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Statement by the South Florida Water Management District

RE: Validation of Certificates of Participation for the *River of Grass* Acquisition

“The South Florida Water Management District was pleased to present its case to the Florida Supreme Court today.

“These proceedings before Florida’s highest court underscore the District’s commitment to transparency and an open public process as we work toward acquiring strategic lands in the Everglades Agricultural Area for environmental restoration. Validation — already approved by the lower court — provides additional judicial assurances that the District’s financing program and water resource projects comply with Florida law, are in the public interest and benefit South Florida’s health, safety and welfare.

“Acquiring vast areas of land south of Lake Okeechobee is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity that offers immense environmental and public benefits. The District is confident in the prudent financial steps it is taking to achieve this historic Everglades restoration initiative.”

Related information:

- 15th Judicial Circuit Court final judgment validating COPs financing ([Aug. 2009](#))
- Just the Facts: [About Certificates of Participation and Bond Validation](#)
- SFWMD request for COPs validation ([Oct. 12, 2008](#))
- Supplemental SFWMD request for validation ([Nov. 13, 2008](#))
- SFWMD responses to validation challenges ([Feb. 3, 2009](#) and [Feb. 5, 2009](#))
- Additional materials on the SFWMD Web site: www.sfwmd.gov/riverofgrass

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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.