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Florida’s Engineers Thank Governor DeSantis for Signing New State Budget Making Strong Investments in Florida’s Environment, Water Resiliency and Infrastructure

Addressing Water Flows North of Lake Okeechobee Is a Key Strategy for Restoring Florida’s Everglades

“Planning today for Florida’s long-term water and transportation solutions will help ensure our state continues to prosper for generations to come,” said Allen Douglas, American Council of Engineering Companies of Florida & Florida Engineering Society.

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (JUNE 2, 2021) – Florida’s engineers thank Governor Ron DeSantis for signing the 2021-2022 state budget into law, and making strong investments in Florida’s environment, water and transportation future.

Florida’s record level budget:

- Mitigates the impacts of sea level rise, including establishing a statewide resiliency program to address flooding.
- Expedites water storage north of Lake Okeechobee, further enhancing Everglades restoration.
- Retrofits existing roadways and route connections, and prioritizes widening projects on rural highways.

“Planning today for Florida’s long-term water and transportation solutions will help ensure our state continues to prosper for generations to come,” said Allen Douglas, Executive Director of the American Council of Engineering Companies of Florida (ACEC-FL) and the Florida Engineering Society (FES). “Thanks to Governor DeSantis, President Simpson, Speaker Sprowls and the Florida Legislature, Florida now has the opportunity to be a national example of laying the groundwork for long-term infrastructure resiliency.”
ACEC-FL and FES particularly applaud lawmakers for agreeing to provide $50 million for water storage north of Lake Okeechobee. Addressing water flows north of Lake Okeechobee is a key strategy for restoring Florida’s Everglades. Using Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR) technology, Florida will now have the ability to keep lake levels from rising too high in the wet season and make water available for release in the dry season.

“This is exactly the type of technology that’s needed to continue safely and effectively restoring Florida’s Everglades, Lake Okeechobee and our delicate coastal estuary systems,” Douglas added.

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ABOUT FES & ACEC-FL: The FES and ACEC-FL are the state’s leading organizations representing Florida’s professional engineers. FES represents more than 2,700 individual engineers working in private industry, government and higher education. ACEC-FL represents more than 350 engineering firms working in the transportation, water resources, energy and structural sectors. Learn more by visiting www.fleng.org.