



SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

NEWS RELEASE

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SFWMD Expands Online Public Access to Permitting Records *Improved ePermitting Web database provides more cost-effective access*

West Palm Beach, FL – In a continuing effort to broaden access to public records and enhance customer service, the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) has completed the addition of more than 30 years of regulatory permit information to an existing ePermitting online database. The process entailed the conversion to electronic format of more than 280,000 microfiche (sheets of microfilm) containing 9.1 million documents dating back to the 1970s.

The SFWMD is taking strides to further enhance customer service, promote public access to government and more efficiently respond to customer inquiries. The result of the conversion project is direct, easy and quick public access to permit files, representing a more customer-friendly and cost-effective way to do business.

“This system brings government to the residents of Florida and utilizes the latest technology to improve public access,” said SFWMD Governing Board Chair Eric Buermann. “It’s also a faster way of transacting and processing permits and a more efficient method of doing business with the District.”

Previously, District staff had to access and manually search microfiche stored in file cabinets in response to requests for information. The information had to be printed, faxed, e-mailed or sent via regular mail. In 2006 alone, more than 10,400 requests for assistance were processed.

The District launched its ePermitting system in September 2005. The system allows customers to conduct a variety of business including submittal of environmental resource and consumptive use permit applications, submittal of information about permit compliance, accessing fee schedules and automatically calculating permitting fees. The tool also allows customers to apply for, track and manage permits online in real-time, at anytime.

Efforts to expand the system are part of the District's open government initiatives to improve Floridians' ability to access public documents.

All converted data, as well as existing applications, can be accessed online at: www.sfwmd.gov/ePermitting/.

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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.