



SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

## NEWS RELEASE

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**CONTACT:**

**Bill Graf**

Orlando Service Center

South Florida Water Management District

Office: (407) 858-6100, ext. 3837 or Cellular: (407) 908-4764

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### **SFWMD Recognized for Excellence in Governmental Budgeting**

**West Palm Beach, FL** - The Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) has again recognized the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) with its *Distinguished Budget Presentation Award* for the agency's 2008/2009 annual budget. The award is the highest form of recognition in governmental budgeting and the highest honor bestowed by the GFOA.

In addition, the GFOA has recognized the SFWMD's annual budget as *Outstanding as a Communications Device*. A Certificate of Recognition was presented to SFWMD Budget Director Douglas Bergstrom for his role in spearheading the budget presentation.

"We are honored that our budget document was recognized as an *Outstanding Communications Device*," said SFWMD Governing Board Chair Eric Buermann. "A budget document that is easily understood and clearly communicates how the agency is investing public dollars demonstrates that we are achieving our goal of full financial transparency. The residents of Central and South Florida can rely on this agency to administer their tax dollars efficiently and effectively as we continue to manage and protect the water resources of a growing population while safeguarding the natural environment."

To receive the *Distinguished Budget Presentation Award*, a government agency must demonstrate that it follows nationally recognized guidelines for effective budget presentation. A judging panel determined the District's 2008/2009 annual budget document was proficient as a policy statement, financial plan and operations guide and outstanding as a communications tool.

"These awards reaffirm how fortunate we are to have such talented professionals managing the District's financial resources," added SFWMD Executive Director Carol Ann Wehle. "We are proud of their accomplishments and will continue to rely on them

to produce budgets that clearly show our agency's commitment to being a responsible steward of public money."

With offices in Chicago and Washington, D.C., the GFOA is a nonprofit professional association serving approximately 17,500 government finance professionals throughout North America. The GFOA's *Distinguished Budget Presentation Awards Program* is the only national awards program in governmental budgeting.

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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.*