

TREASURE COAST REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

MEMORANDUM

To: Council Members AGENDA ITEM 9
From: Staff
Date: May 20, 2016 Council Meeting
Subject: Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan Update by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Introduction

At its meeting on February 19, 2016, Council requested an update on implementation of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP). The CERP provides a framework and guide to restore, protect, and preserve south Florida's natural ecosystem while improving water supplies and maintaining flood protection. The CERP was approved by the U.S. Congress in 2000. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) is the lead federal agency and the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) is the lead state agency in this effort.

Council staff has invited the Corps in cooperation with the SFWMD to make a presentation related to the current status of the CERP. Specifically, staff requested an overview of: 1) all projects contained under the CERP; 2) how much federal and state money to date has been spent on CERP projects; 3) what CERP projects have been completed and are underway; 4) what is the estimated schedule and cost for completing all CERP projects; and 5) once all CERP projects are completed, what will the net impact be on the frequency and volume of emergency discharges from Lake Okeechobee to the C-44 Canal. Additionally, staff asked if there are any ongoing or planned discussions between the Corps and SFWMD to increase surface water storage north and south of Lake Okeechobee. Representatives from the Corps have agreed to provide the requested information as part of their update.

Recommendation

For informational purposes only.