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quick facts on...

# South Florida Water Management District

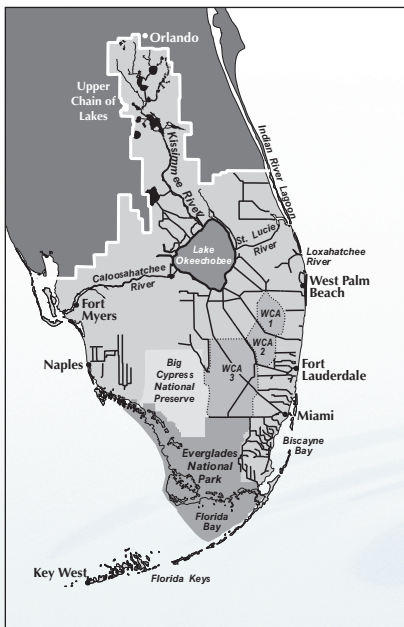
*Budget Year 2013 – 2014*

MAY 2014

## The South Florida Water Management District

is a regional, governmental agency that oversees the water resources in the southern half of the state. It is the oldest and largest of the state's five water management districts.

**Our Mission** is to manage and protect water resources of the region by balancing and improving water quality, flood control, natural systems and water supply.



## Agency Overview

The South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) serves 16 counties from Orlando to Key West and from Fort Myers to Fort Lauderdale, encompassing 31% of the state's land area and 41% of the population.

The SFWMD operates the region's primary flood control network along with other system components made up of major canals, levees, water storage areas, pump stations and other water control structures.

The agency also safeguards and plans regional water supplies for people and the environment. Other core responsibilities include improving and protecting water quality and restoring natural systems in one of the most diverse ecosystems in the world – America's Everglades.

The budget year starts October 1 and ends September 30 of the following year. To underscore transparency and public accountability, staff look for and implement ways to improve operations, achieve efficiencies and implement good business practices.

State legislation divides the District into two taxing basins: the Okeechobee Basin (comprising the bulk of the counties) and the Big Cypress Basin (includes Collier County and a portion of mainland Monroe County). A nine-member SFWMD Governing Board, appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate, provides oversight and sets policy for both basins. The Governor also appoints five Collier County residents to oversee Big Cypress Basin planning, budgeting and operations.

The Governing Board appoints an Executive Director, also subject to Senate approval, to carry out the Board's directives. Key leadership support is provided by the Assistant Executive Director, General Counsel and Chief of Staff.



## District Divisions

### Field Operations & Land

**Management** encompasses the year-round and emergency operations and maintenance functions conducted by the agency's eight field stations to ensure water management system readiness. Stewardship of District-owned public land includes vegetation management, exotic species control and opportunities for recreational access.

### Operations, Engineering &

**Construction** is responsible for 24-hour operational control and monitoring of District structures and water levels to provide regional flood control, water supply and environmental enhancement. Water management system components are routinely inspected, and refurbishments are completed on a planned schedule. In addition, this group oversees the design and construction of new restoration projects and other District facilities.

### Everglades Policy & Coordination

comprises all aspects of the District's involvement and commitment regarding state and federal initiatives to implement Everglades restoration. This group coordinates, develops and implements comprehensive policy and projects to preserve, restore and protect the South Florida ecosystem while recognizing the needs of stakeholders.

**Water Resources** assesses South Florida's diverse water supply and environmental protection needs by conducting scientific research, collecting and analyzing field samples, developing computer models and utilizing many other tools and methodologies. This information is used to plan and implement effective strategies for ensuring water supply for both people and the environment, restoring ecosystems and improving water quality.

**Regulation** ensures fair, consistent and timely review of environmental and water use permit applications. Streamlined regulatory programs, including online accessibility and compliance, help manage the region's groundwater supplies and protect natural resources such as wetlands, rivers, lakes and estuaries from adverse impacts.

**Administrative Services** consists of the primary business functions of the agency: budget, finance, procurement, information technology, facilities and human resources. This group provides efficient and cost-effective resources needed to support the District's core mission responsibilities.

### For More Information

Visit [www.sfwmd.gov](http://www.sfwmd.gov) for additional details about the agency, including Governing Board members and meetings; agency organization; major projects; permitting; publications; agency news; career opportunities; and more.

## QUICK STATS

### Area and population:

- Spans all or part\* of 16 counties:
 

Broward	Miami-Dade
Charlotte*	Monroe
Collier	Okeechobee*
Glades	Orange*
Lee	Osceola*
Hendry	Palm Beach
Highlands*	Polk*
Martin	St. Lucie

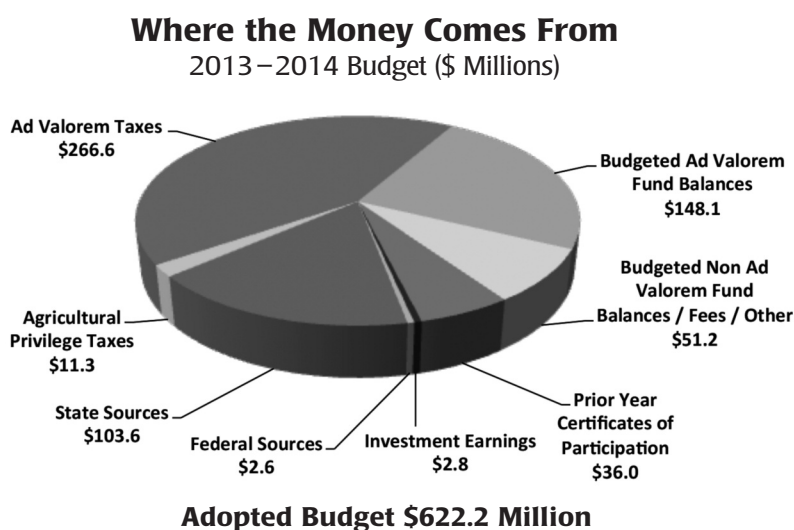
- 18,000 square miles
- 7.9 million residents

### One of the world's largest water management systems:

- Approximately 2,100 miles of canals and 2,000 miles of levees/berms
- More than 600 water control structures and 625 project culverts
- 70 pump stations
- About 3,500 hydrological monitoring stations at 650+ flow sites, including 200 rain gauges and 26 weather stations

## Funding Sources

District activities are funded by a combination of ad valorem (property) taxes and other sources such as federal and state revenue, licenses, permit fees, agricultural taxes, fund balances and investment income.



## District Locations

### Headquarters

West Palm Beach: (561) 686-8800 or (800) 432-2045

### Big Cypress Basin

Naples: (239) 263-7615

### Field Stations

Big Cypress Basin: (239) 597-2236

Clewiston: (863) 983-1431

Fort Lauderdale: (954) 452-4814

Homestead: (305) 242-5933

Miami: (305) 513-3420

Okeechobee: (863) 462-5328

St. Cloud: (407) 891-3550

West Palm Beach: (561) 791-4100

### Regulatory Service Centers

Lower West Coast: (239) 338-2929 or (800) 248-1201

Okeechobee: (863) 462-5260 or (800) 250-4200

Orlando: (407) 858-6100 or (800) 250-4250

*Toll-free numbers are Florida only.*



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