



SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

3301 Gun Club Road, West Palm Beach, FL 33406

## MEDIA ADVISORY

February 25, 2009

**CONTACT:**

**Bill Graf**

Orlando Service Center

South Florida Water Management District

Office: (407) 858-6100, ext. 3837 or Cellular: (407) 908-4764

### **SFWMD Hosts Workshop on Kissimmee Basin Water Reservation**

**WHAT:** As part of a multi-year effort to identify how much water needs to be set aside to protect the Kissimmee Basin ecosystem, a series of public meetings has been scheduled to share information and gather input from interested residents, governments, businesses and other stakeholders. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 26, in Kissimmee.

Florida law supports the creation of water reservations to set aside water for protection of fish and wildlife or public health and safety. The South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) Governing Board in June initiated a rulemaking process to reserve water needed for environmental protection of the [Kissimmee Basin](#), which includes the Kissimmee River, the Kissimmee Chain of Lakes and surrounding tributaries. The reservation is part of the \$620 million plan to restore the river and more than 27,000 acres of wetlands along the Central Florida waterway.

Water is the lifeblood that makes the Kissimmee Basin home to more than 300 fish and wildlife species. For more information about Kissimmee River restoration and rulemaking for the water reservation, visit [www.sfwmd.gov/kissimmee](http://www.sfwmd.gov/kissimmee).

The workshop is open to the public and will be webcast at [www.sfwmd.gov](http://www.sfwmd.gov).

**WHEN:** Thursday, February 26, 2009

**TIME:** 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

**WHERE:** Osceola County Board of County Commissioners meeting chambers  
1 Courthouse Square

Kissimmee, FL 34741

**WHO:** SFWMD staff, interested residents, governments, businesses and other stakeholders.

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**About the South Florida Water Management District – Celebrating 60 Years (1949-2009)**

*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.*