



SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

## NEWS RELEASE

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### **Corbett Berm Construction Set to Begin for Flood Protection** *Work addresses the most critically damaged portion from Tropical Storm Isaac*

**West Palm Beach, FL** – Following a series of public meetings and extensive engineering work, the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) this week approved a contract to begin permanent improvements on a local flood control berm between the J.W. Corbett Wildlife Management Area and nearby residents. The berm suffered storm damage in 2012, which the District addressed with emergency but temporary repairs.

“District staff took immediate actions to provide flood relief and bolster the berm during and after the historic rainfall from Tropical Storm Isaac,” said SFWMD Governing Board member Melanie Peterson, a long-time Palm Beach County resident. “This action will enhance flood protection and safety for residents in the Indian Trail Improvement District for many years to come.”

The District is investing \$3.5 million in the phase 1 work, which will include a new earthen levee measuring:

- 2.6 miles long
- 14 feet wide at the top, 50 feet wide at the bottom
- 6 feet tall

Construction is slated to begin in early March and will take place over the next 14 months.

### **Tropical Storm Isaac**

In August 2012, a stalled rain band from Tropical Storm Isaac brought nearly 15 inches of rain during a 72-hour period in areas of central Palm Beach County. SFWMD operations moved more than 100 billion gallons of water through the regional system during the 1-in-100-year storm event.

In addition, the SFWMD began emergency relief actions in and around the Indian Trail Improvement District.



*(Click on graphic for more information.)*

Actions included installing 9 temporary pumps, maximizing flows at major water control structures and stockpiling 2,300 cubic yards of material for repairs if needed in the Corbett area.

Immediately following the storm, the SFWMD also constructed an emergency 140-foot weir and flow-way channel to relieve pressure on the berm separating Corbett from nearby residences. During three weeks of emergency operations, high water levels in the Corbett Wildlife Management Area were successfully lowered by almost 2.5 feet.

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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.*