



SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

NEWS RELEASE

November 12, 2015

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SFWMD Supports Big Cypress Flood Control, Water Resource Projects *Efforts improve water supply and restore watersheds*

Naples, FL – Continuing its commitment to Big Cypress Basin communities, the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) has approved the investment of approximately \$2 million to help fund projects that will enhance local flood protection, expand water storage and improve water quality. The SFWMD's Big Cypress Basin Board previously reviewed and recommended the projects for approval.

“For nearly a decade, the District has supported community projects to improve water quality and flood control in the Big Cypress Basin,” said Rick Barber, Big Cypress Basin Board chairman and SFWMD Governing Board member. “These partnerships are an essential tool to accomplish the goal of protecting South Florida’s water resources.”

The funded projects in Collier County include:

- **Lely Area Stormwater Improvements** (\$937,500) – The project will improve the existing flood control system as well as improve water quality, re-establish a historic flowway and enhance adjacent wetlands in an 11,135-acre basin of East Naples.
 - The work will also improve the timing and distribution of fresh water entering the Rookery Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve, a 110,000-acre mangrove estuary.
 - The District has invested approximately \$6.7 million in this effort to date, and approximately 80 percent of the proposed project has been completed.
- **City of Naples** (\$400,000) – The project will increase the availability of reclaimed water within the city and offset the demand on traditional water sources by approximately 1 million gallons per day (MGD). This year’s investment will help construct an Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR) well.
- **City of Naples Reclaimed Water System Expansion** (\$680,000) – The project will increase the availability of reclaimed water within the city while offsetting the demand of traditional water sources by approximately 0.26 MGD.
- **City of Marco Island** (\$63,000) – Drainage improvements for the Bald Eagle/ Bayport and Tahiti areas with the city will improve flood control in the area.

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About the Big Cypress Basin

The Big Cypress Basin, part of the South Florida Water Management District, covers Collier County and portions of Monroe County. A network of 153 miles of primary canals, 43 water control structures and 4 pumps provide flood control to the basin and also protect regional water supplies and environmental resources.

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 flood control, water quality, natural systems and water supply. A key initiative is cleanup and restoration of the Everglades.