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Lee Commissioners approve agreements to accept grants for water-quality projects

The projects are designed to improve the quality of water flowing to the Caloosahatchee

Fort Myers, FL, Aug. 19, 2025 – The Lee Board of County Commissioners on Tuesday voted to approve two agreements that will allow the county to construct projects to improve water quality flowing to the Caloosahatchee.

Through two interlocal agreements with the South Florida Water Management District, commissioners voted to accept:

- \$2.5 million in grant funds for the construction of a creek-diversion system with a shallow open-water wetland treatment area at Bob Janes Preserve, which is located north of North River Road in Alva.

The project is designed to restore the Bob Janes Preserve property to a more productive, native ecosystem while providing water-quality benefits for the Caloosahatchee River.

- \$1.5 million in grant funds to construct the Palm Creek Filter Marsh Project within Caloosahatchee Creeks Preserve East, which is south of Bayshore Road and east of Interstate 75.

The project will include a series of ponds and a wetland network to assist with the treatment of surface water for nutrient removal and related water-quality improvements.

The Caloosahatchee has a Total Maximum Daily Load for total nitrogen and is subject to a State of Florida Basin Management Action Plan.

The South Florida Water Management District received the grant dollars from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection. The grant funding will pay for the construction costs. Construction is expected to begin Spring 2026 and be complete Summer 2027.

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