What’s Changed in the System?

Our previous ad showed U.S. Sugar’s farms located south of Lake O, that our water flows south and how we’ve changed farming practices to send additional clean water south. Now let’s focus on how the water system has been changed to enable flood control and the growth of South Florida.

What’s changed system-wide?

- Kissimmee River is channelized, sending more water more quickly into Lake Okeechobee
- Lake Okeechobee is one-third smaller than its original size
- Failing Herbert Hoover Dike results in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers keeping water levels lower by discharging from the lake
- The Florida Everglades is half its original size and now a protected national park

What’s changed in Southwest Florida?

- In the 1930s, 40,000 people lived in Southwest Florida. Today, more than 1.6 MILLION live people there.
- There are still about 204,650 septic tanks in South West Florida (many near the water)
- The nearly 10 million tourists help Southwest Florida’s economy, but also impact its environment