



SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

## NEWS RELEASE

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**CONTACT:**

**Lisa Koehler**

Big Cypress Basin

South Florida Water Management District

Office: (239) 263-7615, ext. 7603 or Cellular: (239) 229-7254

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### **Big Cypress Basin Local Partner Agreements Move Forward**

*Projects to provide water quality benefits and improved stormwater management*

**Naples, FL** – The South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) Governing Board recently approved five cooperative agreements with local governments within the Big Cypress Basin to help fund stormwater management and water quality projects over the next year. The Big Cypress Basin Board reviewed the agreements and recommended them for approval at its October 30 meeting.

“These agreements with our partner governments represent a sizable investment of local tax dollars in projects that will directly help us manage and protect the water resources of this unique basin,” said SFWMD Governing Board member and Big Cypress Basin Board Chair Charles Dauray. “This diverse group of projects will create lasting environmental and public benefits for the region.”

The agreements dedicate more than \$3 million from the Big Cypress Basin’s budget for projects that will provide long-term environmental and public benefits:

- \$1 million to the City of Marco Island for the Septic Tank Replacement program, a seven-year project to add 5,700 properties in 15 sewer districts to the island’s central sewer system. In its fourth year, this latest phase of the program focuses on 1,335 properties in the Kendall and Mackle Park sewer districts. The District has contributed \$4 million to this water quality improvement effort since the project began in 2006.
- \$300,000 to the City of Marco Island for the replacement of existing stormwater drainage. The city has been experiencing frequent flooding because of its aged and inadequate stormwater conveyance system. Repair or replacement of existing stormwater infrastructure is critical to preserve and maintain existing storm drainage capacity and water quality of the receiving waters.
- \$176,000 in Fiscal Year 2010 for two agreements with the Collier County Pollution Control Department to monitor surface water and groundwater quality. The monitoring efforts gather data to help evaluate the water resources within the Basin.

- \$1.2 million to Collier County for the Lely Area Stormwater Improvement project, which was started in 2006 to provide comprehensive stormwater treatment and flood mitigation for 11,135 acres within the Lely Canal Basin.

This funding builds on previous investments of \$11.25 million in these projects, enabling monitoring efforts and construction of vital stormwater improvement projects to continue.

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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.*