South Florida Water Management District

Big Cypress Basin
Overview of Current Initiatives

Clarence Tears, Basin Administrator

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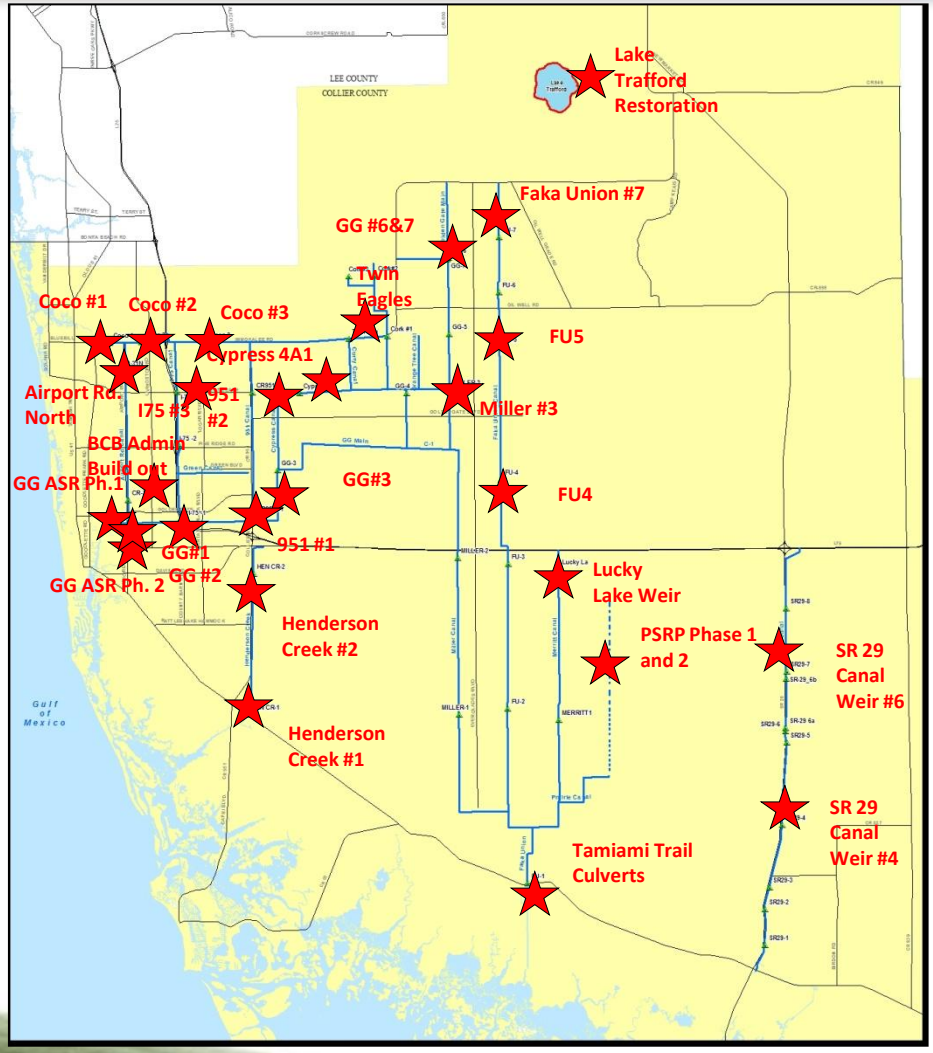
Big Cypress Basin Strategic Priorities

- Maximize Flood Protection
- Restore and protect Big Cypress Basin ecosystems
- Protect and improve inland and estuarine water to achieve water quality standards
- Ensure sustainable water supplies

Capital Improvement Projects Completed



- 50 projects since 1981
- Approx $60M

Average Annual Flows to Naples Bay

- 1964 -1984 = 316 cfs (204 MGD/626 AF/D)
- 1984-2002 – retrofitted 9 structures in GG system = 281 cfs (181 MGD/556 AF/D)
- 2002 -2011 - major retrofit of 8 more GG structures = 217 cfs (140 MGD/430 AF/D)
- Reduction from 1984 level =31%

Average Annual Flows to Naples Bay (continued)

- The GG Canal weir retrofits have created an additional average dry season conservation pool of 720 acre-feet (235 MG) annually for groundwater recharge since the structure retrofit program began in 1985.
- Equivalent to 14 days of water supply per year for the County's south plant or City of Naples.