

# CENTRAL EVERGLADES

## ASAP Group was contracted to perform sheet piling and specific specialty foundations work for Florida's CEPP Everglades Agricultural Area phase

By Lisa Kopochinski

**T**he Central Everglades Planning Project (CEPP) Everglade Agricultural Area (EAA) reservoir project encompasses a vast majority of the remaining natural area of the Florida Everglades, which is continuing to decline in ecological health.

This massive project is designed to send an annual average of approximately 370,000 acre-feet of additional water south of the Everglades. It will also set the foundation for restoring the central portion of the Everglades ecosystem by capturing water lost to tide and redirect water flow from south to the central Everglades, Everglades National Park and Florida Bay.

### What the project entails

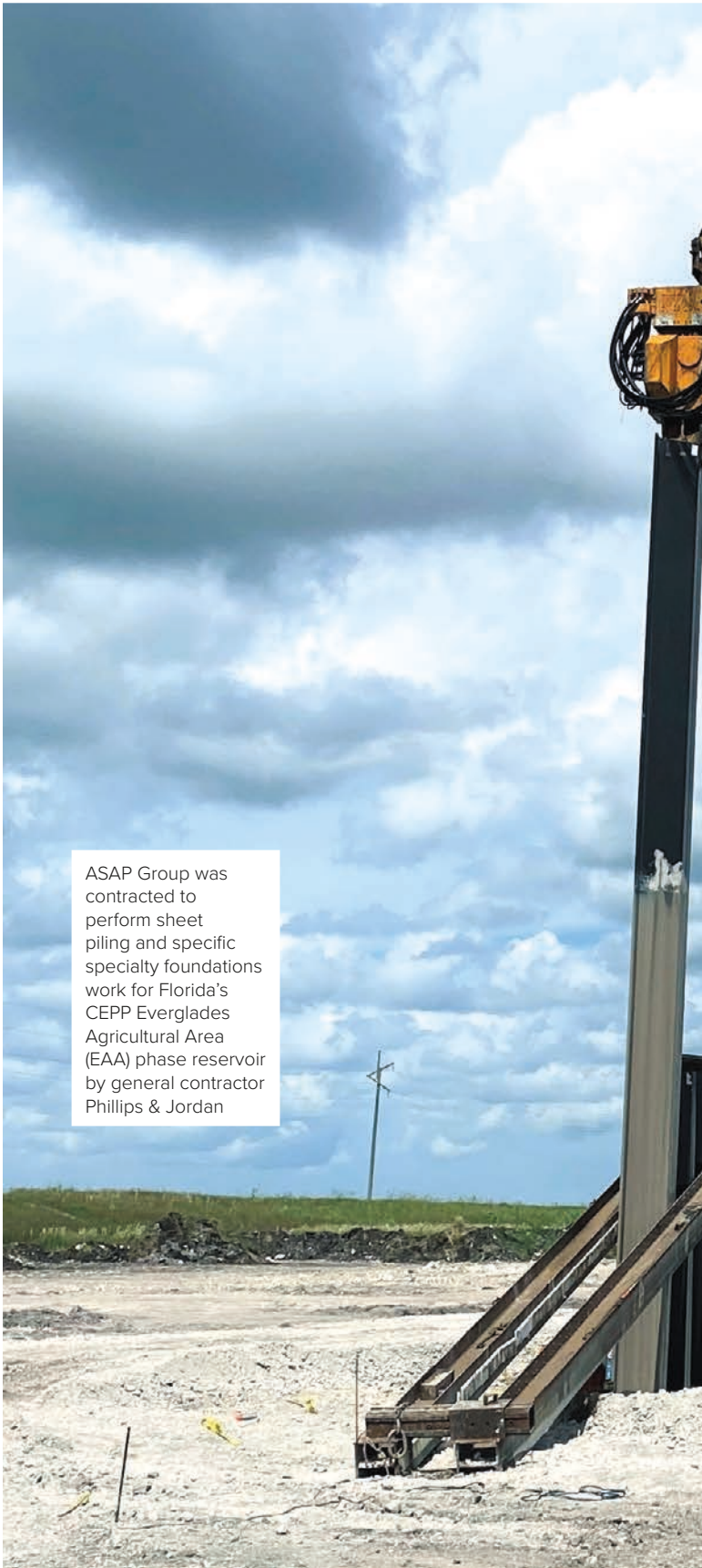
The CEPP develops the next increment of project components that focus on more natural flows into and through the central and southern Everglades, restoring more natural flow, depth and durations into and within the central Everglades by:

- Increasing storage, treatment and conveyance of water south of Lake Okeechobee
- Removing canals and levees within the central Everglades
- Retaining water within Everglades National Park (ENP) and protecting urban and agricultural areas to the east from flooding

ASAP Group was contracted to perform sheet piling and specific specialty foundations work for Florida's CEPP Everglades Agricultural Area (EAA) phase reservoir by general contractor Phillips & Jordan, a Knoxville, Tenn.-based, woman-owned heavy civil and infrastructure contractor, to perform the pile driving work.

