

# Mobile Irrigation Labs

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[sfwmd.gov](http://sfwmd.gov)

# What is a Mobile Irrigation Lab (MIL)?

- Irrigation evaluation lab on wheels
- Conservation program to evaluate effectiveness of agricultural and urban irrigation systems
- MILs review system, schedule, soil, and crop requirements to identify changes to improve system efficiency
- Goal = savings in water, energy & money and compliance with rules



# MIL Evaluation

- Initial evaluation – site visit and data collection
- Written report with recommendations
- Some follow up to determine water savings
- Evaluations are free of charge
- Education and outreach to the public



# Who Uses MILs?

## Urban

- Homeowners
- Homeowners associations
- Commercial

## Agricultural

- Nurseries
- Citrus
- Other growers



# Urban Labs

<b>Mobile Irrigation Lab</b>	<b>Lab Operator</b>
<b>Broward MIL</b>	<b>Broward Soil &amp; Water Conservation District</b>
<b>Big Cypress Basin MIL (Collier)</b>	<b>Collier Soil &amp; Water Conservation District</b>
<b>Lee MIL</b>	<b>Collier Soil &amp; Water Conservation District</b>
<b>Lower West Coast MIL (Collier, Hendry, Lee, Glades, Charlotte)</b>	<b>Collier Soil &amp; Water Conservation District</b>
<b>East Central Florida RC&amp;D (Orange)</b>	<b>East Central Florida Resource Cons. &amp; Dev.</b>
<b>Martin MIL</b>	<b>Martin Soil &amp; Water Conservation District</b>
<b>Miami-Dade MIL Labs 1 &amp; 2</b>	<b>South Dade Soil &amp; Water Cons. District</b>
<b>North Miami Beach MIL</b>	<b>South Dade Soil &amp; Water Cons. District</b>
<b>Palm Beach MIL</b>	<b>Palm Beach Soil &amp; Water Cons. District</b>
<b>St. Lucie MIL</b>	<b>St. Lucie Soil &amp; Water Conservation District</b>

# Agricultural Labs

<b>Mobile Irrigation Lab</b>	<b>Lab Operator</b>
Broward/Palm Beach MIL	Palm Beach Soil & Water Cons. District
Lower West Coast MIL (Collier, Hendry, Lee, Glades, Charlotte)	Collier Soil & Water Conservation District
Miami-Dade MIL Labs 1 & 2	South Dade Soil & Water Cons. District
Treasure Coast MIL (St. Lucie, Martin, Okeechobee)	St. Lucie Soil & Water Conservation District

# SFWMD Funding History

■ 1992	\$180,000	2 urban labs
↓	↓	↓
■ 2008	\$787,400	10 urban & 4 ag labs

**SFWMD Funding since 1992 = \$7,156,860**

- Initially intended as “seed” money to assist Soil & Water Conservation Districts to establish programs
- Over time, District has become sole funder of most urban labs

# MIL Partners

- Florida Department of Agricultural and Consumer Services (FDACS)
- Natural Resources Conservation Service \*
- Soil and Water Conservation Districts\*

\* *Provides in-kind services*

# How do the MIL Contracts Work?

- Each MIL has contract with SFWMD
- Contracts now specify:
  - Minimum number of original and follow-up evaluations
  - Quarterly reports to include water savings
  - Quarterly cost
- Evaluations follow standard guidelines

# Urban Labs

**FY  
07**

- Total cost \$594,747 (SFWMD - \$438,357)
- 1,195 Evaluations
- Total cost per evaluation: \$498
- Total water savings: 181 MGY

**FY  
08**

- Total cost \$525,011 (SFWMD - \$445,000)
- 1,207 Evaluations
- Total cost per evaluation: \$435
- Total water savings: 95 MGY

*Note: The 2008 numbers includes 1st and 2nd quarters only*

# Agricultural Labs

**FY  
07**

- Total cost \$497,933 (SFWMD - \$341,543)
- 287 Evaluations (6,097 acres)
- Total cost per evaluation: \$1,735
- Total water savings: 304 MGY

**FY  
08**

- Total cost \$422,411 (SFWMD - \$342,400)
- 404 Evaluations (6,220 acres)
- Total cost per evaluation: \$1,046
- Total water savings: 233 MGY

*Note: The 2008 numbers includes 1st and 2nd quarters only*

# Issues for Consideration

- Actual water savings from urban evaluations difficult to confirm; uncertain long term savings
- New year-round landscape irrigation rule will limit watering to two days per week
- “Amnesty” program for nurseries obtaining agricultural MIL evaluation
- Funding needs for other elements of new Water Conservation Program
- State & District budget constraints

