

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Governing Board Members

FROM: Drew Bartlett, Executive Office

DATE: December 11, 2025

SUBJECT: Celebration: 25th Anniversary of the Signing of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP)

Agenda Item Background:

America's most ambitious ecosystem restoration plan, the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP) was signed into law in 2000. Generations of scientists, engineers, stakeholders and leaders have worked to protect this one-of-a-kind ecosystem and advance Everglades projects. CERP is implemented by a federal-state partnership to restore, protect, and preserve the region's water resources by addressing the quantity, quality, timing and distribution of water in the Greater Everglades Ecosystem.

New data demonstrates the success of restoration projects across our region - proving recent investments and momentum are working. Major CERP projects including the Caloosahatchee (C-43) Reservoir, the St. Lucie (C-44) Reservoir, Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands and the Picayune Strand Restoration Project are coming online and the EAA Reservoir Project is now expected to be complete five years early.

Sustained commitment to restoration was also demonstrated by Congress in 2024 by authorizing major CERP components included in the Western Everglades Restoration Plan and Lake Okeechobee Component A Reservoir. In fact, over the last six years more water is moving through the Everglades improving salinity levels in Florida Bay and harmful estuary discharges from Lake Okeechobee are down dramatically. The unprecedented funding and momentum are making a real difference to protect Florida's precious natural resources, support our economy and restore America's Everglades.

Staff Contact and/or Presenter:

ATTACHMENTS: