



SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

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## MEDIA ADVISORY

January 6, 2009

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### **Hydrilla Treatments Continue on Lake Tohopekaliga**

*District to Apply Herbicide to 2,800 Acres*

**Kissimmee, FL** – A days-long effort to control invasive hydrilla growing over more than 2,800 acres of Lake Tohopekaliga is scheduled to begin Thursday, January 8, less than three weeks after a 6,000-acre treatment was completed.

Working in cooperation with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) Invasive Plant Management Section, South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) staff will apply liquid and pellet herbicide over affected areas of the lake.

The treatment will target hydrilla growing in Goblet's Cove and the near-shore areas in the central and southern portions of the lake. The work is expected to take four to five days.

The herbicide, Aquathol, is approved for lake use by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. It is considered the most effective and environmentally friendly method of controlling hydrilla in Lake Tohopekaliga.

Since it was first introduced from Asia as an ornamental aquarium plant in the 1950s, the rapidly growing hydrilla has invaded most of Florida's ponds, rivers and waterways. The plant can grow in underwater stands or surface mats and is easily transferred by boat traffic.

Hydrilla slows water flow and can clog structures in District canals that must be kept clear for effective flood control. If left unchecked, the plant could also destroy fish and wildlife habitat and limit access to waterways by clogging boat motors.

The SFWMD Vegetation Management Division is responsible for managing nuisance and invasive exotic vegetation throughout the District. The implementation of a vegetation management program is necessary to ensure the continued use and function of the region's water resources and preservation of South Florida's conservation lands.

For more information on the District's vegetation management efforts, please visit the District's Web site at [www.sfwmd.gov](http://www.sfwmd.gov).

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**About the South Florida Water Management District – [Celebrating 60 Years \(1949-2009\)](#)**

*The South Florida Water Management District is a regional, governmental agency that oversees the water resources in the southern half of the state – 16 counties from Orlando to the Keys. It is the oldest and largest of the state's five water management districts. The agency mission is to manage and protect water resources of the region by balancing and improving water quality, flood control, natural systems and water supply. A key initiative is cleanup and restoration of the Everglades.*