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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.



For more information on this subject, scan this QR code using a barcode reader app on your smartphone.



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Process for Updating the Lower East Coast Water Supply Plan *Stakeholder involvement a key component*

The South Florida Water Management District develops and implements regional water supply plans, pursuant to state law. The Lower East Coast Water Supply Plan was initially approved in 2000 and updated in 2006. The next update is under way, with scheduled completion in early 2013.

Purpose of Water Supply Planning

- Water management districts conduct water supply planning in order to:
 - Ensure existing and future reasonable-beneficial uses of water resources
 - Sustain regional water resources and related natural systems
- Based on a 20-year outlook, water supply plans provide detailed, region-specific information and recommended actions to meet future demands, including the needs of the environment.
- Water supply plans are updated every five years.
- Local governments use information from the updated water supply plans to amend their comprehensive plans. This includes their water facilities work plan, which is updated to be consistent with the approved regional water supply plan.

Lower East Coast Planning Area

- The Lower East Coast Water Supply Plan covers all of Palm Beach, Broward and Miami-Dade counties; most of Monroe County; and portions of eastern Collier and Hendry counties. (*see map on back*)
- The 2010 census population for the area is 5.6 million – an increase of 11 percent since the 2000 census.
- The planning area comprises 113 separate local governments, 53 public water supply utilities, a major agricultural industry and significant environmental systems, including Lake Okeechobee and the southern Everglades.

Focus on Public Participation

- Active participation from communities and stakeholders is vital to ensure the plan update reflects local needs.
- Public stakeholder workshops, known as Issues Workshops, will be conducted within the counties involved in the plan update through the District's Water Resources Advisory Commission (WRAC).
- Additional outreach efforts will include presentations at local government and regional planning council meetings as well as meetings with utilities and other stakeholders and briefings for elected officials and local government staff.
- For information on workshops and all involvement opportunities, visit the District's [Lower East Coast Water Supply Plan](#) web page.

South Florida Water Management District Lower East Coast Water Supply Planning Area

