



SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

NEWS RELEASE

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SFWMD Partners with Lee County School District to Save Water *WaterSIP grant helps three high schools purchase water-saving fixtures*

Fort Myers, FL — To reduce water consumption, the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) has awarded a \$50,000 grant to the School District of Lee County for the retrofitting of toilets, urinals, faucets and kitchen sprayers at three high schools.

At a total cost of \$480,210, the project will utilize current technology to reduce consumption well below conventional flow rates at Estero, Fort Myers and Riverdale high schools. For example, existing 3.5 gallon-per-flush toilets will be replaced with units using only 1.28 gallons per flush, which is well below current standards for low-flow toilets. The plumbing fixture retrofits will save an estimated 5.9 million gallons per year (MGY).

“Conservation is key to stretching our water supply,” said SFWMD Governing Board member Charles Dauray. “Our region is once again experiencing near-record rainfall deficits, which underscores the need for creating a culture of water conservation.”

To facilitate water conservation efforts, the District’s Water Savings Incentive Program (WaterSIP) provides matching funds up to \$75,000 to water providers and large users for installing water-saving technologies, such as automatic flushing devices for hydrants, indoor plumbing retrofits and soil moisture and rain sensors. For 2009, the District has granted \$227,861 through the program for 10 projects in Lee, Collier and Hendry counties that will save an estimated 33.9 MGY.

Since WaterSIP was created in 2002, the District’s Governing Board has invested \$3.36 million in 116 projects that have 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.

April 23 is the deadline for submitting applications for WaterSIP grants for fiscal year 2010. The funding is open to qualifying cities, public utilities, homeowners associations, schools, commercial facilities and other water providers. Individual residences are not eligible.

For a grant application or more information on WaterSIP, please visit www.sfwmd.gov/watersip.

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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.