



SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

NEWS RELEASE

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SFWMD Dedicates Big Cypress Basin Office in Honor of Hawkins, Hole
Former state representative and past SFWMD Governing Board member played key roles in Basin's history

Naples, FL – The South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) and local officials today dedicated the Big Cypress Basin's administrative office and its main conference room in honor of two water management leaders who shaped the Basin.

The building now bears the name of former state Rep. Mary Ellen Hawkins, who was instrumental in the creation of the Big Cypress Basin. The conference room was named in memory of Stanley Hole, one of the longest-serving SFWMD Governing Board members in the agency's history.

"It is with the deepest sense of gratitude that we dedicate the building and main conference room of the Big Cypress Basin office today to honor the vision, leadership and wonderful legacies created by Mary Ellen Hawkins and Stanley Hole," said Charles Dauray, Big Cypress Basin Board chairman and SFWMD Governing Board member. "Their exemplary vision and leadership has given us all a better Florida."

Hawkins served in the Florida House for 10 terms from 1974 through 1994, playing a leading role on legislative committees with jurisdiction over growth management, the environment, transportation, tourism, education and appropriations. In 1976, her passion for natural resources management led her to work for legislation to create the Big Cypress Basin as a distinct local water management funding and administrative unit within the SFWMD.

Hole distinguished himself during his 11-year tenure on the SFWMD Governing Board from 1976 through 1987. His term included two years as Governing Board chairman, beginning in 1984. As the Southwest Florida representative on the Governing Board, he also became the first ex-officio chairman of the Basin Board, serving in that role from 1977 through 1986.

The newly located Big Cypress Basin office is at 2660 N. Horseshoe Drive in Naples, in close proximity to the permitting offices for Collier County and the City of Naples.

The Big Cypress Basin operates a network of 162 miles of primary canals, 46 water control structures and four pumps to provide flood control during the wet season and to protect the water supplies and environmental resources from over-drainage during the dry season.

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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.