

September 2010



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.

Fiscal Year 2011 Budget: Public Hearings and Approval *\$1.07 billion proposed budget reflects no increase in tax rate*

The South Florida Water Management District Governing Board will hold meetings on September 8 (tentative budget) and September 21 (final budget) to hear public comment and discuss millage rates and adoption of the District budget for Fiscal Year 2011 (Oct. 1, 2010 – Sept. 30, 2011). The proposed budget includes no increase over FY2010 tax rates. The annual budget funds the agency's flood control and water supply missions as well as its continued progress to restore the South Florida ecosystem, which includes America's Everglades.

- Through conservative fiscal and strategic planning, the proposed SFWMD budget continues to meet vital flood protection, water supply and environmental restoration needs without increasing the tax rates paid by South Floridians. The SFWMD has not raised its tax rates in over 12 years.
- The proposed budget of \$1.07 billion includes key projects to benefit restoration and enhance flood control operations including:
 - \$197 million for the initial acquisition of strategic lands south of Lake Okeechobee for Everglades restoration purposes
 - \$111.5 million for the continued construction of stormwater treatment areas to further improve the quality of water flowing into the Everglades
 - \$60 million for refurbishment of the regional flood control network of 2,600 miles of canals and levees
 - \$13.4 million for continued construction of the C-111 Spreader Canal to restore Florida Bay and the Everglades
 - \$15 million for ongoing construction of the Lakeside Ranch Stormwater Treatment Area to remove phosphorus and improve water quality
- The Governing Board directed staff to build the FY2011 budget around a “continuation millage rate” or no tax increase.
- Due to changes in property values, the proposed budget reflects a \$60.9 million reduction in property tax revenues, in comparison with FY2010.
- Constantly reassessing operating costs and proposed projects ensure that every taxpayer dollar goes directly to support mission-critical functions.
 - Since 2008, the District achieved more than \$10.8 million in savings by reducing costs for fleet management, training, travel, energy use and other operational and administrative functions.
- The SFWMD annual budget is funded by a combination of ad valorem (*property*) taxes and other sources, such as federal, state and local revenue; licenses; permit fees; grants; agricultural taxes; investment income; and bond proceeds. About 37 percent of the total FY2011 proposed budget comes from property taxes.
- The proposed millage rates, unchanged from FY2010, represent 62.4 cents per thousand dollars of taxable value in 15 of the District's 16 counties (*the Okeechobee Basin*). For Collier County and mainland Monroe County (*the Big Cypress Basin*), the proposed millage rates represent 48.14 cents per thousand dollars.



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