



BIG CYPRESS BASIN

SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

2660 Horseshoe Drive N, Suite 101, Naples, FL 34104
(239) 263-7615 • Fax (239) 263-8166 • www.sfwmd.gov/bcb/

June 17, 2019

Subject: Golden Gate Canal Tree Removal Project – Phase 4

Dear residents,

I would like to introduce myself and give you an important update about some of the nearby work the South Florida Water Management District is doing on your behalf. In case you are not familiar with our agency, the South Florida Water Management District (District) is the regional governmental agency charged with protecting and managing the water resources in the southern half of the state.

In this southwestern region of Florida, we are part of an area known as the Big Cypress Basin. **To best serve the public, our agency's mission is to safeguard and restore South Florida's water resources and ecosystems, protect our communities from flooding, and meet the region's water needs while connecting with the public and stakeholders.**

Please allow me to explain one primary way the agency works to fulfill its mission to protect our communities from flooding. The South Florida Water Management District thoroughly inspects vegetation growth along our canals to ensure it does not threaten the agency's ability to protect residents and businesses from flooding. If left unchecked and unmanaged, vegetation such as shrubs and trees can uproot or break during extreme weather events and fall into flood protection canals. Limbs, trees, and shrubs can block water flow, cause serious local and upstream flooding, and severely damage water control structures and bridges—all of which impact our ability to safely move water.

As part of our work to protect our area from flooding, the District began removing dangerous vegetation within a drainage easement along the northern parts of the Golden Gate Main canal (see enclosed map) on June 4, 2019. When we conduct this work, we notify nearby residents who may be impacted, and we wanted to let you know that trees within the drainage easement that pose a threat to our flood protection system have been or will be removed in the coming weeks.

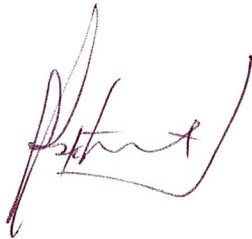
I am certain you cherish the area's natural beauty as much as I do, and I want you to know that we make every effort to clean up and beautify areas in which dangerous vegetation must be removed. This includes cutting tree stumps flush to the ground and laying fresh sod. The missing trees may temporarily cause gaps in the line of sight into Bear's Paw Country Club. Fortunately, working with us and with our residents in mind, Bear's Paw has agreed to fill in any gaps in the

hedge line along the golf course with additional vegetation. Work is scheduled to resume on Monday, June 24, 2019, and we anticipate concluding our portion of the work by the end of next week.

Thank you for your understanding. If you have any questions or concerns at all, please feel free to contact Big Cypress Basin Field Station Superintendent Juan Bethencourt at 348-7530 ext. 7811 or jbethenc@sfwmd.gov. We warmly welcome your input and feedback.

Sincerely,

Juan Bethencourt



Encl.

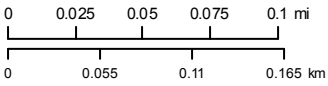


Meeting Location: 1978 Airport Pulling Road North Naples, FL 34104

Golden Gate Main Hazardous and Exotic Vegetation Removal Phase 4



South Florida Water Management District
 3301 Gun Club Road, West Palm Beach, Florida 33406
 561-686-8800; www.sfwmd.gov



DISCLAIMER:
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