For Immediate Release

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Fort Myers, FL

Will Reservoir Be a Dog? – A Public Forum

Another engagement is planned in the battle for the soggy hearts and minds of Southwest Floridians. On Wednesday, May 11 at 5:30pm in the Ft Myers downtown library, Riverwatch and Watershed Council will host a public forum to discuss merits of the C-43 West Reservoir being built in Hendry County at a total project cost of 600 million dollars. The 15 square mile reservoir is a key element in the larger plan to address Caloosahatchee River water woes.

Moderating the event will be Chad Gillis, journalist for the News Press. Presenters will include Wayne Daltry speaking on the reservoir project history, John Cassani discussing water quality considerations of the project, John Capece describing water storage and delivery valuation, and Jennifer Hecker highlighting the project benefits. After the brief introductory presentations, the floor will be open to public comment, questions and discussion.

The event is free and open to the public. The public library meeting rooms A-D are adjacent the Talking Books building at 1651 Lee Street in Fort Myers.

The forum is a follow-up discussion motivated by the News Press front page article titled “Will reservoir be a dog?” by Chad Gillis. The article questioned water quality aspects of the C-43 West Reservoir Project. The story generated many responses and inquiries, including a South Florida Water Management District press release defending the reservoir project.

Leading up to the News Press article, the Riverwatch Technical Committee met on March 7 to begin the process of resolving its perspectives on the range of Caloosahatchee River water management issues, including the reservoir project. The News Press article provides a unique opportunity for Riverwatch and Watershed Council to continue their deliberations and open these discussions on the C-43 West Reservoir to a more public audience.

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