



SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

## NEWS RELEASE

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**SFWMD, Marco Island to Improve Water Quality, Flood Control**  
*Septic tank replacement, stormwater retrofits to benefit residents, environment*

**Marco Island, FL** – The South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) this week approved investing \$1.2 million in a partnership with the City of Marco Island to improve water quality in coastal waters and the Ten Thousand Island coastal watershed. The projects will also enhance public safety by alleviating flooding.

Together with an \$11.6 million investment by the City of Marco Island, the projects seek to update a portion of the city's antiquated stormwater drainage system and replace septic systems at nearly 850 properties with connections to a central sewer system.

"These projects benefit the water resources of the Big Cypress Basin and Ten Thousand Island coastal watershed," said Big Cypress Basin Board Chairman Ex-Officio and SFWMD Governing Board member Charles Dauray. "They also demonstrate a continued commitment to public safety and the quality of life for residents."

The City of Marco Island has been experiencing frequent flooding because of its aged and inadequate stormwater conveyance system. The repair or replacement of existing stormwater infrastructure is critical to preserve and maintain existing storm drainage capacity and water quality of the receiving waters.

The stormwater upgrade includes:

- Construction of the Elkcarn Circle outfall
- New stormwater water quality inlet inserts
- Replacement of stormwater outfalls, and improvement of stormwater controls at intersections

The City of Marco Island is also undertaking an island-wide septic tank replacement program during a 7-year time frame. A total of 15 Sewer Districts were established to add a total of 5,700 new properties to the existing central sewer system.

This project involves:

- Construction of the sewer system for the Year 3 Sewer Districts, which includes the connection of 393 properties in the Lamplighter sewer district and 455 properties in the Sheffield sewer district.
- The Lamplighter and Sheffield districts are scheduled to be completed by June 2009.

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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.*