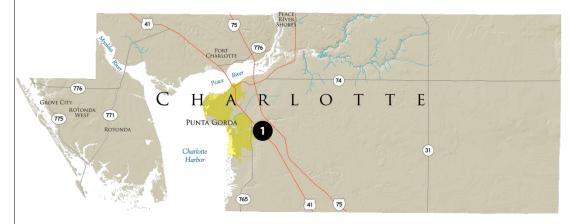


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Water Control Structure in Charlotte County

The Southwest Florida Water Management District maintains and operates 84 water control structures throughout the District's 16-county region. These structures help provide flood protection, manage lake water levels and prevent salt water from flowing up freshwater streams and creeks. One of these structures is located in Charlotte County.



1. Alligator Creek Salinity Barrier

The Alligator Creek structure is located south of Punta Gorda on Alligator Creek, just off Taylor Road. Although the primary purpose of the structure is to prevent saltwater encroachment, during high water events the structure's manually operated gates can be opened to lower the creek level to increase the storage capacity upstream of the structure. Normally the gates are closed and the reservoir level is maintained by the fixed weir.