



SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

NEWS RELEASE

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SFWMD Supports Three Stormwater Improvement Projects for Collier County

Projects to provide water quality benefits, alleviate flooding

Naples, FL – The South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) Governing Board has agreed to invest \$1.5 million in three stormwater improvement projects in Collier County. The projects are designed to alleviate flooding, lower pollutant levels and improve the water quality of stormwater runoff that ultimately enters Dollar, Rookery and Naples bays.

At a total cost of \$8.9 million, the improvements will help Collier County correct drainage problems that have created hazards for residents and the environment during extreme wet weather.

“In partnership with Collier County, the District is providing funding to help restore the county’s watersheds and estuaries while protecting the public from flooding,” said Big Cypress Basin Board Chairman Ex-Officio and SFWMD Governing Board member Charles Dauray. “These are important projects that will bring long-term environmental and public benefits to the region.”

The \$1.5 million in funding builds on a previous District investment of \$3.4 million. Construction of the following stormwater improvement projects, all of which are expected to be completed in 2009, will continue with the help of the District funding:

- **Lely Canal Phase 1B North** – The project continues construction of the Lely Branch Canal, which feeds into the Lely Main Canal, between Rattlesnake-Hammock Road and U.S. Highway 41. The construction is part of the Lely Area Stormwater Improvement Project, which was started in 2006 to provide comprehensive stormwater treatment and flood mitigation for 11,135 acres within the Lely Canal Basin.

- Gateway Triangle Phase II – The project includes draining a large portion of Gateway Triangle into a detention pond for treatment and constructing a pump station to help reduce flooding in the urban area along Naples Bay. The improved stormwater management system will enhance relief from flooding and treat stormwater runoff to reduce pollutants entering Naples Bay.
- Gordon River Water Quality Park – The project, started in late 2007, involves construction of a pump station and the creation of 15 acres of wetlands to reduce the amount of harmful pollutants entering the Gordon River and Naples Bay and to alleviate flooding in the area. The park, also known as Freedom Park, will also provide passive recreation, habitat protection and educational opportunities.

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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.