



SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

## NEWS RELEASE

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### **Local Agreement to Improve Water Quality in Remnant Everglades**

*SFWMD and two Broward County improvement districts  
reducing stormwater discharges into Water Conservation Area 2A*

**West Palm Beach, FL** - The South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) Governing Board recently entered an agreement with the North Springs and Coral Springs improvement districts that will reduce stormwater discharges into a part of the remnant Everglades known as Water Conservation Area 2A (WCA-2A) while maintaining flood control for northwest Broward County residents.

"Water managers are often challenged during major storms to protect homes and businesses from flooding without impacting the environment," said SFWMD Governing Board member Shannon Estenoz. "This agreement successfully balances those two important District missions."

The majority of stormwater runoff in the North Springs Improvement District Basin flows into the L-36 North Canal, but during heavy rainfall, the improvement district can provide flood control by pumping water west into WCA-2A, part of the remnant Everglades. The agreement allows water to instead be moved south to the L-36 South Canal under certain circumstances, minimizing stormwater discharges into WCA-2A that carry phosphorus and other nutrients that can harm the Everglades ecosystem.

Improving Everglades water quality is a priority mission of the South Florida Water Management District. SFWMD-constructed treatment wetlands, known as Stormwater Treatment Areas (STAs), use native plants to remove nutrients from water as it flows south into the fabled River of Grass. The District operates a network of six STAs south of Lake Okeechobee with a combined area of more than 52,000 acres.

The STAs and farming Best Management Practices have prevented more than 3,200 metric tons of phosphorus from entering the Everglades since 1994. Overall, Florida has invested more than \$1.8 billion to improve Everglades water quality.

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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.*