



SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

## NEWS RELEASE

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### **SFWMD Approves Regional Water Supply Plan for Central Florida** *The collaborative effort will help ensure adequate future water supplies*

**West Palm Beach, FL** – The South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) today approved an important water supply plan for Central Florida. The strategy charts a long-term course of more aggressive water conservation, expanded and more efficient water reuse projects and alternative water-supply project options to ensure adequate water supplies for the region through 2035.

The plan was developed as part of the Central Florida Water Initiative (CFWI), which includes Orange, Osceola, Polk, Seminole and south Lake counties.

“This is an important step forward to meet the long-term water supply needs of residents, businesses and agriculture in Central Florida,” said SFWMD Governing Board Chairman Daniel O’Keefe. “With input from an array of stakeholders, the plan represents a combination of strategies to effectively address the challenges of protecting water resources for the region.”

Water supply plans identify future water supply needs for a 20-year planning horizon, and programs and projects needed to ensure sustainable supplies. However, the plans do not require that specific projects be implemented. Decisions to choose project options are made at the local level by water supply utilities.

The plan was approved earlier this week by the St. Johns River Water Management District and will be considered by the Southwest Florida Water Management District on Nov. 17.

The CFWI is a collaborative effort that engages three water management districts, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, central Florida utilities and stakeholders representing agricultural interests, the business community, local governments and the environmental community. The CFWI process identified project options that can meet the region’s future water supply needs.

The plans represent more than five years of a coordinated effort led by the CFWI involving many experts in the fields of water supply and water management. More than 6,000 stakeholders participated in the process by attending public meetings and providing comments that helped shape the plans.

**For More Information:**

- [Central Florida Water Initiative](#)

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