



SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

NEWS RELEASE

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Purple Reigns During Water Reuse Week

Carried by purple pipes, reclaimed water reduces demand on traditional water supplies



(Click on the image for a larger version.)

West Palm Beach, FL – To increase awareness of water reuse and its benefits, the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) Governing Board has joined the State of Florida and more than 75 South Florida communities and organizations in recognizing May 16-22, 2010, as Water Reuse Week.

“Each year, Water Reuse Week serves as a reminder that every drop of water we recycle is a drop of fresh water saved,” said SFWMD Governing Board Chairman Eric Buermann. “It is no longer acceptable to use water once and dispose of it. We must continue to promote the use of reclaimed water throughout South Florida to protect our region’s limited water resources and ensure our communities can meet their water supply needs well into the future.”

Water reuse involves taking domestic wastewater, giving it a high degree of treatment and using the resulting high-quality reclaimed water for a new, beneficial purpose. Extensive treatment and disinfection ensure that public health and environmental quality are protected. Reclaimed water can be used for many purposes, including:

- Irrigation of landscaped areas, such as golf courses, parks, residential properties and highway medians
- Aesthetic features, such as decorative lakes, ponds and fountains
- Agricultural irrigation
- Environmental restoration and wetland creation
- Groundwater recharge
- Industrial uses, including equipment wash down, processing water and cooling water

Florida recognizes Water Reuse Week during May, which normally marks the end of the dry season, when water needs are most acute. Reclaimed water eases demand on traditional sources of water and reduces discharges to surface waters.

Over the long term, communities that reuse water can continue to grow while minimizing or even reducing their impact on the water resources around them. Use of reclaimed water also allows communities to postpone or minimize capital investments in the development of new, more costly water sources and supplies.

Florida leads the nation in water reuse, reusing almost 660 million gallons of reclaimed water each day, according to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection. In 2006, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency granted its first Water Efficiency Leader Award to Florida's Water Reuse Program.

To help implement water reuse, the District and the State of Florida have invested more than \$74 million in 143 water reuse projects through the District's Alternative Water Supply Funding Program since 2005. Within the SFWMD's 16-county region, more than 100 reuse systems produce and reuse 236 million gallons of reclaimed water per day. This water irrigates hundreds of golf courses and thousands of residential lots, provides environmental enhancement and recharges regional water resources across the region.

Development of alternative water supplies, such as reclaimed water, is an important component of the District's Comprehensive Water Conservation Program. The Governing Board approved the program in September 2008 to encourage more responsible use of water resources throughout South Florida. Numerous stakeholders worked with the District to define specific regulatory, voluntary and incentive-based programs and in-depth education and marketing plans that will help foster a year-round conservation ethic.

More information about water reuse, including an interactive graphic that shows the many uses for reclaimed water, is available on the District's [Water Reuse](#) webpage. For

details on the Comprehensive Water Conservation Program and water-saving tips, please visit www.savewaterfl.com.

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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.