



## President's | Message

FES President Robert W. "Bob" Higgins, PE  
President, Higgins Engineering Inc.



It's hard to believe, but this is my last President's message. I hope you have enjoyed my articles over the last year. You can look forward to those by Charlotte A. Maddox, PE, D.WRE, F.NSPE as incoming president. I wish her luck in the upcoming year, and I personally look forward to another active year as past president. It also will be a joy to run the upcoming FELI class jointly with Andrew M. "Andy" Cummings, PE, past president of the Florida Institute of Consulting Engineers (FICE). Applications are being accepted and the schedule of locations is being developed. It will be especially exciting for me because I have not taken this class in the past (although I should have).

I look forward to seeing you at the FES/FICE 95th Annual Summer Conference and Exposition. The conference will be held at the newly-renovated Fontainebleau in Miami Beach. As always, there will be plenty of activities, with the kickoff being the Florida Engineering Foundation dinner at the Port of Miami.

Many thanks to the FES Communications Advisory Committee, as chaired by Shelly B. Gisclar, PE on their fine work in getting the *Journal* assembled each month with what I consider excellent articles. As you will see, this month's *Journal* is dedicated to transportation, which is another very important subject for Florida.

As you know, last month's *Journal* was dedicated to water resources. It is always interesting to note the difference in funding for water resource projects versus transportation projects. Transportation project budgets exceed most water resource budgets, which includes environmental programs such as restoration of the Everglades, by a factor of ten. When we are talking about a large water resource project, it may be a \$100 million project. For comparison, a large transportation project is always going to be in the billion dollar range.

One exception to this is the Everglades Restoration project being done by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the South Florida Water Management District. The original estimated budget for this project was \$8 billion in the year 2000. Now, I am sure the estimated cost to complete this project exceeds \$16 billion. However, unlike transportation projects, environmental restoration projects are viewed as a "luxury" that can be "slowed down," or even eliminated, during slow economic times such as what we are experiencing now.

Many thanks go out to the FES Board of Directors as well as the committee chairs and committee members. I want to thank you all for your hard work this year, and will consider it a successful one. I also want to thank Frank Rudd and his very efficient headquarters staff. They truly have made this an easy year for me. As I have said before, headquarters runs like a "very well-oiled machine." ■