SKANSKA

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Everglades Restoration Project

Case Study 8

Aspects of Sustainability

This project highlights the following:

Social Aspects

Human Resources

Corporate Community Involvement

Business Ethics

Health and Safety

Environmental Aspects

Energy and Climate

Materials

Ecosystems

Local Impacts

Economic Aspects

Project Selection

Supply Chain

Value Added

Skanska was awarded the contract for the Ten Mile Creek Water Preserve Area Project in Florida, a critical part of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP) which spans 16 counties over an area of 18,000 square miles and is composed of over 60 elements.

Project Introduction

Freshwater is the lifeblood of the Everglades and its ecosystems, the objective of the Ten Mile Creek Basin Project was to capture storm water flows from the Ten Mile Creek Basin before entering the St. Lucie River Estuary and the Indian River Lagoon, thereby protecting the most biologically diverse estuary in North America from the increased runoff caused by watershed developments.

CERP approved in the Water Resources Development Act of 2000, will take more than 30 years to construct, and will cost an estimated $7.8 billion. CERP is of immense importance since it seeks to protect one of the world's unique wetlands and ecosystems by restoring, protecting and preserving the water resources of central and southern Florida.

Capturing Freshwater Revitalizes Ecosystem

The Project involved the design and construction of a mechanism to capture and store storm water during the rainy season and subsequently release the water and its sediment in a controlled manner back into the St Lucie River Estuary and the Indian River Lagoon; the storm water destined for the sea is thus captured and directed back to the ecosystem to revitalize it.

Biodiversity Protected

The project Skanska was awarded was a relatively complex assignment involving the construction of a 6,000 acre reservoir above ground level, a pump station, storm water treatment area and a gated-water control structure for controlling the flow of water back into the Creek. In addition to the

mechanics of the operation, there were significant challenges with regard to the protection of biodiversity in this unique environment.

Delicate flora and fauna were protected for the duration of the construction phase plus the habitats of creatures; the nests of migratory birds were relocated and no construction works were allowed in the vicinity of the nests during spring time – the nesting period.

Care of Endangered Species

Other animals were trapped and relocated to other sites during the construction phase for their safety, particularly those considered threatened or endangered species. Gopher tortoise (land turtles), listed as a Species of Special Concern by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission were relocated, as were Indigo snakes which are listed as threatened by the State of Texas.

Indirect Economic Benefits

Skanska's contribution to the CERP has been fundamental to the provision of valuable educational lessons in ecosystems and the management of environments and their natural resources; St. Lucie County uses part of the site as a nature preserve area (hiking, fishing, bird watching, etc.).

The project has enhanced the reputation and significance of the Everglades as an area of outstanding biodiversity, natural beauty and consequently, as a global tourist attraction.