

June 2007



just the **FACTS**

This fact sheet is provided as a reference to encourage a greater understanding of the various issues related to managing water in south Florida.

Additional SFWMD contacts:

Okeechobee Service Center

(863) 462-5260 or (800) 250-4200

Broward Regional Service Center

(954) 713-3200 or (877) 350-3897

Palm Beach County Service Center

(561) 682-2283 or (800) 432-2045

Miami-Dade Regional Service Center

(800) 250-4300 or (305) 377-7274

Lower West Coast Regional Svc Ctr

(239) 338-2929 or (800) 248-1201



sfwmd.gov

South Florida Water Management District
3301 Gun Club Road
West Palm Beach, Florida 33406
561-686-8800 FL WATS 1-800-432-2045
www.sfwmd.gov

MAILING ADDRESS P.O. Box 24680
West Palm Beach, FL 33416-4680

EAA Reservoir blasting begins near U.S. 27

Six-month project requires weekday road closures starting July 16

Continuing construction on the Everglades Agricultural Area Reservoir (EAA) is moving to the western edge of U.S. 27 through Palm Beach County, affecting drivers along a seven-mile stretch of the highway. Engineers and explosives technicians will be blasting through rock and soil within 150 feet of the highway's edge to create the EAA Reservoir's seepage canal.

The massive aboveground reservoir – An Everglades restoration project of the South Florida Water Management District – will hold 190,000 acre-feet or 62 billion gallons of water when complete. Once operational, the EAA Reservoir will store water released from Lake Okeechobee, reducing harmful freshwater discharges to coastal estuaries and providing storage for stormwater runoff from the Everglades Agricultural Area.

Construction details:

- On or after July 16, project blasting will begin near U.S. 27, about 15 miles south of South Bay.
- For the safety of the general public, all four lanes will closed for about one hour during weekday blasting. This will bring northbound and southbound traffic to a rolling stop between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. In unforeseen circumstances blasts could occur as early as 8 a.m. or as late as 5 p.m.
- Drivers are strongly urged to use another route to avoid delays.
- The project requires 133 blasts, one every weekday for six months, with each blast removing about 300 feet of rock.
- Blasts are occurring about 150 feet from the western edge of U.S. 27.
- All work will stop during inclement weather, or in other unforeseen circumstances, which could postpone the project's completion date. All work will stop if U.S. 27 is needed as a hurricane evacuation route.
- For up-to-date traveler information, drivers can call the Florida Department of Transportation at 511, or visit the website at <http://www.pbfdot.com>.
- For project information, contact Florida Department of Transportation Palm Beach County Public Information Manager Christie Klammer, (561) 641.6440, or South Florida Water Management District Project Coordinator Kimberley Koptak, (561) 682-6163.

Alternate routes:

- Northbound drivers in Broward County can take I-595 east to S.R. 7/S.R. 441 or take I-595 west to Interstate 75. Other routes are the Florida Turnpike or Interstate 95.
- Southbound drivers in Palm Beach County can use S.R. 80 east to S.R. 7/S.R. 441, the Florida Turnpike or I-95.
- Southbound drivers in Hendry County can use S.R. 80 east to S.R. 29.
- Southbound drivers in Lee County can use I-75 south.

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