



SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

NEWS RELEASE

September 23, 2010

CONTACTS:

Randy Smith

South Florida Water Management District

Office: (561) 682-2800 or Cellular: (561) 389-3386

Nestor Yglesias

Miami Service Center

South Florida Water Management District

Office: (305) 377-7274, ext. 7289 or Cellular: (305) 299-4503

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SFWMD to Improve Coastal Miami-Dade Canal Banks

Bank stabilization work will boost canals' efficiency and enhance flood protection

West Palm Beach, FL — In the ongoing effort to maintain and improve the system of canals and levees that helps protect millions of residents from flooding, the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) Governing Board recently approved a contract to reinforce the banks of three coastal canals north of Homestead.

"The Central and Southern Florida Project for flood control is massive. With more than 2,600 miles of canals and levees, about 1,300 water control structures and 64 pump stations, maintenance of the system requires attention to detail," said Tommy Strowd, SFWMD Deputy Executive Director of Operations and Maintenance. "This work is among the many details that must be addressed if the system is to continue its protection of the 7.5 million people who call South Florida home."

The banks of C-100A, C-100B and C-2 canals have been impacted by fluctuating water levels and wave action. This project will restore the canal banks by installing metal box-like enclosures filled with rock, known as gabion baskets, for bank stabilization. Gabions are stacked and fused together to create a secure and erosion-proof canal bank.

The \$1.2 million contract was awarded to Metro Equipment Services Inc. of Miami.

The Central and Southern Florida Project was authorized by the U.S. Congress in 1948. Five years ago, the SFWMD established a 50-year operations and maintenance plan to ensure regular, timely maintenance of the aging system.

By the start of the 2010 rainy season in June, \$240 million had been invested in essential maintenance and upgrade work during the past five years to ensure the system of

canals and levees operates at optimal capacity and provides effective flood control for South Florida's residents.

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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.