ASAP Group is an all-around partnership of foundation companies specializing in a broad variety of shoring and foundation support methods, from sheet pile to soil anchors, from bracing, pile and lagging walls to micro piles and any other types of shoring. ASAP Installations was formed more than 16 years ago as a sheet pile installation company based on patented technology and equipment developed in Europe.

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# RESTORATION PROJECT







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"The current governor and Florida administration have prioritized the protection and restoration of Florida's environment and natural resources," said Simon den Tuinder, the CEO of ASAP Group.

"ASAP Installations is proud to be participating in the various Everglades restoration projects. Over the years, we have been contracted for 18 different projects with a value of over \$28 million. The work for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) has been an integral part of the history of ASAP and will be a substantial part of our focus for the future."

Mark Horning, senior project manager at ASAP, agrees.

"The CEPP project is the culmination of the many projects we have worked on in the Everglades over the last 16 years," he said.

### Scope of responsibilities

ASAP Group started work on its portion of the project in September 2021. The company's scope of work on the project is multifaceted and will be carried out at 16 different locations within the site limits, encompassing 6,500 acres.

"We are performing the installation of the permanent coated sheet piles and permanent tie-rods, walers and accessories, temporary braced sheet pile cofferdams and temporary soil anchor tiebacks," said Jessica Daza, senior estimator at ASAP. "Our total contract value is approximately \$16.5 million and will be performed over the course of 30 months. We have also provided the value engineering for the temporary cofferdams needed for the construction of the largest structures for this project."

ASAP is utilizing auxiliary equipment on this project, such as the PVE23VM vibratory hammer, PVE6NL impact hammer, and




Due to the remote nature of this project, there were no noise or vibration requirements

the REV Drill continuous flight auger (CFA) and down the hole (DTH) hammer as needed.

"Most notably, our auxiliary equipment is mounted/supported on our custom-designed and built patented ASAP Sheetpiler™," said Horning. "It is based on a Komatsu PC490 undercarriage, with all hydraulics and power being self-contained. Our system provides significant productivity improvement over a standard crane and hammer equipment spread. With our Sheetpiler™, we can install between 100 to 150 linear feet of sheet pile wall per day."

Due to the remote nature of this project, there are no noise or vibration requirements. However, Horning adds that the PVE23VM



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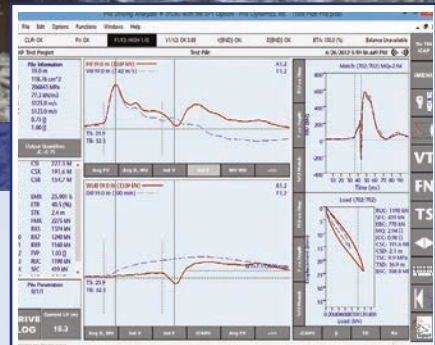
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ASAP Group started work on its portion of the project in September 2021. The company's scope of work on the project is multifaceted and will be carried out at 16 different locations. This image was taken April 6, 2022.

hammer utilizes PVE's variable moment technology to minimize the typical vibration concerns of standard vibratory hammers.

### Project challenges

This project had its share of challenges, including environmental requirements that ranged from personnel training for the recognition of threatened and endangered species to spill prevention and countermeasure procedures.

Other challenges the ASAP team encountered included the variability of the rock strata and supply chain issues. For example,

coating suppliers experienced significant production impacts and material shortages.

"To address those issues, ASAP has been working closely with Phillips & Jordan and the SFWMD to utilize multiple options to minimize the impacts to the project," said Horning.

Additionally, the scale of the project requires integrating existing SFWMD features, allowing them to operate as seamlessly as possible. ASAP's in-house engineering team regularly collaborates with its operations team and the Phillips & Jordan project team to address specific challenges and seek out alternative efficiencies.

"One of the biggest structures on this project consists of a 300-foot-long box culvert underneath an existing canal," said Daza. "Our team, in collaboration with Phillips & Jordan, value engineered a solution for the required excavation and dewatering by proposing a diversion wall in an earthen cofferdam on each side of the structure, the site to be sloped down in between these walls and a cantilever cofferdam around the structure to facilitate the concrete work."

When completed, the CEPP STA A-2 will be a 6,500-acre stormwater treatment area comprising 16 different water management structures. Specifically, two pump stations, 11 gated and automated water control structures, two gated weirs and one 300-foot-long triple barrel box culvert will be constructed under an existing primary canal.

"The final purpose of these aspects of the CEPP EAA project is to provide more flow control and treatment capability to reduce Lake Okeechobee discharges to the environmentally sensitive Caloosahatchee River and Indian River Lagoon," said Horning. ▼

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