



SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

NEWS RELEASE

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SFWMD Sees Successful Response to Program for Local Water Projects *Cooperative funding will help communities protect water resources*

West Palm Beach, FL – The South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) received a robust response from local communities across South Florida seeking support for stormwater management, alternative water supply and water conservation projects.

In October, the District requested proposals from communities for a new Cooperative Funding Program that provides financial incentives for local projects that can complement the agency's multi-purpose mission: water quality, flood control, natural systems and water supply.

The District received 198 applications in the following categories:

- 115 Stormwater Management projects
- 58 Alternative Water Supply projects
- 25 Water Conservation projects

"This excellent response is just the beginning for this program and provides the District with valuable insight into the water resource protection needs of our local communities," said SFWMD Executive Director Blake Guillory. "I expect this effort to expand as the regional economy grows and revenue allows for additional financial support to further safeguard South Florida's water resources."

District staff is conducting preliminary evaluations of the applications and will present their findings to the SFWMD Governing Board at its February public meeting. Workshops will then be scheduled to refine the evaluations and provide the Board with additional information prior to funding decisions later next year.

Building on the Success of Three Cost-Share Partnerships

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.

The new program combines these three cost-share efforts into a single application process:

- **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 (AWS):** Development of alternative water supplies is an important component 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 has 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 related information can be found at 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.