



SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

## NEWS RELEASE

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### **Big Cypress Basin Board Recognizes Efforts to ‘Keep Collier Beautiful’** *Volunteers adopt canals to help keep local waterways clear of debris*



*Volunteers scour canals for debris that is collected and properly discarded. Recent efforts to clean canals filled 438 trash bags.*

**Naples, FL** – Keep Collier Beautiful Inc. and its teams of volunteers were recognized today by the South Florida Water Management District’s (SFWMD) Big Cypress Basin Board for their ongoing efforts to improve the cleanliness and beauty of canals within the Big Cypress Basin.

Local volunteers – ranging from high school students to commercial businesses – have adopted close to 17 miles of Big Cypress Basin canal banks and have removed approximately 8,895 pounds of debris in the last year. At today’s board meeting, the nine groups that participate in the program were formally recognized. Their efforts are also commemorated with a signpost next to the section of canal they adopted. The groups commit to hosting a clean-up along the canal bank up to four times a year.

“We appreciate the effort to keep our canals clean, which helps us maintain the canals for the purpose of flood control and also beautifies our community,” said Rick Barber, Big Cypress Basin Board Chairman and SFWMD Governing Board member. “By removing debris from canals, the volunteers make a real difference in the community.”

Keep Collier Beautiful, an affiliate of Keep America Beautiful Inc., is a non-profit public education organization dedicated to improving waste handling practices in Collier County.

In addition to trash and debris, unusual items such as lawn furniture, fire extinguishers, buckets, coolers, furniture and grocery carts have also been removed.

For more information on the Big Cypress Basin and the Big Cypress Basin Board, visit [www.sfwmd.gov/bcb](http://www.sfwmd.gov/bcb).

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### **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.*

### **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.*