



SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

## NEWS RELEASE

September 30, 2014

**CONTACT:**

**Gabe Margasak**

South Florida Water Management District

Office: (561) 682-2800 or Cellular: (561) 670-1245

[www.sfwmd.gov/news](http://www.sfwmd.gov/news)

follow us on 

### **Big Cypress Basin Flood Control, Water Quality Projects Move Forward** *Efforts also help to improve water supply and restore watersheds*

**Naples, FL** – As part of its Fiscal Year 2015 budget approval, the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) Governing Board approved the investment of \$1.7 million for four projects located in the Big Cypress Basin that will enhance flood protection, water storage and improve water quality. The Big Cypress Basin Board previously reviewed and recommended the projects for approval.

“Local projects to improve water quality and flood control are essential to the quality of life for residents in the Big Cypress Basin,” said Rick Barber, Big Cypress Basin Board chairman and SFWMD Governing Board member. “Supporting local communities in completing this work is a key component of the District’s overall mission to protect South Florida’s water resources.”

The funded projects in Collier County include:

- **Lely Area Stormwater Improvements** – The project will provide improved flood protection to a number of communities and existing lands east of County Barn Road, from Davis Blvd. south to Rattlesnake Hammock Road, without causing impacts to nearby wetlands and sloughs.

Improvements are designed to convey stormwater south into the Lely Main Canal. A weir is to be constructed north of County Complex and Eden School, providing water storage and helping to rehydrate remnant portions of a wetland slough. The use of swales will provide water quality improvements and ultimately improve the water quality of Rookery Bay.

- **City of Marco Island Swallow Avenue Phase III Improvements** – Work includes installation of two storm drain piping systems and structures along Swallow Avenue from the outfall installed in 2010 west to Collier Blvd. Replacement of existing storm drainage systems is critical to the preservation and maintenance of the existing storm drainage capacity and water quality.

- **City of Naples Lake Manor Restoration** – Restoration of a 5-acre lake that receives stormwater from an 81-acre basin will help improve the water quality of runoff from Lake Manor discharging into Naples Bay. Project elements include dredging and disposing of approximately 7,500 cubic yards of sediments, creating a littoral zone and installing aerators and floating islands. Benefits also include improving surface water storage capacity and promoting aquifer recharge.
- **Everglades City Portable Generator** – Purchase of a mobile generator to provide standby power at any of the 14 lift stations to prevent sewage spilling into recreational land and fishing canals and streams.

# # #

### **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, 45 water control structures and 4 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.*