



SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

## NEWS RELEASE

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### **SFWMD Seeks Projects for FY2016 Cooperative Funding Program** *Application process opens today, workshops scheduled next week*



**West Palm Beach, FL** – The South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) has initiated a new Cooperative Funding Program that expands and builds on previous funding partnerships in support of local stormwater management, alternative water supply and water conservation projects. The application process for project funding opens today, with four workshops scheduled next week to provide more information.

“Partnering with local governments and other entities on water resource projects that are aligned with our District mission helps leverage taxpayer dollars,” said SFWMD Executive Director Blake Guillory. “Using this program framework, we can get a better understanding of current and proposed local efforts and identify where additional funding can best benefit the regional South Florida community.”

The intent of the streamlined program is to provide financial incentives for local projects that complement the agency’s multi-purpose mission: water quality, flood control, natural systems and water supply. Submittals will be reviewed over the coming months, with available funding integrated into development of the SFWMD’s Fiscal Year 2016 budget.

Four community workshops are scheduled next week to provide more details on the Cooperative Funding Program and the FY2016 application process:

- **Monday, Oct. 20** at 10 a.m. – South Florida Water Management District Headquarters, West Palm Beach (*meeting will be video recorded and posted online*)
- **Tuesday, Oct. 21** at 10 a.m. – SFWMD Lower West Coast Service Center, Fort Myers
- **Wednesday, Oct. 22** at 10 a.m. – South Florida Regional Planning Council, Hollywood
- **Thursday, Oct. 23** at 10 a.m. – Osceola Heritage Park, Kissimmee

### **Builds on Success of Three Cost-Share Partnerships**

The new program combines three cost-share efforts into a single application process. For nearly two decades, the District has provided support to local governments, special districts, utilities, homeowners associations, water users and other public and private organizations for projects consistent with the agency's core mission.

- **Stormwater management:** Managing stormwater runoff is a District priority that relies on successful local partnerships. Over the years, the District has helped fund hundreds of stormwater improvement projects that address both flood control and water quality issues.
- **Alternative water supply:** Development of alternative water supplies are important components of the District's regional water supply plans. From 1997 to 2014, the District's Alternative Water Supply funding program, in cooperation with the State of Florida, invested more than \$193 million toward 488 AWS projects. To date, these projects have created 434 million gallons a day of water supply capacity, reducing reliance on freshwater sources.
- **Water Conservation:** The District's Water Savings Incentive Program, or WaterSIP, has provided matching funds to public and private water providers or to large users to implement water-saving technologies. Since 2003, the District invested \$4.9 million toward 172 projects throughout the agency's 16-county region. These projects together have saved an estimated 2.76 billion gallons of water per year, or 7.6 million gallons of water per day. This program will continue to be administered separately in FY2015 and will be incorporated into the new Cooperative Funding Program beginning in FY2016.

FY2016 program guidelines and application submittal information, along with other material, can be found at [www.sfwmd.gov/coopfunding](http://www.sfwmd.gov/coopfunding).

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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.*