



SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

NEWS RELEASE

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SFWMD Engineer Recognized for Work to Protect the St. Lucie Estuary
American Society of Civil Engineers honors the C-44 Reservoir/STA project manager



Sue Ray accepts an award from ASCE Palm Beach Branch Vice President Brent Whitfield, P.E., at SFWMD headquarters in West Palm Beach. (Click on the picture for a larger version.)

West Palm Beach, FL — Sue Ray, the South Florida Water Management District's (SFWMD) principal engineer for the C-44 Reservoir/Stormwater Treatment Area (STA) project, has been named Government Engineer of the Year by the Palm Beach Branch of the American Society of Civil Engineers. The C-44 project in Martin County is a major restoration initiative to protect the St. Lucie River and Estuary.

“From engineering and science to computer modeling and mechanics, the District’s technical staff helps us every day to solve real challenges in water management,” said SFWMD Executive Director Blake Guillory, P.E. “Sue is an outstanding engineer whose dedication to this restoration project is evidenced by this prestigious recognition.”

The award, according to the American Society of Civil Engineers, “honors an individual who, through their activities and endeavors, has attained significant professional achievement to society and the engineering profession.” As the recipient for Palm Beach, Ray is also nominated for the state-level award, which will be decided later this

year. This week, she was also recognized by the SFWMD Governing Board as the District's employee of the month.

The overall C-44 Reservoir/Stormwater Treatment Area project will help capture, store and clean local stormwater runoff before it reaches the St. Lucie River and Estuary.

Four components of the project are currently under construction with an investment of \$150 million. A fifth construction contract is expected to start later this year, another in a series of recent milestones, including:

- In July 2014, the SFWMD Governing Board approved a major agreement with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers – which was originally constructing all components of the project – allowing the SFWMD to expedite construction of the STA, a pump station and a portion of the project discharge canal.
- In August 2104, the Board awarded an approximately \$5.4 million contract for construction of the spillway that will serve as the single point of water movement out of the entire project.
- In September 2014, the Board invested approximately \$101 million in a contract to construct the water cleaning, 6,300-acre wetland STA portion of the project.
- In March, the Board approved a \$40 million contract to build the pump station needed to move water from the C-44 Canal to its connected 3,400-acre reservoir, capable of storing about 16 billion gallons of water.

Background:

Ray is a rural Pennsylvania native and a 1984 graduate of the Pennsylvania State University with a B.S. degree in Aerospace Engineering. She worked for 15 years as a project engineer in the jet and rocket engine industry for Pratt & Whitney Aircraft and General Electric Aircraft Engines, working on primarily development of military jet engine programs.

Ray also worked on the Space Shuttle Main Engine Turbopump Program as a manufacturing, assembly and test engineer and is a Florida Licensed Professional Engineer.

Ray joined the SFWMD in 2000, performing watershed assessment modeling for the Lake Okeechobee Watershed, managing the Western C-11 Water Quality Improvement Critical Restoration Project and supervising the Biscayne Bay and Lower East Coast section, among other work.

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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.