



SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

NEWS RELEASE

July 17, 2009

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SFWMD to Replace, Relocate Golden Gate Weir No. 3

New structure will enhance water quality and improve flood control in Naples area

Naples, FL - The South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) Governing Board has approved a \$3.59 million project to replace and relocate Golden Gate Weir No. 3, an aging water control structure on the Golden Gate Main Canal.

"It is rewarding to see the Governing Board give a green light to construction projects that not only help us meet our water management objectives, but also provide economic stimulus for Florida businesses and local communities," said Charles Dauray, SFWMD Governing Board member and Big Cypress Basin Board chairman ex officio. "This new weir will give the District more flexibility in meeting our water quality, water supply and flood control missions in the Big Cypress Basin."

The existing Weir No. 3, along with the other Golden Gate Main Canal weirs, was originally constructed in the early 1960s as part of the stormwater system for Golden Gate Estates. The replacement weir will:

- Improve flood protection for Golden Gate Estates
- Divert a portion of Golden Gate Main Canal flows into Henderson Creek to help reduce freshwater discharges that affect water quality in Naples Bay
- Create additional storage capacity in the canal to help meet water supply demands for the Naples area during the dry season

The new water control structure will be located south of 31st Avenue Southwest, approximately 1 mile east of Collier Boulevard. Construction is expected to begin in August and continue through fall 2010. The existing structure, located 2 miles north of the new site at the end of Blue Sage Drive, will be demolished.

Since 1985, the District and the Big Cypress Basin have adopted an aggressive capital improvement program to improve the water control structures in the Golden Gate Main Canal and its tributaries. Through the program, 16 water control structures have been upgraded in the Golden Gate system alone.

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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.