# MIL Partner Funding

	<u>SFWMD</u>	<u>FDACS</u>
■ 2007 Ag	\$341,543	\$156,390
■ 2008 Ag	\$342,400	\$ 80,011
■ 2009 Ag (proposed)	\$347,000	\$100,000
■ 2007 Urban	\$438,357	\$156,390
■ 2008 Urban	\$445,000	\$ 80,011
■ 2009 Urban	\$ 55,000 (BCB)	\$ 0
(proposed)	\$ 0 (ad valorem)	

# Staff Recommendation Reflected in Proposed FY09 Budget

- Continue support for Agricultural Mobile Irrigation Labs

Lower West Coast

Miami-Dade

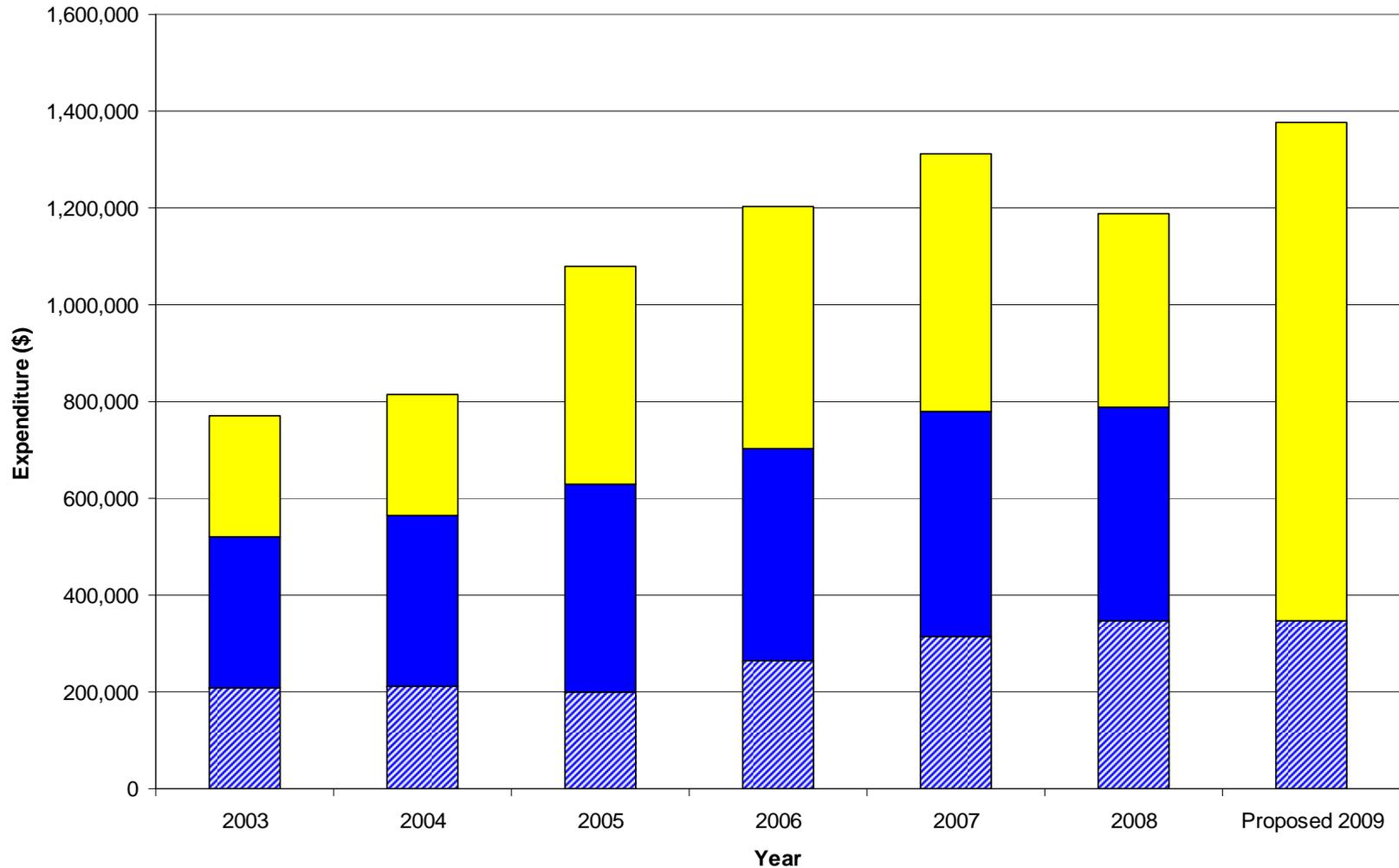
Palm Beach-Broward

St. Lucie

- Eliminate ad valorem funding for Urban Mobile Irrigation Labs and shift funds to other water conservation projects

# MIL and SIP Budget 2003-2008

Annual Budget for Mobile Irrigation Labs and SIP



Mobile Irrigation Labs - Agricultural Mobile Irrigation Labs- Urban Water Savings Incentive Program

# Questions?