



SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

STATEMENT

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www.sfwmd.gov/news

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

“Floridians now have the highest level of state judicial assurance that the South Florida Water Management District’s recent purchase of land for Everglades restoration serves the public purpose, in the words of the court, ‘of conserving and protecting water and water-related resources, and that the authorization of the obligation complies with the requirements of law.’

“The purchase, approved by the Governing Board after public input, placed 26,800 acres of agricultural land into public ownership for the construction of water quality improvement projects. This acquisition also represented an affordable plan to help achieve restoration goals and did not require public financing using Certificates of Participation as initially planned.

“The state high court’s action allows future flexibility to finance initiatives that improve water quality and further our Everglades restoration goals.”

Related information:

- Florida Supreme Court Ruling ([Nov. 2010](#))
- 15th Judicial Circuit Court final judgment validating COPs financing ([Aug. 2009](#))
- Just the Facts: [About Certificates of Participation and Bond Validation](#)
- Additional materials on the SFWMD website: 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.