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just the **FACTs**

This fact sheet is provided as a reference to encourage a greater understanding of the various issues related to managing water in South Florida.

South Florida Water Management District *2010 Accomplishment Highlights*

Everglades Restoration & Capital Projects

- Acquired 26,800 acres of strategically located property for Everglades restoration with an option to purchase another 153,000 acres for up to 10 years. The acquisition provides construction opportunities for environmental and water quality improvements.
- Led or participated in the engineering, design and construction for 92 restoration and flood control project components, including:
 - Stormwater Treatment Area expansions – Compartments B&C
 - Acme Basin B pump station and impoundment
 - Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands
 - C-111 Spreader Canal
 - Lakeside Ranch Stormwater Treatment Area
 - Fran Reich Preserve (Site 1)
 - Picayune Strand Restoration
 - Lake Trafford dredging
 - Golden Gate weirs
 - Kissimmee waterway navigation lock refurbishments
 - Canal bank stabilization
 - Pump station hardening
- Signed Project Partnership Agreements with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) for Fran Reich Preserve (Site 1), L-31N seepage Management Pilot, Indian River Lagoon – South and Melaleuca Eradication/Biological Controls projects.
- Treated more than 1.4 million acre-feet of runoff water in Stormwater Treatment Areas (STAs) in Water Year 2010. Airlifted and transplanted vegetation to improve phosphorus-removal performance of the constructed wetlands. Since 1994, STAs and agricultural “Best Management Practices” have together prevented more than 3,500 metric tons of phosphorus from entering the Everglades.
- Corps of Engineers backfilled 4 additional miles of the C-38 Canal – reconnecting 6 more miles of the historic river channel. Completed three years of baseline monitoring for many studies associated with Phase II/III restoration evaluation assessments.
- Updated Adaptive Protocols for Lake Okeechobee operations.
- Completed draft 2011 update of Lake Okeechobee Protection Plan.
- Met all mandated, permit and project requirements for water quality monitoring and analytical services, entailing 30,000 site visits (107 projects) over the year.



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Operations & Maintenance

- Managed water flows through the regional flood control network during a wet dry season and Tropical Storm Nicole.
- Initiated technical evaluation of the East Coast Protective Levee in Broward County; accompanied Corps of Engineers on inspections conducted on more than 120 miles of Central & Southern Florida (C&SF) project levees.
- Completed major bank stabilization, erosion control and Right-of-Way cleanup project on the Hillsboro Canal (included 10,000 cubic yards of material).
- Completed 44 water control structure inspections; blasted and painted 20 structure gates; overhauled 14 hydraulic cylinders; implemented 6 bypass pumps.
- Installed manatee protection system upgrades at two structures.
- Completed replacement of 111 radios in Highlands County as part of LoggerNet radio conversion project.
- In coordination with the Solid Waste Authority, developed and implemented a cost-saving, internal training program for staff with debris management responsibilities.
- Treated 38,019 acres of exotic vegetation; completed 6,000 acres of aerial treatment for torpedograss and cattails in Lake Okeechobee.
- Completed mapping of four invasive plant species (Australian pine, Brazilian pepper, melaleuca and *Lygodium*) within the Everglades region (1.8 million acres).
- Planted more than 3 million bulrush and cattail plants in STAs to facilitate the colonization of emergent plants.
- Continued the successful reintroduction of the red-cockaded woodpecker, a species of special concern, with the release of an additional 5 pair of juvenile birds from donor sites in north Florida and the fledging of 2 chicks from resident birds.
- Launched the “Legacy” program with local high schools to foster land stewardship principles and provide environmental education opportunities on District lands.
- Opened the Istokpoga Canal Boat Ramp and Public Use Area – two power boat ramps, a dry launch airboat ramp and picnic areas adjacent to the Kissimmee River.

Regulatory & Public Affairs

- Adopted the first-ever Year-Round Landscape Irrigation Rule for South Florida. Designed to reduce wasteful outdoor irrigation practices, the District estimates that these measures may reduce overall potable water demand by 5 to 10 percent.
- Completed the redevelopment of the agency’s external website to improve customer service and the District’s delivery of public information.
- Secured \$60 million in state appropriations for environmental restoration.
- Developed and adopted a comprehensive Strategic Plan for the Big Cypress Basin.
- Successfully enrolled more than 26,000 acres of land in the Fisheating Creek basin into the United States Department of Agriculture’s Wetland Reserve Program.
- Developed and implemented a Water Supply Improvement Plan to enhance the agency’s approach to water supply management, including streamlining business practices, increasing stakeholder dialogue and improving customer service.

- Responded to and closed more than 800 citizen case files (119 citizen inquiries and 742 public records requests).
- Participated in or attended 575 community events to promote water conservation and water resource protection efforts.
- Working with local governments, completed all FY10-approved WaterSIP projects, providing 0.6 MGD of water savings for \$334,000 cost-shared investment.
- Reviewed and commented on local government growth management plans, including 118 proposed comprehensive plans, 152 adopted comprehensive plans and 12 Developments of Regional Impact.
- Received and processed 1,914 Environmental Resource Permit (ERP) and 2,814 Water Use (WU) Applications; conducted 14,077 ERP compliance investigations/inspections and reviewed 5,167 WU Permits for compliance.
- Achieved water quality performance measures, mandated by the Everglades Forever Act, for the Everglades Agricultural Area and C-139 Basins. Adopted amendments to refine the Best Management Practice (BMPs) source control program for reducing phosphorus from the C-139 Basin.

Agency Management / Corporate Resources

- Identified and implemented additional efficiency measures and improved business practices including revamping the budget development process with an emphasis on fixed overhead costs, baseline operations and funding ongoing costs with recurring revenues. Implemented project portfolio concept to rank projects and ensure that revenues are dedicated to core missions. Budgeted expenditures are tracked/reported weekly.
- Processed more than 40,000 invoices in FY 2010, with a 56% increase in productivity of staff processing these transactions, due to software and procedural improvements. Most Florida business invoices are paid by the District within 9 days.
- Developed an online tool to provide transparent, regularly updated access to information about District payments to businesses. The searchable database provides totals of disbursements to each vendor.
- Implemented "green" initiatives continue to reflect a multi-year decline in kilowatt and water usage, reducing the headquarters annual electric bill by more than \$200,000 and using 1.5 million fewer gallons of water (30.6% reduction).
- Recognized by the Government Finance Officers Association for excellence in financial reporting and distinguished budget presentation (18th consecutive year).
- Conducted employee training needs assessment. By using District staff as instructors and bringing training in-house, realized a cost savings of \$315,135.
- Activated the Emergency Operations Center in preparation for Tropical Storm Nicole utilizing new WebEOC computer information management software.
- Completed evaluations of water control structures for security assessments in accordance with Department of Homeland Security guidelines and requirements
- Developed a 4-day, 10-hour workweek pilot for FY2011 as a cost-saving initiative.