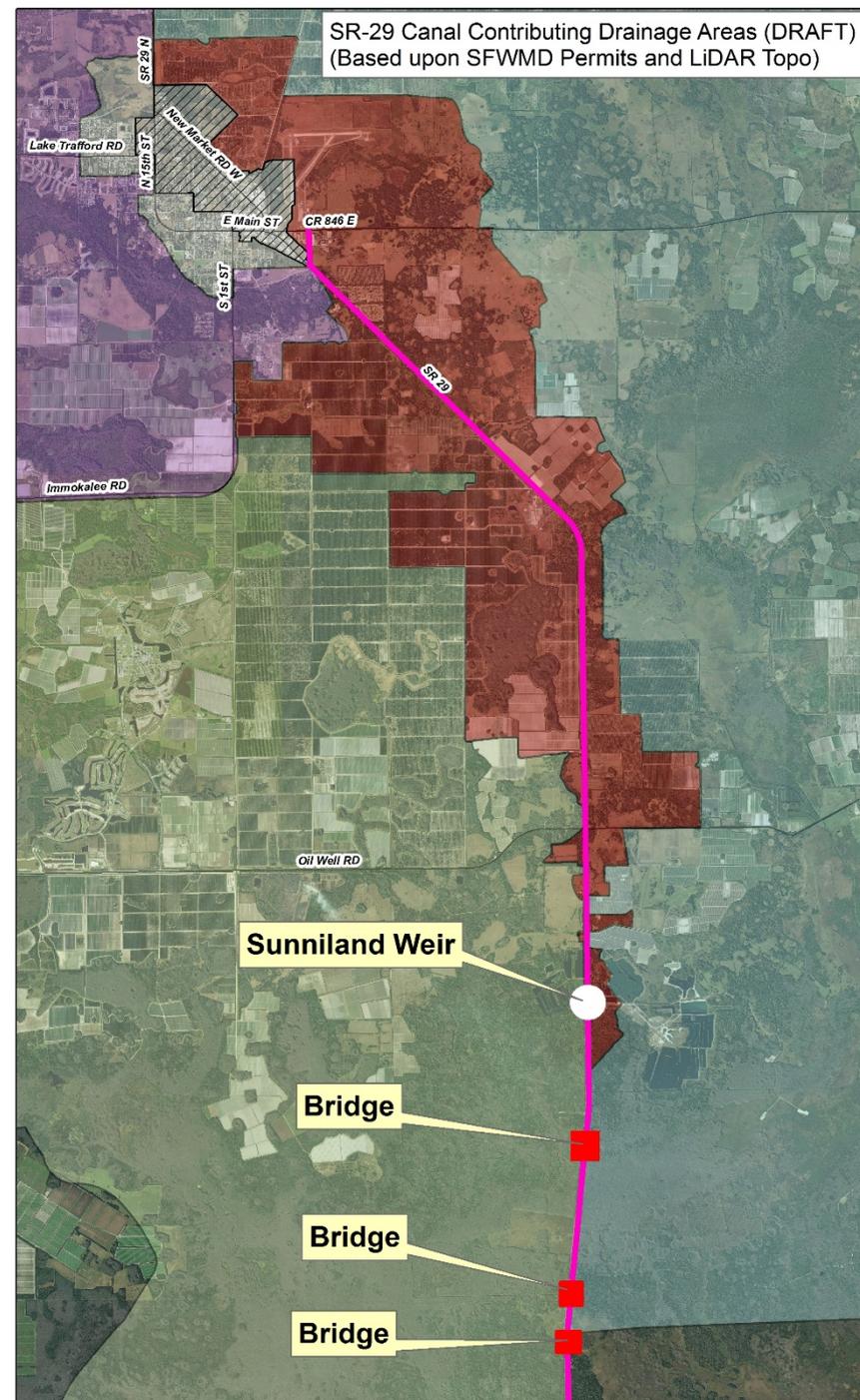
Barron Canal

- The canal was excavated in the 1920's to provide fill for the (former) railroad and road which runs parallel to the west of the canal.
- Over time the canal has become an important drainage outfall for a significant part of the Town of Immokalee, Farmworkers Village, SR-29, and many agricultural and preserve lands to the south of Immokalee.



