



SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

NEWS RELEASE

Sept. 8, 2016

SFWMD Recognizes Loxahatchee River Environmental Control District for its work improving Loxahatchee River and Estuary Water Quality

From septic to sewer - 4,000 homes converted and counting



The SFWMD Governing Board presents a proclamation to Loxahatchee River Environmental Control District's Governing Board Vice-Chair Harvey Silverman (center) and Executive Director Dr. Albrey Arrington (far left), recognizing LRD's work for improving water quality in the Loxahatchee River and Estuary.

West Palm Beach, FL - At its monthly meeting today, the South Florida Water Management District Governing Board commended the Loxahatchee River Environmental Control District with a proclamation recognizing its efforts to protect the Loxahatchee River and Estuary. Created by the Florida Legislature in 1971, the Jupiter-based Loxahatchee River District has converted nearly 4,000 homes within its service area from septic tanks to centralized sewer systems, leading to improved water quality in the Loxahatchee River and Estuary.

Loxahatchee River District's Governing Board Vice-Chair Harvey Silverman and Executive Director Dr. Albrey Arrington accepted the proclamation from the SFWMD Governing Board.

"The South Florida Water Management District enthusiastically supports the Loxahatchee River District's septic to sewer conversion program, and thanks to the thousands of homeowners who - on their dime - contributed to this successful endeavor," SFWMD Governing Board Member Melanie Peterson said. "Numerous studies show that septic tanks in areas with sandy soils and high water tables readily leach pollutants, including phosphorus, into adjacent water bodies."

"The Loxahatchee River District is not done," Silverman said. "We continue to strategically plan and prioritize septic tank conversions to protect water quality and environmental health of the Loxahatchee River and Estuary."

It is estimated that Florida has more than 2.3 million on-site septic tanks in operation. More than half of the septic tanks in Florida are greater than 30 years old and installed under loose standards.

The Loxahatchee River Environmental Control District is a Special District of the State with a mission of preserving the Loxahatchee River and its natural habitats by implementing innovative wastewater solutions, furthering river research efforts and fostering environmental stewardship. For more information, visit www.loxahatcheeriver.org

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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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