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## just the FACTs

This fact sheet is provided as a reference to encourage a greater understanding of the various issues related to managing water in South Florida.

### REGIONAL ISSUES COORDINATOR

Alan Shirkey, P.E.  
(561) 242-5520 Ext. 4027  
[ashirkey@sfwmd.gov](mailto:ashirkey@sfwmd.gov)

### COMMUNITY FACILITATOR

Cecelia Weaver, Director  
Orlando Service Center  
(407) 858-6100 x3838  
[cweaver@sfwmd.gov](mailto:cweaver@sfwmd.gov)

[sfwmd.gov](http://sfwmd.gov)

South Florida Water Management District  
3301 Gun Club Road  
West Palm Beach, Florida 33406  
561-686-8800 or 1-800-432-2045 in Florida  
[www.sfwmd.gov](http://www.sfwmd.gov)

MAILING ADDRESS: P.O. Box 24680  
West Palm Beach, FL 33416-4680

## Kissimmee Regional Issues Coordination Initiative

*A one-stop source for information about water-related projects*

*The South Florida Water Management District, in cooperation with other federal and state agencies, local governments, property owners and stakeholders, is working to address surface and groundwater issues affecting the Kissimmee Region, including the Kissimmee River and Floodplain (lower basin) and Chain of Lakes (upper basin). The Kissimmee Regional Issues Coordination Initiative was formed in 2010 to provide the resources and management involvement needed to ensure that ongoing water-related projects and plans for the region are coordinated and receive effective oversight. The initiative currently includes 10 programs/activities.*

*Goals of the initiative include providing stakeholders and interested parties with background information and timely updates on the numerous projects under development in the region; ensuring access to data and technical evaluations conducted in support of District water resource actions; and providing notice and supporting documents and presentations regarding public meetings and workshops. The initiative is also coordinating modeling efforts and permitting activities for water-related projects in the area.*

### Immediate focus

The immediate focus of the Kissimmee Regional Issues Coordination Initiative is on four major program areas that will require further technical review and public input:

- **Central Florida Coordination Area** - A collaboration of South Florida Water Management District, St. Johns River Water Management District and Southwest Florida Water Management District to address the short and long-term development of water supplies in the Central Florida Region.
- **Kissimmee Basin Water Reservation** - To assure water will be available for the protection of fish and wildlife within the Upper Basin's Chain of Lakes and restored Kissimmee River floodplain, the South Florida Water Management District Governing Board initiated the development of rulemaking to reserve water for that purpose.
- **Kissimmee Basin Modeling and Operations Study** - The goal of this study is to assess how existing water control structure operating criteria can be modified to achieve a more acceptable balance between flood control, water supply, aquatic plant management, natural resources and Lake Okeechobee.



- **Kissimmee River Restoration Construction Projects** – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is in the process of completing numerous construction projects including backfilling sections of the C-38 Canal, oxbow excavation, levee removal, water control structure improvements, and other conveyance improvements for the purpose of restoring flow to the historic river channel and its associated floodplain.

**Other projects and programs**

- Kissimmee River Restoration Evaluation Program
- Kissimmee Chain of Lakes/Upper Basin Monitoring and Assessment
- Three Lakes Wildlife Management Area
- Rolling Meadows Restoration
- Packingham & Buttermilk Slough Modifications
- Lake Okeechobee Protection Plan

For more information about the Kissimmee Regional Issues Coordination Initiative, visit the District's Orlando Service Center website at [www.sfwmd.gov/orlando](http://www.sfwmd.gov/orlando).