



SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

## NEWS RELEASE

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**MEDIA CONTACT:**

**Randy Smith**

South Florida Water Management District

Office: (561) 682-2800 or Cellular: (561) 389-3386

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

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### **SFWMD 2016 Budget Supports Unprecedented Environmental Progress** *Construction is complete or underway on a record number of projects*

**West Palm Beach, FL** – At a public hearing tonight, the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) Governing Board adopted a \$749.6 million budget for Fiscal Year 2016 (Oct. 1, 2015 – Sept. 30, 2016). The annual budget funds the agency’s core flood control and water supply missions as well as its continued progress to restore and protect the South Florida ecosystem.

“We have a robust budget that supports flood control and hurricane response, improves Everglades water quality, protects the St. Lucie and Caloosahatchee estuaries and meets water resource needs,” said SFWMD Governing Board Chairman Daniel O’Keefe. “These goals were achieved with a continued commitment to maintain lower taxes for South Floridians for a fifth consecutive year.”

Nearly 84 percent of the District’s FY2016 budget is dedicated to enhancing operations, maintaining lands and \$13 billion of infrastructure and advancing ecosystem restoration goals.

#### **Key Projects**

The FY2016 budget supports implementing the next phases of the Governor’s \$880 million Restoration Strategies plan to improve Everglades water quality, including:

- \$46 million to increase capacity at Stormwater Treatment Area (STA) 1 West
- \$9 million to continue implementation of the Science Plan to help improve the water cleaning performance of the STAs
- \$6.9 million for design of the Mecca Shallow Impoundment and Lainhart and Masten Conveyance Improvements for the Loxahatchee River

A host of priority projects will provide significant benefits to South Florida’s extensive flood control system and protect coastal estuaries, including:

- \$55.7 million for continued refurbishment of South Florida’s flood control system
- \$27.7 million for design and initial construction of the Caloosahatchee River C-43 Western Basin Storage Reservoir

- \$45.6 million for construction progress on the C-44 Reservoir and STA to protect the St. Lucie River and Estuary
- \$7.2 million for construction and repairs to the Ten Mile Creek project
- \$31.4 million for Kissimmee River restoration

The approved budget contains a significant infusion of state revenues, totaling \$126.6 million, appropriated by the Florida Legislature this year to continue and to accelerate the pace of restoration progress.

The District's annual budget is funded by a combination of ad valorem (property) taxes and other revenues such as state appropriations, federal and local sources, balances, fees, investment earnings and agricultural privilege taxes. For FY2016, \$266.9 million (about 36 percent of total revenues) are provided by property taxes and \$226.4 million are from accumulated reserves.

The approved millage rates for FY2016 represent \$35.51 per \$100,000 of taxable value in 15 of the District's 16 counties (the Okeechobee Basin). In Collier County and mainland Monroe County (the Big Cypress Basin), the tax rates represent \$28.88 per \$100,000 of taxable value.

**For More Information:**

- [Just the Facts: FY2016 Budget](#)

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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.*