



SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

NEWS RELEASE

August 13, 2010

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SFWMD Recognized for Excellence in Governmental Budgeting

West Palm Beach, FL — For the 18th consecutive year, the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) has recognized the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) with its *Distinguished Budget Presentation Award* for the agency's 2009-2010 annual budget. The award is the highest form of professional recognition in governmental budgeting and the highest honor bestowed by the GFOA.

A Certificate of Recognition was presented to SFWMD Budget Director Michael Smykowski for his role in spearheading the 2009-2010 budget presentation and supporting documents.

"This honor reinforces how well the District develops budget documents that are easily understandable and clearly communicate how the agency is investing public dollars," said SFWMD Governing Board Chairman Eric Buermann. "We take seriously our obligation to the residents of South Florida to use their tax dollars wisely — and transparently — as we manage and protect the region's water resources."

To receive the *Distinguished Budget Presentation Award*, a government agency must demonstrate that it follows nationally recognized guidelines for effective budget presentation. A judging panel determined the District's 2009-2010 annual budget document was proficient as a policy statement, financial plan, operations guide and communications tool.

"As financial professionals, we are humbled to be recognized by our peers throughout the United States and Canada," Smykowski said. "Each year, we strive to produce budget documents that clearly show the District's commitment to responsible stewardship of public money."

With offices in Chicago and Washington, D.C., the GFOA is a nonprofit professional association serving approximately 17,400 government finance professionals throughout North America. The GFOA's *Distinguished Budget Presentation Awards Program* is the only national awards program in governmental budgeting.

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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.