



SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

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MEDIA ADVISORY

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Draft Recommendations Released for Kissimmee/Okeechobee Lands
Public invited to workshop to comment on recommendations in SFWMD land assessment

WHAT: As part of its ongoing comprehensive land assessment, the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) today released draft staff recommendations for its fee-owned lands in the Kissimmee/Okeechobee region, which includes the Upper and Lower Kissimmee basins and the Lake Okeechobee watershed. The draft recommendations are available for review on the District's land assessment website at www.sfwmd.gov/landassessment.

Stakeholders and the general public will have the opportunity to provide feedback on the draft recommendations at a pair of public workshops next week. Public comments may also be submitted on the land assessment website through June 10. In addition, the draft recommendations will be presented at the June meeting of the Water Resources Advisory Commission (WRAC).

Final recommendations for the Kissimmee/Okeechobee region will be presented to the full Governing Board at its June 13 meeting.

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 September 2013. A comprehensive review of non-fee-owned lands is scheduled to start around late 2013.

WHERE AND WHEN:

SFWMD St. Cloud Field Station
3800 Old Canoe Creek Road
St. Cloud, FL 34769

SFWMD Okeechobee Service Center
3800 N.W. 16th Blvd., Suite A
Okeechobee, FL 34972

Thursday, May 30, 2013
10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Friday, May 31, 2013
10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

WHO: The SFWMD Land Assessment Team will meet with the public to receive comments on draft recommendations for agency lands 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.