



SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

NEWS RELEASE

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Apply Online Now for Grants to Fund Water-Saving Projects

Dry weather underscores the need for conservation

West Palm Beach, FL — Water conservation has many benefits in meeting the growing demands on South Florida's limited water supply. As part of continued conservation efforts, the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) is offering funds through its Water Savings Incentive Program, or WaterSIP, to help water providers and large users pay for water-saving technologies.

The application for the latest WaterSIP is online now at: www.sfwmd.gov/watersip. Since the program was created in 2002, the District's Governing Board has invested \$3.4 million in 116 projects that saved an estimated 5.8 million gallons of water a day. That's enough water to meet the typical daily needs of approximately 32,400 South Florida residents.

Recent weather reports showing the region is once again experiencing near-record rainfall deficits and drought conditions underscore the need for a culture of conservation. SFWMD meteorologists reported District-wide rainfall of only 2.03 inches for November, December and January, which is 29 percent of the historical average for this period. The figure marks the fourth-driest start to the South Florida dry season since rainfall recordkeeping began in 1932.

To facilitate conservation efforts, the District's WaterSIP annual funding assistance program provides matching funds up to \$75,000 for installing water-saving technology, such as automatic flushing devices for hydrants, indoor plumbing retrofits and soil moisture and rain sensors, along with large area, "smart" irrigation system controllers.

Interested parties are invited to attend an informational conference on March 13 to discuss the program and the application process. The meeting will be held from 1:30 p.m. to 3 p.m. at SFWMD headquarters, B-1 building at 3301 Gun Club Road in West

Palm Beach. The deadline for submitting an application to qualify for funds available October 1, 2009, is April 23.

Potential applicants include cities, public utilities and water providers, homeowners associations, schools and commercial facilities. Individual residences are not eligible.

More information and examples of recent projects are available in a special [fact sheet](#).

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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.