



SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

NEWS RELEASE

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Water Managers, City of Naples Partner to Improve Stormwater Management

Projects to enhance flood control, improve water quality, protect Naples Bay



(Click on picture for a larger version.)

Naples, FL — The South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) Governing Board recently approved a cooperative agreement with the City of Naples to continue construction of a crucial stormwater improvement project. The project, previously approved by the Big Cypress Basin Board, will enhance flood control, improve water quality and protect Naples Bay.

“The District makes it a priority to reinvest local tax dollars in projects that will help manage and protect the water resources of Big Cypress Basin,” said SFWMD Governing Board member and Big Cypress Basin Board Chairman Charles Dauray. “This particular project promises to reduce chronic flooding in Naples and improve water quality in Naples Bay.”

The agreement will dedicate \$1.05 million from the Big Cypress Basin’s Fiscal Year 2010 budget for stormwater improvements that will help restore watersheds and estuaries

through local initiatives. The improvements to the stormwater conveyance and treatment area, known as Basin V, will also increase flood control through proactive flood management planning. Basin V is bounded by U.S. 41 on the west, Goodlette-Frank Road on the east, Creech Road on the north and a line that runs from the intersection of U.S. 41 and 3rd Avenue north to Goodlette-Frank Road on the south.

Chronic flooding and water quality problems that have been affecting the City of Naples are a result of old and inadequate stormwater infrastructure. Many older storm sewer lines are leaking, which causes groundwater to flow into the storm sewer system and eventually discharge into Naples Bay, increasing freshwater inflow and reducing salinity levels in the bay.

In 2008, a \$10 million plan was developed to improve stormwater management in Basin V. The three-phase plan will address the following:

- Restoring the existing stormwater conveyance system;
- Installing water control structures;
- Constructing additional swales and ex-filtration trenches;
- Replacing the Naples Zoo septic tank system.

Phase I of the \$10 million plan includes construction of improvements with an estimated cost of \$4 million. Together with this year's \$1.05 million investment, the District Governing Board previously approved a contribution of \$500,000 in Fiscal Year 2009 from the Big Cypress Basin's budget to get work underway. The first suite of improvements is scheduled for completion in 2012.

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About the South Florida Water Management District

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.