



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/

July 26, 2021

Subject: Cocohatchee Canal Tree Removal Project at I-75 interchange

Dear Property Owner,

The Big Cypress Basin (Basin) of South Florida Water Management District (District) is a regional governmental agency that oversees the water resources within Collier County. One of our missions is to protect homes and businesses from flooding and one of the ways we accomplish that mission is to remove dangerous trees and vegetation from the canal drainage easement.

If left unchecked and unmanaged, vegetation such as shrubs and trees can uproot or break during storms and fall into the canals that serve as your flood protection system. Limbs, trees, and shrubs can block water flow, causing serious local and upstream flooding, as well as severely damage water control structures and bridges—all of which impact our abilities to protect our community from flooding.

As part of our work to protect your property from flooding and the residents and businesses east of you, the Basin will have trees within the canal drainage easement/right-of-way removed within the limits of the attached map. Starting August 9, 2021 (weather permitting), the Basin's contractor, Merico, Inc., will be removing trees and shrubs within the drainage easement of the Cocohatchee Canal and the I75 interchange at Immokalee Road. (see enclosed map). It is important to note that not all trees within the interchange will be removed; and many will remain. We have been working closely with Florida Department of Transportation and only the trees within the drainage easement will be removed.

Tree removal on the side slopes will be flush cut and trees removed on top of the canal bank will include stump grinding. These activities are part of our normal cycle of maintenance of its rights-of-way to ensure that canals function optimally during a storm or hurricane event.

BIG CYPRESS BASIN GOVERNING BOARD

Charlette Roman, Chair
Andrew D. W. Hill

Dan Waters, Vice Chair
Nanette Rivera

BASIN ADMINISTRATOR

Lisa Koehler

Staff will continue to update property owners impacted by the project until all work is complete. A website is available for you to access details and updates to the status of the project at <https://www.sfwmd.gov/cococanaltreeremoval>. We anticipate tree removal work will be completed mid-September 2021.

Thank you for your understanding as we conduct this critical work to provide flood protection for our community. If you have any questions or concerns regarding this project, please feel free to contact me at 239-263-7615 or lkoehler@sfwmd.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lisa Koehler". The signature is written in a cursive style and is set against a light yellow rectangular background.

Lisa Koehler, Administrator
Big Cypress Basin, SFWMD



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 South Florida Water Management District
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Cocohatchee Canal Tree Removal Project

Collier County, Florida

