



NEWS RELEASE

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SFWMD 2017 Budget Accomplishes Mission Without Raising Taxes

Major progress on projects will continue with approved funding

West Palm Beach, FL - At a public hearing tonight, the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) Governing Board adopted a \$726.6 million budget for Fiscal Year 2016-2017 (Oct. 1, 2016 - Sept. 30, 2017). The annual budget supports core water management and ecosystem restoration efforts, including the Everglades, without raising taxes for Florida families.

For the sixth consecutive year, the Governing Board has not raised property taxes in the 16-county District, despite calls for a tax increase by some advocacy groups. Approximately 85 percent of the 2016-2017 budget is dedicated to support flood control, operations and maintenance of lands and advancing ecosystem restoration goals. This includes \$54.1 million dedicated to implementing the next phases of the Governor's \$880 million Restoration Strategies plan to improve Everglades water quality. The projects include:

- \$31.3 million to increase capacity at Stormwater Treatment Area (STA) 1 West.
- \$6.2 million to continue implementation of the Science Plan to help improve the water cleaning performance of the STAs.
- \$12.8 million to improve conveyance from the G-341 structure to the Bolles Canal south of Lake Okeechobee.

Key Projects

A host of priority projects will provide significant benefits to South Florida's extensive flood control system and protect coastal estuaries, including:

- \$55.9 million for continued refurbishment of South Florida's flood control system.
- \$37.5 million for design and initial construction of the Caloosahatchee River C-43 Western Basin Storage Reservoir.
- \$60.3 million for construction progress on the C-44 Reservoir and STA to protect the St. Lucie River and Estuary.
- \$29.2 million for hydrologic improvements to Lake Hicpochee to benefit the Caloosahatchee River Estuary.
- \$20.6 million to continue the second phase of construction of the Lakeside Ranch Stormwater Treatment Area in Martin County.

The approved budget also contains a significant infusion of state revenues, \$234 million, approved by Governor Rick Scott and the Florida Legislature this year to accelerate the pace of restoration progress.

The budget is funded by a combination of *ad valorem* (property) taxes and other revenues such as state appropriations, federal and local sources, balances, fees, investment earnings and agricultural privilege taxes. *Ad Valorem* rates for Fiscal Year 2016-2017 are \$33.07 per \$100,000 of taxable land value in 15 of the District's 16 counties (the Okeechobee Basin). In Collier County and mainland Monroe County (the Big Cypress Basin), the *ad valorem* taxes are \$26.95 per \$100,000 of taxable value.

For More Information:

- [Budget Facts: Fiscal Year 2016-2017 Budget](#)

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The South Florida Water Management District is a regional governmental agency that manages the water resources in the southern part of the state. It is the oldest and largest of the state's five water management districts. Our mission is to protect South Florida's water resources by balancing and improving flood control, water supply, water quality and natural systems.

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