



SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

## NEWS RELEASE

January 15, 2009

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**Buermann, Estenoz Honored for Leadership in Everglades Restoration**  
*Everglades Coalition presents SFWMD Governing Board Chair, Vice Chair with awards*

**West Palm Beach, FL** — South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) Governing Board members Eric Buermann and Shannon Estenoz received awards from the Everglades Coalition in recognition of their efforts to restore and protect the Everglades. The Governing Board Chair and Vice Chair accepted the awards during the Coalition's 24th Annual Conference, held last week in Miami.

"While these awards are individual honors, they really are an acknowledgment of the entire District's efforts to protect and restore America's Everglades," said Chairman Buermann. "Ms. Estenoz and I look forward to continuing to meet the challenges of Everglades restoration with the entire Governing Board and the dedicated staff of the South Florida Water Management District."

The Everglades Coalition presented Mr. Buermann with the James D. Webb Award, given each year to a public official who has made an outstanding contribution to the Everglades. The award's namesake, Webb, worked as the Florida representative of The Wilderness Society from 1986 to 1995 and was instrumental in expanding Everglades National Park and Big Cypress National Preserve.

Ms. Estenoz was honored with the George M. Barley Conservationist of the Year Award, which the Coalition gives to an individual who has made a great contribution to Everglades restoration and protection. Barley, a seventh-generation Floridian, founded the Save Our Everglades Foundation and advocated for the cleanup of water flowing into the Everglades and Florida Bay.

During their tenure as Chair and Vice Chair of the SFWMD Governing Board, the Governing Board voted on December 16, 2008, to accept a proposal to acquire more than 180,000 acres of agricultural land for Everglades restoration from the United States Sugar Corporation. The historic transaction, subject to financing, will provide water

managers with the unprecedented opportunity to store and treat water on a scale never before envisioned for the benefit of America's Everglades, Lake Okeechobee and the St. Lucie and Caloosahatchee rivers and estuaries.

"Chairman Buermann and Vice Chair Estenoz have been steadfast champions for the Everglades," said Mark Perry, state co-chair of the Everglades Coalition and executive director of the Florida Oceanographic Society. "The Everglades Coalition applauds their efforts to restore our natural heritage for the benefit of South Florida and all future generations."

The Everglades Coalition is an alliance of 49 local, state and national conservation and environmental organizations dedicated to restoring the greater Everglades ecosystem, from the Kissimmee Chain of Lakes to Florida Bay and the Keys. The Coalition began presenting its annual awards in 1996 in memory of individuals who made outstanding contributions on behalf of the Everglades.

For more information on Florida's progress in Everglades restoration, visit [www.sfwmd.gov](http://www.sfwmd.gov).

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**About the South Florida Water Management District – [Celebrating 60 Years \(1949-2009\)](#)**

*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.*