Barron Canal

- Drainage Basin Map for the northern portion of the Barron (SR-29) Canal





Barron Canal

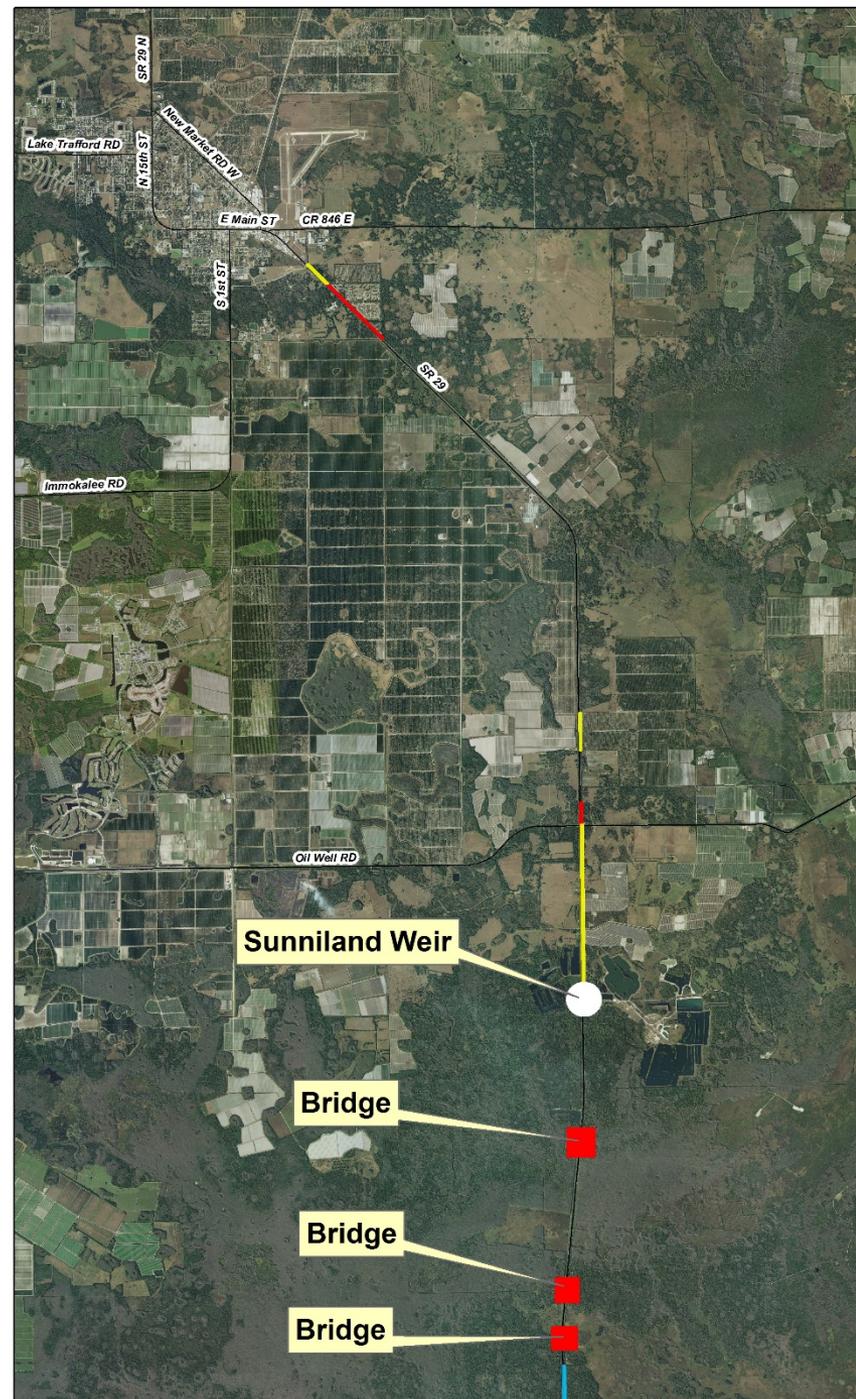
- The canal is mostly privately owned but Collier County does have drainage easements over the portions of the canal shown on the following map.
- A limited search of the Collier County Official Records shows that the State of Florida owns the canal from approximately 3 miles north of I-75 to 6 miles south of I-75.



Barron Canal

Red portions are County drainage easements.

