



There is the environmental science of the Everglades and there is the political science, too. The political science is what Everglades Trust is all about. Established in 1994, we inform you when trust is broken by politicians and agencies not focused on the critical issues of the collapsing Everglades. We hold them accountable.

Going forward, Everglades Trust will respond to the most egregious of the email blasts coming from SFWMD. This one today was a humdinger!

Actual Facts: Last week, SFWMD told South Florida residents to begin conserving water in anticipation of the drought we're experiencing that will likely get worse.

Now, SFWMD tells us that taking 800 billion gallons of water – enough water to meet the needs of 12 million people for a year – and injecting it one mile below ground, with no chance for recovery and where they have no clear idea what will happen, is a good idea and does not waste water.

In an email sent out earlier today, the District made claims that certain groups are falsely characterizing "water storage technology under consideration as 'wasting much-needed water.'" Yet the District fails to explain how its scheme to dispose of excess freshwater via deep well injection constitutes "storage."

Storage is defined as "the action or method of storing something for future use." Like the 250+ wastewater disposal wells in Florida, freshwater injected 3,000 feet underground into the Boulder Zone will be gone forever. And until the District finds a way to provide the freshwater so desperately needed in the Everglades and Florida Bay, the fact remains that this misguided idea will indeed be "wasting much-needed water."

This is their alternative for the right thing to do, which was agreed to by all parties in 2000 – construct facilities that capture water during wet years, hold it, clean it, and use that water to supply the needs of the Everglades, as well as our cities and towns.

Editorial Comments: Does this strike anyone as sound water management? This is an agency off the rails. They'll say anything and do anything to protect a precious few at the expense of everything and everyone else.

If you have questions or wish to respond to the above email, please email info@EvergladesTrust.org.

From: South Florida Water Management District <waternews@sfwmd.gov>
Subject: Get the Facts: Wells to Provide Relief to Our Estuaries
Date: February 16, 2017 at 12:05:28 PM EST
Reply-To: waternews@sfwmd.gov



SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

GET THE FACTS

February 16, 2017

Wells to Provide Relief to Our Estuaries

Certain groups continue to falsely characterize water storage technology under consideration for the Lake Okeechobee Watershed Project (LOWP) as "wasting much-needed water." This is not the case.

Here are the Facts:

- As identified in LOWP, two promising underground technologies will reduce harmful discharges to the St. Lucie and Caloosahatchee estuaries. These technologies operate in tandem with above-ground surface reservoirs to help meet the recommended storage volumes in the [2015 University of Florida Water Institute Study](#).
- As explained in the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP), Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR) wells store excess surface water in the Upper Floridan Aquifer. The water can be recovered later during dry periods to supplement regional water supply for all water users, including the environment.
- From the 2015 UF Water Institute Study:
"Advantages of ASR wells include 1) in sufficient numbers they are able to provide for substantial inter-annual storage, 2) they require a minimal land surface footprint, and 3) they have been shown to provide a reduction in phosphorus concentrations in recovered water in CERP pilot studies."
- Deep Injection Well technology involves pumping water 3,000 feet underground into a formation known as the "Boulder Zone," a transmissive rock layer that easily accepts water.
- Deep Injection Wells are operated at low pressures that do not cause fracturing of rock layers.

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 - Deep Injection Wells require an underground injection control permit from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to ensure that existing state rules are met and surrounding aquifer water quality is not degraded.
 - From the 2015 UF Water Institute Study:
"Deep injection wells could be part of a long-term solution to reduce damaging discharges to the St. Lucie and Caloosahatchee estuaries, or they could provide an interim solution until additional storage, treatment and conveyance capacity can be constructed south of Lake Okeechobee."
 - In years like 2016, Deep Injection Wells could have been employed quickly to reduce the severity of damaging discharges that caused emergency conditions in the estuaries. The wells provide yet another option for capturing excess stormwater from these extreme rainfall events instead of releasing water through the estuaries and causing harm.
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- SFWMD scientists estimate that some Deep Injection Wells could be operational in as little as two to three years.
- The wells under consideration for the Lake Okeechobee Watershed Project are similar in operation to the more than 250 Deep Injection Wells found throughout Florida that have had great success for the last 15 years. (For example, Martin County has 4 permitted Deep Injection Wells.)
- LOWP is a joint effort between the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and SFWMD. This planning team will continue to evaluate all water storage and treatment options to help provide relief for the estuaries.

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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.