



SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

NEWS RELEASE

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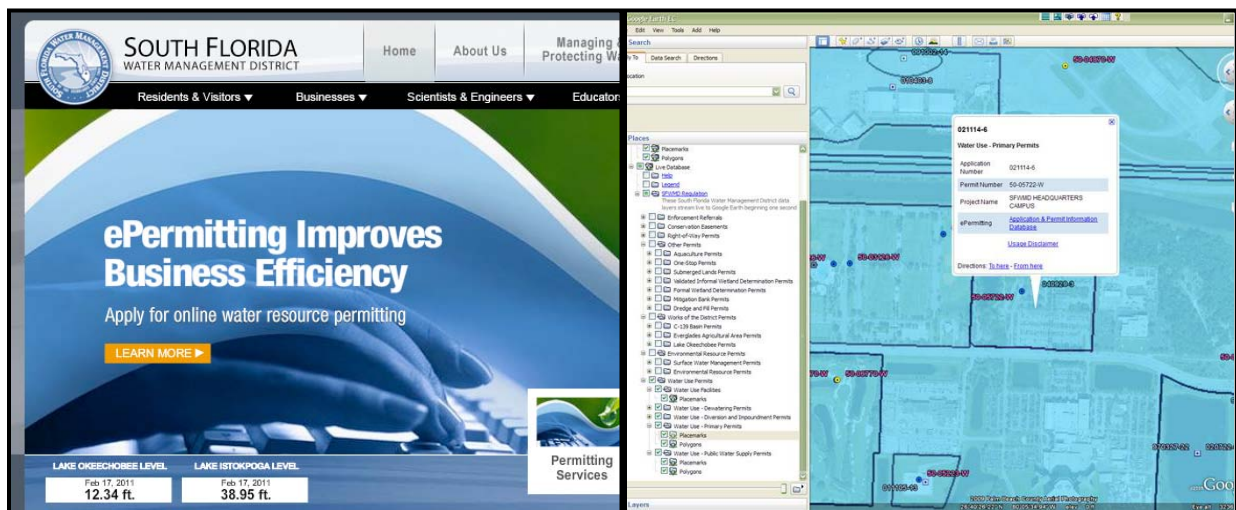
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SFWMD ePermitting Adds “Google Earth” Enhancement, Improves Customer Service and Transparency

Online system features new map view of permits



(Click on the images to use the SFWMD ePermitting database.)

West Palm Beach, FL – The public can now view South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) permitting information using Google Earth mapping software as part of a continuing commitment to enhance customer service, transparency and accessibility.

“This new mapping feature adds functionality to the District’s already robust ePermitting database,” said SFWMD Executive Director Melissa Meeker. “Technology tools allow us to boost public access and improve efficiency, making it easier for businesses, residents and other governments to accomplish work with this agency.”

By integrating the Google Earth mapping program, the District is now able to present permitting information in a graphic format. Businesses and residents can search for permits by specific location and save their searches.

With a program feature that turns on and off map layers, database users can refine

searches by permit type such as environmental resource, water use and works of the District.

“This is one of the more sophisticated databases, with features that significantly streamline the permitting process and increase transparency,” said SFWMD Assistant Executive Director Bob Brown. “The District is committed to using the most efficient technology to enhance customer service for our stakeholders doing business with this agency.”

The new mapping capability enhances the SFWMD ePermitting system, in which customers have convenient, 24-hour online access to conduct a variety of business, including:

- Submittal of applications for permit and/or permit compliance data
- Searching for application and permit information
- Submittal of payments for permit fees
- Applying to transfer an existing permit
- Subscribing to receive electronic noticing of permit-related information
- Obtaining help and instructional guides to use the system efficiently

ePermitting reduces applicant paperwork, eliminates printing and postage costs and reduces permit processing time. To assist customers with the ePermitting system, the SFWMD hosts free workshops focusing on Environmental Resource Permits and Consumptive Use Permits. The following training dates have been scheduled. Pre-registration is required.

DATE	LOCATION	TIME
March 8	Okeechobee Service Center 205 North Parrott Avenue, Suite 201 Okeechobee, FL 34972	1 - 4
March 22	West Palm Beach - District Headquarters 3301 Gun Club Road West Palm Beach, FL 33406	9 - Noon
April 10	Fort Lauderdale Field Station 2535 Davie Road Davie, FL 33317	1 - 4
April 16	West Palm Beach - District Headquarters 3301 Gun Club Road West Palm Beach, FL 33406	9 - Noon
Click here for a full list of training sessions throughout the District.		

Launched in September 2005, SFWMD ePermitting now has more than 10,000 user accounts. To date, nearly 300 individuals subscribe to the system’s automatic e-notice feature, allowing users to subscribe to receive electronic notifications regarding permit-related information. This information includes details on newly received applications, permits issued, regulatory agendas and rulemaking changes. The e-notices can be customized by each user, including by county or permit type.

The SFWMD continues to upgrade its services to permittees and other customers. Following an extensive conversion of microfiche files, more than 35 years of regulatory permit information are now available on the ePermitting online database, resulting in direct, easy and quick public access to permit files.

All converted data, as well as existing applications and information on the training sessions, can be accessed online at <http://my.sfwmd.gov/ePermitting>.

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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.