



SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

3301 Gun Club Road, West Palm Beach, FL 33406

MEDIA ADVISORY

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CONTACT:

Randy Smith

South Florida Water Management District

Office: (561) 682-2800 or Cellular: (561) 389-3386

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Draft Land Assessment Recommendations Made for West Coast Region *Public invited to regional workshop to comment on recommendations*

WHAT: As part of its ongoing comprehensive land assessment, the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) today released draft staff recommendations for use of its fee-owned lands in the West Coast region, which includes parts of Lee, Collier, Hendry and Glades counties. The draft recommendations are available for review on the District's land assessment website at www.sfwmd.gov/landassessment.

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 Aug. 12. In addition, the draft recommendations will be presented at the Aug. 8 meeting of the Water Resources Advisory Commission (WRAC).

Final recommendations for the West Coast region will be presented to the full Governing Board at its Aug. 15 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. More than 97 percent of the nearly 272,000 acres assessed in the first three regions of the assessment were recommended to remain in their current use.

The fee-owned lands phase is scheduled for completion by September 2013. A comprehensive review of non-fee-owned lands is scheduled to start later this year.

WHEN: Tuesday, July 30, 2013

TIME: 10 a.m. to noon

WHERE: SFWMD Lower West Coast Service Center
2301 McGregor Blvd.
Fort Myers, FL 33901

WHO: The SFWMD Land Assessment Team will meet with the public to receive comments on draft recommendations for agency lands in the West 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.