

September 12, 2013



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.



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SFWMD Tentative FY2014 Budget

The South Florida Water Management District Governing Board approved tentative millage rates and a tentative budget of \$619.4 million for Fiscal Year 2014 (October 1, 2013 – September 30, 2014) at a public hearing held September 12. The agency's budget is developed annually through an open and public process, including review and approval by the Governor and the Joint Legislative Budget Commission. A second public hearing will be held September 24 at 5:15 p.m. to adopt the final FY2014 millage rates and budget.

Tentative Budget Highlights

With more than 80 percent of the tentative \$619.4 million budget dedicated to restoration and operations/maintenance of lands and works, highlights include:

- \$258.6 million to primarily operate and maintain South Florida's regional flood control system and stormwater treatment areas (STAs), including \$50 million toward refurbishment of the primary network of canals, levees, structures and pump stations.
- \$250.6 million to restore the Everglades ecosystem, improve Lake Okeechobee and protect the St. Lucie and Caloosahatchee estuaries. Projects include:
 - \$101.6 million to implement approved Restoration Strategies designed to improve the quality of water flowing into America's Everglades –
 - \$72.4 million to enhance and expand water treatment facilities and construct more than 100,000 acre-feet of water storage.
 - \$17.5 million to increase capacity at STA-1 West.
 - \$2.4 million to construct additional conveyance features.
 - \$9.3 million for implementing a comprehensive science plan to optimize STA performance; modeling for regional operations of new STAs and storage basins; and additional source controls.
 - \$8.5 million to implement water quality treatment and storage projects in the Caloosahatchee watershed.
 - \$29 million to support construction of the Indian River Lagoon-South C-44 (St. Lucie) Reservoir and to take the lead on the Stormwater Treatment Area component.
 - \$21 million to support continued construction of other State-Federal partnership projects to restore the Picayune Strand, the Kissimmee River and the Fran Reich Preserve (Site 1 Impoundment).
 - \$9.4 million to expand public-private partnerships with landowners to hold water on their property and increase regional water storage to benefit the northern Everglades.

Tentative Millage Rates & Revenue Sources

- For the third year in a row, SFWMD millage rates have been reduced.
- The rolled-back combined tentative millage rates represent \$41.10 per \$100,000 of taxable value in 15 of the District's 16 counties (*the Okeechobee Basin*). For Collier County and mainland Monroe County (*the Big Cypress Basin*), the rolled-back combined tentative rate represents \$32.78 per \$100,000 of taxable value.
- In addition to ad valorem taxes, other revenue sources include State appropriations, Federal sources, balances, fees and agricultural privilege taxes.