



**SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT**

3301 Gun Club Road, West Palm Beach, FL 33406

# **MEDIA ADVISORY**

February 24, 2010

**CONTACT:**

**Randy Smith**

South Florida Water Management District

Office: (561) 682-2800 or Cellular: (561) 389-3386

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

follow us on [twitter](#)

**Ribbon Cutting and Nature Tour Scheduled for Harns Marsh Project**  
*Completed project will reduce flooding, improve water quality and recharge groundwater supplies in the Lehigh Acres area*

**WHAT:** The East County Water Control District (ECWCD) is celebrating the recent completion of the Harns Marsh Phase I Improvement Project, which was constructed in partnership with the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) and the State of Florida. The project is designed to reduce flooding in Lehigh Acres from the Orange River, recharge local groundwater supplies and improve the quality of water that ultimately flows into the Caloosahatchee River and Estuary.

The project involved replacement of three water control structures that will allow the ECWCD to more effectively regulate the flow of water in and out of Harns Marsh. The 578-acre preserve filters and treats water before it enters the Orange River, a tributary of the Caloosahatchee River.

The SFWMD invested \$170,187 in the project for sediment removal and planting of native vegetation.

**WHEN:** Thursday, February 25, 2010

**TIME:** 8 a.m. – Nature tour of the marsh  
10 a.m. – Ribbon cutting ceremony

**WHERE:** Traveling north on Sunshine Boulevard in Lehigh Acres, turn left on Olive Avenue North. Then turn left on West 38th Street and continue west to the Harns Marsh entrance.

**WHO:** The event is open to the public.

**CONTACT:** For more information on the event, please contact Carla Ulakovic, ECWCD community project specialist, by phone at (239) 368-0044, ext. 17, or by e-mail at [carlau@ecwcd.com](mailto:carlau@ecwcd.com).

# # #

**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.*