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SFWMD to Hold Two Public Workshops on Land Assessment

Public invited to provide input on agency lands in the Kissimmee/Okeechobee region

WHAT: As part of its comprehensive land assessment, the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) will hold a pair of public workshops to provide information on the assessment process and receive input on feeowned lands in the Kissimmee/Okeechobee region. The second of five regions that will be evaluated during the assessment process, the Kissimmee/Okeechobee region includes <u>SFWMD lands</u> in the Upper and Lower Kissimmee basins and the Lake Okeechobee watershed.

The purpose of the land assessment is to ensure that each parcel owned by the District supports the agency's core mission of balancing and improving flood control, water quality, natural systems and water supply. The first phase of the assessment is a review of 750,000 acres of fee-owned lands — properties in which the agency has full ownership rights. This phase is scheduled for completion by mid-2013.

The District is committed to making the land assessment transparent and providing multiple opportunities for public involvement. Comprehensive information, including detailed land portfolios, fact sheets and an online public comment form, is available at <u>www.sfwmd.gov/landassessment</u>.

WHERE AND WHEN:

SFWMD Okeechobee Service Center	SFWMD St. Cloud Field Station
3800 NW 16th Blvd., Suite A	3800 Old Canoe Creek Road
Okeechobee, FL 34972	St. Cloud, FL 34769

Friday, March 8, 2013 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. Tuesday, March 12, 2013 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. **WHO:** The SFWMD Land Assessment Team will meet with the public to discuss the assessment process and receive comments on specific properties in the Kissimmee/Okeechobee region.

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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.