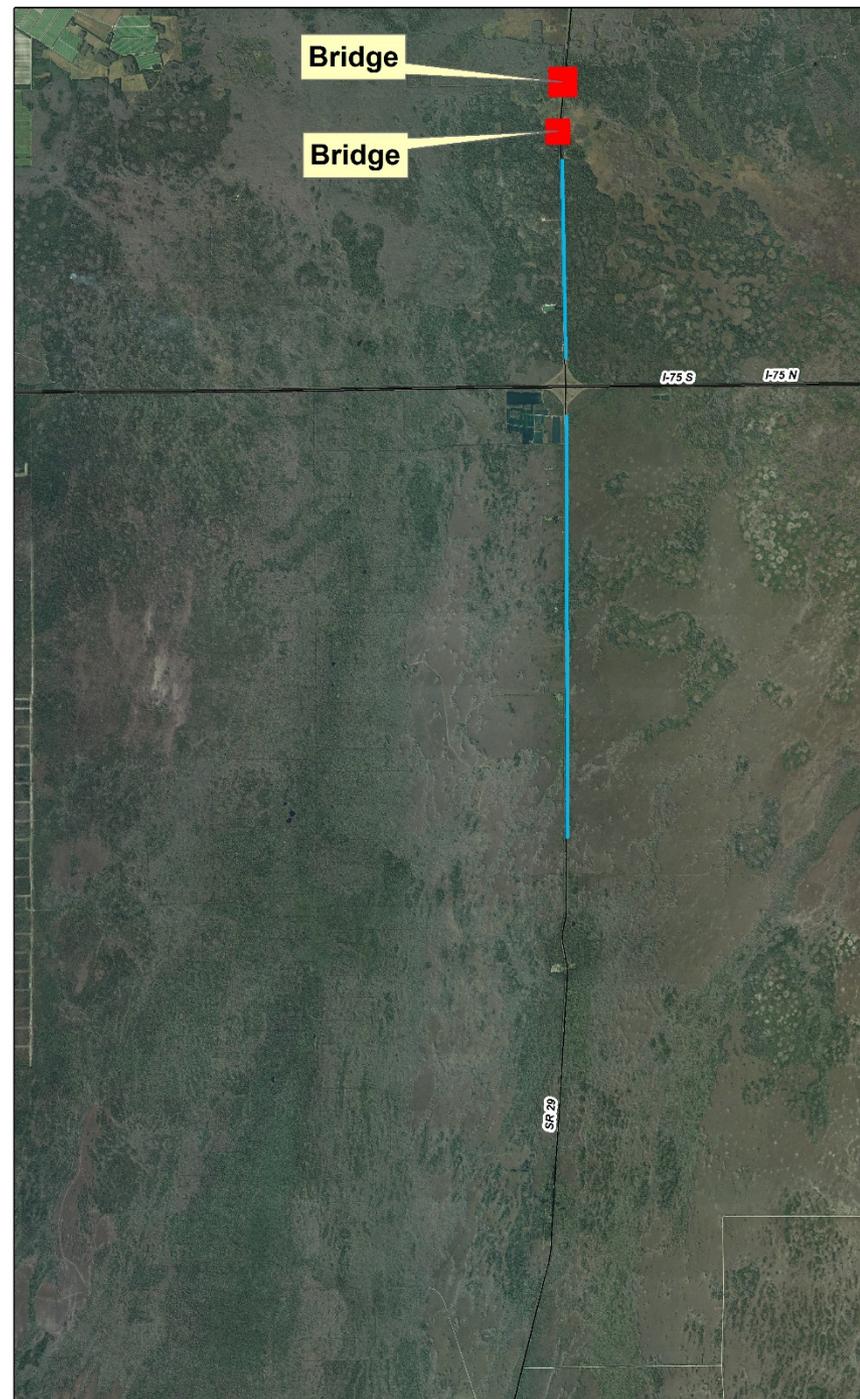
Yellow portions are not-yet-accepted County drainage easements.





Barron Canal

Blue portions are State (FDOT) owned canal areas.



Barron Canal

- Canal Maintenance History:
 - North of I-75
 - ✓ 1984 to 2002- Maintained by Collier County Storm Water Management
 - ✓ 2002 to 2012- Maintained by Collier County Road Maintenance through a cooperative agreement with FDOT
 - ✓ 2013 to Present – Generally unmaintained
 - South of I-75
 - ✓ Since approx. 2001, the BCB has provided maintenance on an as-needed basis for the first 6 miles of canal south of I-75 as well as for all of the weirs. (Big Cypress Basin Resolution 2001-11-1)



Barron Canal

- The lack of maintenance of the canal has caused drainage problems for the contributing properties.
- We would like to propose a multi-agency effort to regularly maintain this important canal.
- The agencies would be the
 - County
 - Big Cypress Basin
 - FDOT



Barron Canal

- In preparation for the upcoming 2016 summer “wet” season the County proposes the following plan of action:
 - County obtains right-of-entry letters from willing property owners north of I-75 and completes acceptance of existing drainage easements
 - County initiates efforts to obtain drainage easements where needed along the entire length of the Barron (SR-29) Canal.
 - County undertakes initial clean-out of canal north of I-75 with assistance of the Big Cypress Basin staff and equipment where clean-out cannot be accomplished from the canal bank.



Barron Canal

- For the upcoming FY-17 the County proposes the following plan of action:
 - County and BCB/SFWMD amend their cooperative agreement to identify the Barron (SR-29) Canal as a primary canal and assign maintenance responsibility to the BCB where FDOT is not the owner.
 - County works with FDOT to develop and implement a plan of action to coordinate their canal maintenance with the BCB.
 - County completes acquisition of drainage easements for the canal where not owned by FDOT.



Barron Canal

- It is not proposed that the Barron (SR-29) Canal cross section be expanded, but simply maintained.
- Where existing canal crossings (culverts, bridges, etc.) create flow restrictions, the County and BCB will work with the property owner to remove or replace the crossing.
- The County and BCB will coordinate efforts to work with FDOT in establishing canal maintenance access points along SR-29.