



SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

## NEWS RELEASE

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**Florida Keys Benefit from Water Quality Improvement Partnerships**  
*SFWMD projects will manage stormwater and reduce flooding with continued commitment to the Keys*

**West Palm Beach, FL** – The South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) Governing Board recently approved a suite of cost-sharing agreements with its partners in the Florida Keys to improve stormwater management and upgrade flood protection, representing the District’s continued commitment to water quality in the region.

“Stormwater management is essential to protecting the fragile Florida Keys ecosystem, which is the heart of the region’s destination-based economy,” said SFWMD Governing Board member Michael Collins. “The District is committed to working with our partners by supporting projects that improve water quality in the Keys and throughout South Florida.”

During the past four years, the District has invested more than \$5 million to improve stormwater quality and protect residents from flooding in the Florida Keys. The partnerships approved by the Governing Board build on this effort, providing an additional \$1 million investment to help complete water quality and flood protection projects that include:

- Upgrading Monroe County’s stormwater management systems at four critical locations in the Keys: Conch Key and Stock Island fire stations, Marathon Courthouse and Duck Key Wastewater Treatment Plant.
- Mitigating poor drainage conditions and improving stormwater quality in the City of Key Colony Beach, between 7<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> streets on the west side of the island. The project includes construction of up to six injection wells and the closing of two direct stormwater outfalls into nearshore waters.
- Collecting and treating stormwater in the City of Marathon to reduce street flooding and reduce or eliminate discharges through existing stormwater outfalls.

- Reducing direct outfall to sensitive waters and treating stormwater by redirecting flow to a sediment removal system in the City of Key West. This system is a best management practice that will reduce pollutant loadings by an estimated average of 85 percent.

“These improvements are the result of a long-term partnership between the District and Keys officials. The District remains committed to supporting future projects to improve water quality and protect residents from flooding,” added Governing Board member Collins.

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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.*