



SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

STATEMENT

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SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT STATEMENT

Re: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency rule regarding water transfers and National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permitting

"The South Florida Water Management District welcomes the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's action today to clarify its Water Transfer Rule. In doing so, the EPA rightly entrusts the states to manage their waters for the benefit and protection of their citizens without burdening the taxpayers with additional layers of federal oversight.

"As the EPA has recognized, the NPDES permitting program was created – appropriately -- to stop polluters from dumping waste into the nation's waterways. It was not designed to govern the movement of water for water supply and flood control purposes. Water managers must routinely move water for these public benefits, which include environmental restoration. Florida's robust permitting system already ensures that such activities comply with State law and adhere to the standards of the Clean Water Act.

"The District takes seriously its responsibility to protect the quality of life of Floridians through water supply enhancement and flood control. We also remain committed to safeguarding the environment and will continue to work with our state and federal partners to advance the protection and restoration of South Florida's waterways."

- [NPDES and EPA Water Transfers Rule - Background materials](#) (June 2008)

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