

June 21, 2013

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SFWMD Makes Draft Recommendations for Lands in East Coast Region Public invited to workshop to comment on recommendations in District land assessment

WHAT: As part of its ongoing comprehensive land assessment, the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) today released draft staff recommendations for its fee-owned lands in the East Coast region, which includes parts of Palm Beach, Martin and St. Lucie counties. The draft recommendations are available for review on the District's land assessment website at <u>www.sfwmd.gov/landassessment</u>.

> Stakeholders and the general public will have the opportunity to provide feedback on the draft recommendations at a public workshop next week. Public comments may also be submitted on the land assessment website through July 8.

> Final recommendations for the East Coast region will be presented to the full Governing Board at its July 11 meeting.

The purpose of the land assessment is to ensure that each parcel owned by the District supports the agency's core mission of balancing and improving flood control, water quality, natural systems and water supply. The first phase of the assessment is a review of 750,000 acres of fee-owned lands — properties in which the agency has full or shared ownership rights. This phase is scheduled for completion by September 2013. A comprehensive review of non-fee-owned lands is scheduled to start later this year.

WHEN: Wednesday, June 26, 2013

**TIME:** 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

WHERE: SFWMD Headquarters – B-1 Auditorium 3301 Gun Club Road West Palm Beach, FL 33406 **WHO:** The SFWMD Land Assessment Team will meet with the public to receive comments on draft recommendations for agency lands in the East Coast region.

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## About the South Florida Water Management District

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.