

### SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

## **News Release**

Sept. 8, 2016

# SFWMD Recognizes the Town of Cutler Bay for Providing Recreational Opportunities, Environmental Education on Public Lands

Proclamation commends Town for bringing ecosystem restoration education out of the classroom and into the field to benefit Biscayne National Park



The SFWMD Governing Board presents a proclamation Town of Cutler Bay Mayor Peggy Bell (center) and Town Manager Rafael Casals (left), commending the community's commitment to ecosystem restoration and protecting Biscayne National Park.

West Palm Beach, FL - At its monthly meeting today, the South Florida Water Management District Governing Board commended the Town of Cutler Bay with a proclamation praising its work in providing recreation and educational opportunities on public project land to bring heightened awareness to Biscayne Bay. Town of Cutler Bay Mayor Peggy Bell and Town Manager Rafael Casals accepted the proclamation from the SFWMD Governing Board.

"I applaud the Town of Cutler Bay for working in partnership with Miami-Dade Public Schools on a program for local high school students to see ecosystems and study projects in their community that improve Biscayne Bay," SFWMD Governing Board Member Sam Accursio said. "The District shares this commitment to environmental education and encourages approaches like this one."

"On behalf of the Town of Cutler Bay, I thank the South Florida Water Management District for supporting this successful collaborative effort," Mayor Bell said. "The Town is proud to be a part of a program that brings our student residents and restoration together for the benefit of Biscayne Bay."

Cutler Wetlands, one of the components of the Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands restoration project, is in the Town of Cutler Bay. The Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands project will expand and restore the wetlands adjacent to Biscayne Bay in Miami-Dade County, enhancing the ecological health of Biscayne Bay/Biscayne National Park.

The Town is also home to Cutler Bay Senior High School, which is a Miami-Dade County Public Choice School with three academies: Cutler Bay Ocean Academy of Science and Technology (COAST) Environmental Science, iPrep and Liberal Arts. The Town has an Interlocal Agreement with Miami-Dade Public Schools that allows it to work with all three programs, particularly the COAST Program, by organizing and conducting activities in the field so that students can connect their classroom studies about the ecosystem to ongoing restoration projects in Miami-Dade County.

For more information about the project, visit <u>www.evergladesrestoration.gov</u>

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The South Florida Water Management District is a regional governmental agency that manages the water resources in the southern part of the state. It is the oldest and largest of the state's five water management districts. Our mission is to protect South Florida's water resources by balancing and improving flood control, water supply, water quality and natural systems.

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