



SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

NEWS RELEASE

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SFWMD Funds Projects to Boost Alternative Water Supply
Investments in Collier County help reduce the region's reliance on limited traditional sources



(Click on the picture for a larger version.)

West Palm Beach, FL – The South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) Governing Board approved funding for two Alternative Water Supply projects in Collier County.

“These projects provide long-term benefits that extend our water supply for people, businesses and the environment,” said Daniel DeLisi, SFWMD Governing Board member and chairman of the Big Cypress Basin Board. “Increasing the amount of water we get from alternative sources is a key step in safeguarding our shared water resources.”

The District approved an investment of \$350,000 for the following projects at the most recent meeting:

- Collier County North County Reverse Osmosis upgrades
- Collier County Livingston Road Aquifer Storage and Recovery well

In addition to [two alternative water supply projects approved in September](#) in the Big Cypress Basin, as well as three projects in Broward, Palm Beach and Hendry counties, the SFWMD is investing \$2.72 million in Alternative Water Supply projects during Fiscal Year 2012.

Since 1997, the Alternative Water Supply Funding Program, in cooperation with the State of Florida, has invested \$185.5 million into 468 alternative water supply projects. To date, these projects have created 398 million gallons a day of water supply capacity, reducing reliance on freshwater sources.

Alternative water sources diversify South Florida's water supply while reducing the region's dependence on traditional freshwater resources and making communities less susceptible to drought impacts. Examples of alternative water supply include:

- Saltwater and brackish water
- Reclaimed water
- Surface water captured during wet weather
- Sources made available through new storage
- Stormwater (for consumptive use)
- Other nontraditional sources

Development of alternative water supplies is an important component of the District's four regional water supply plans, which encompass the agency's jurisdictional area. Updated every five years, each plan creates a framework for future water use decisions and identifies strategies to meet future water demands of urban and agricultural uses, while meeting the needs of the environment.

For more information on alternative water supplies, please visit www.sfwmd.gov/AWS.

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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.

About the Big Cypress Basin

The Big Cypress Basin, part of the South Florida Water Management District, covers Collier County and portions of Monroe County. A network of 162 miles of primary canals, 46 water

control structures and four pumps provide flood control to the basin and also protect regional water supplies and environmental resources.