



SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

NEWS RELEASE

September 20, 2016

Big Cypress Basin Budget Accomplishes Mission Without Raising Taxes

Key operations and maintenance initiatives are supported with approved funding

West Palm Beach, FL - At a public hearing tonight, the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) Governing Board adopted a \$12.9 million Big Cypress Basin budget for Fiscal Year 2016-2017 (*Oct. 1, 2016 - Sept. 30, 2017*). The annual budget, previously approved by the Basin Board, supports critical missions of flood control, water supply and restoring natural areas without raising taxes for Southwest Coast families.

For the sixth consecutive year, the Governing Board has not raised property taxes. Approximately 73 percent of the 2016-2017 Basin budget supports operations and maintenance initiatives to improve flood control including:

- \$2.0 million for flood control operations that include tree management and canal, levee and structure maintenance.
- \$1.3 million for the continued treatment and removal of exotic plants to improve functioning of the flood control system.
- \$4.6 million for continued maintenance, refurbishment and repair of the Big Cypress Basin's flood control system.

The Fiscal Year 2016-2017 budget also dedicated 25 percent to water supply and water quality initiatives including: \$800,000 for Collier County's Haldeman Creek Weir Replacement project to replace an existing water control structure upstream to improve secondary conveyance systems and prevent backflows. It also includes \$739,000 for City of Naples' Reclaimed Water Expansion project to increase reclaimed water by approximately 1.35 million gallons per day for this phase, reducing potable water demands for approximately 330 homes.

The budget is funded by a combination of *ad valorem* (property) taxes and other revenues such as state appropriations, federal and local sources, balances, fees, investment earnings and agricultural privilege taxes. In Collier County and mainland Monroe County (the Big Cypress Basin), the *ad valorem* taxes for Fiscal Year 2016-2017 are \$26.95 per \$100,000 of taxable land value.

For More Information:

- [Budget Facts: FY2016 -2017 BCB Budget](#)

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The South Florida Water Management District is a regional governmental agency that manages the water resources in the southern part of the state. It is the oldest and largest of the state's five water management districts. Our mission is to protect South Florida's water resources by balancing and improving flood control, water supply, water quality and natural systems.

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