



SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

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MEDIA ADVISORY

August 23, 2013

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SFWMD Releases Draft Land Recommendations for Everglades Region

Public invited to regional workshop next week 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 Everglades region, which includes parts of Palm Beach, Broward, Miami-Dade and Hendry 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 Sept. 9. In addition, the draft recommendations will be presented at the Sept. 5 meeting of the Water Resources Advisory Commission (WRAC).

Final recommendations for the Everglades region will be presented to the SFWMD Governing Board at its Sept. 12 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 more than 300,000 acres reviewed in the first four 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: Wednesday, Aug. 28, 2013

TIME: 10 a.m. to noon

WHERE: South Florida Regional Planning Council Office
3440 Hollywood Blvd.
Suite 140
Hollywood, FL 33021

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