



SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

NEWS RELEASE

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Glades Communities, SFWMD Improve Stormwater Quality
Projects boost restoration, water management in Belle Glade, Pahokee, South Bay and surrounding communities



A hydrologic monitoring station was installed in Belle Glade to enhance water management operations. (Click on the picture for a larger version.)

West Palm Beach, FL – The South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) and its Glades community partners surrounding Lake Okeechobee have completed a series of stormwater and water quality improvement projects that benefit ecosystem restoration and water management.

“Support for these projects is a vital investment in South Florida’s environment and the communities around Lake Okeechobee,” said SFWMD Governing Board member Joe Collins. “These projects will provide lasting benefits to an important region in our District.”

Approved by the SFWMD Governing Board last year, approximately \$2 million has been invested in a partnership with lakeside communities in Palm Beach, Okeechobee,

Glades and Hendry counties to improve water quality and enhance the District's ability to manage water and provide flood protection.

The investment supported the completion of numerous projects ranging from rehabilitation of stormwater systems to water quality improvement projects that also enhance flood protection, including:

- **Belle Glade:** Designing, permitting and constructing several improvement projects for Southwest 10th Street, Southwest 5th Street and Southwest 7th Street stormwater drainage
- **Pahokee:** Completing six individual stormwater drainage projects to enhance flood protection and divert flows to appropriate storage areas
- **South Bay:** Replacing catch basins and repairs at approximately 16 locations requiring excavation and repairs or replacement of pipe
- **Moore Haven:** Enhancing flood protection with conveyance and treatment of stormwater to reduce pollutants entering the Caloosahatchee River
- **Glades County:** Expanding the sewer system and removing septic tanks from the Lake Okeechobee watershed
- **Clewiston:** Enhancing flood protection by improving stormwater treatment in the area north of U.S. 27 and throughout neighborhoods on West Arcade Avenue; Constructing a major stormwater improvement and drainage upgrade to one of the city's main roadways
- **LaBelle:** Construction of a pilot test well that is the first step in a project to replace the city's water treatment plant

Additional work included installation of real-time hydrologic and rainfall gauges within the local flood control districts in the Glades region. Known as 298 Districts, these authorities are responsible for ensuring water is appropriately drained from local communities and neighborhoods to the regional flood control system maintained by the SFWMD. The South Florida Conservancy District, which received the SFWMD funding, manages several 298 Districts in the Glades region.

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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.