



SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

NEWS RELEASE

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**SFWMD, Town of Southwest Ranches Continue Cooperation to Improve
Flood Protection, Stormwater Quality**
Project to benefit residents and the Everglades

West Palm Beach, FL — The South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) Governing Board recently approved investing in a project to improve flood protection and stormwater quality for residents in the Town of Southwest Ranches. The partnership with the southwestern Broward County community will also help enhance the quality of stormwater flowing into the Everglades.

“Stormwater enhancement and flood protection projects directly improve the quality of life for residents and have a positive effect on the environment,” said SFWMD Governing Board member Shannon Estenoz. “As with many projects, local partnerships such as this bring regional returns as well as immediate residential benefits.”

The Town of Southwest Ranches is a 13-square-mile community of more than 7,000 residents living amid farms, grazing animals and wildlife. The area, which has an elevation of just 4 feet NGVD, has historically been prone to flooding.

“It is vital that we help protect and preserve the rural lifestyle for town residents through implementing flood control solutions,” said SFWMD Governing Board member Glenn J. Waldman. “This particular project not only helps to accomplish this goal, but also improves stormwater quality and provides benefits to the Everglades.”

The Governing Board’s investment of \$205,200, strongly supported by Florida Sen. Nan H. Rich, will help the town construct water control structures and sediment sumps while also conducting water quality sampling through September 2011.

The structures will enhance flood protection by allowing canals within the town to be lowered prior to storms without impacting water levels in surrounding communities. The strategically located sumps consist of small pits or reservoirs that trap sediment while draining water. This will allow for cleaner stormwater to flow into the C-11 Canal, which leads to Water Conservation Area 2 within the Everglades.

The project also represents a continued commitment to improving flood protection and stormwater quality in the town. In March, the District and the town entered into a cooperative agreement to improve stormwater quality in the area of Southwest 54th Place.

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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.