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C-43 West Reservoir Public Forum Outline

Date: Wednesday, May 11 from 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm

Location: Downtown Ft Myers branch of Lee County Library in Community Meeting Rooms A-D, attached to the Talking Books building at 1651 Lee Street, Fort Myers, FL 33901

Description: A public forum to discuss the C-43 West Reservoir project will be co-sponsored by Caloosahatchee River Citizens Association (Riverwatch) and Watershed Council of Southwest Florida. The forum will present the various factors being considered by the respective technical committees of the two organizations in deciding whether to support the project as currently designed and what additional features or projects can improve the Reservoir's contribution to solving regional water problems.

Invited are Riverwatch and Watershed Council members plus interested members of the public.

Program outline:

- Moderator: Chad Gillis, News Press Journalist: Welcome & Opening remarks (6 min)
- Speaker 1: Wayne Daltrey, CRCA Director: Project History & Evolution, Safety, Leakage (6 min)
- Speaker 2: John Cassani, WC Chair & CRCA Director: Water Quality Considerations (6 min)
- Speaker 3: John Capece, CRCA Director: Water Storage/Delivery Valuation & Alternatives (6 min)
- Speaker 4: Jennifer Hecker, WC Director: Project Benefits and Additional Project Needs (6 min)
- Q&A/Discussion (60+ min, 3 min/person)

Summary documents highlighting the issues will be prepared for distribution at the forum. If an event sponsor can be identified then food & drink may be provided. Watch the Riverwatch web page and Facebook page for updates.

Background: On Sunday, April 10, the News Press published a front page story titled "Will reservoir be a dog?" by Chad Gillis. The article questioned water quality aspects of the C-43 West Reservoir Project. Quoted in the article were Bill Mitsch, John Cassani, John Capece, Ernie Marks, and Josh Constantine. The article generated many responses and inquiries. Prior to the News Press article, the Riverwatch Technical Committee on March 7 met to begin the process of resolving its perspectives on the range of water management issues associated with the Caloosahatchee River and the reservoir project. The News Press article provides a unique opportunity for Riverwatch to continue that process and open its internal discussion on the C-43 West Reservoir project and related issues to a more public audience.

