



SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

NEWS RELEASE

October 20, 2010

CONTACT:

Randy Smith

South Florida Water Management District

Office: (561) 682-2800 or Cellular: (561) 389-3386

www.sfwmd.gov/news

follow us on 

SFWMD Invests in Multiple Improvements for Southwest Florida Residents and Ecosystems

Projects to enhance water quality, supply and flood protection

West Palm Beach, FL — The South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) Governing Board recently approved a suite of projects for Southwest Florida that will improve the quality of water flowing into Naples Bay, increase reclaimed water production in the City of Marco Island and Collier County and enhance flood protection in the City of Naples.

“These are core water quality, restoration and flood control projects that will provide meaningful and long-lasting benefits to residents and ecosystems in Southwest Florida,” said SFWMD Governing Board member Charles Dauray. “These efforts directly benefit the residents whose tax dollars are making the projects a reality, and they represent the District’s continued commitment to the region.”

With this investment of approximately \$4.7 million in Big Cypress Basin dedicated funds, the SFWMD continues to support Southwest Florida communities in their efforts to improve water quality and protect water supplies with key projects. The approved projects include:

- **Collier County** — A \$775,000 investment in two projects that will improve stormwater management of the Lely area of East Naples and evaluate stormwater treatment for the Northern Golden Gate Estates area.
 - One project will provide a comprehensive stormwater outfall system for East Naples, which drains into the estuarine coastal zone of Dollar Bay, Sandhill Bay and Rookery Bay.
 - A second project will study the feasibility of reconnecting natural flowways to provide stormwater treatment, flood protection and habitat restoration for the Northern Golden Gates Estates region.
- **Collier County** — A \$500,000 investment to continue upgrading the North County Water Reclamation Facility, which has the capacity to convert, through treatment, 23 million gallons of wastewater a day into irrigation-quality water.

This funding will help increase storage capacity of irrigation-quality water with the installation of a liner in one of the facility's ponds.

- **City of Marco Island** – A \$700,000 investment in two projects to boost alternative water supply.
 - One project will expand the city's reclaimed water facility to provide a more reliable supply of irrigation water to existing customers while reducing the demand on potable water.
 - A second project will construct a storage tank to expand the city's reverse osmosis plant's production.

- **City of Marco Island** – A \$200,000 investment to help the city continue its effort to connect 5,700 properties to the sewer system in an island-wide septic tank replacement program.

- **City of Marco Island** – A \$500,000 investment in two projects to improve the city's stormwater management system, which will help protect against flooding and improve water quality.
 - One project includes the island-wide addition of water quality interceptors to trap trash, litter, oil, grease and sediments at inlets; replacement of stormwater outfalls; and improvements of the drainage control systems at intersections.
 - A second project includes construction of stormwater and water quality improvements in the Collier Boulevard area.

- **City of Naples** – A \$600,000 investment to continue construction of stormwater improvements to provide flood mitigation and surface water quality treatment. The effort will help improve the quality of water entering Naples Bay.

- **City of Naples** – A \$1.4 million investment in alternative water supply projects.
 - One project consists of constructing one additional Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR) well to store excess reclaimed and surface water from the Golden Gate canal. The project will allow the city to expand its reclaimed water system to additional customers and reduce consumption of potable water for irrigation.
 - A second project consists of constructing a surface water intake structure at the Golden Gate canal. This project will benefit Naples Bay and the Gordon River by reducing freshwater flows from the canal and will provide supplemental irrigation water to the city's reclaimed water system.

The Big Cypress Basin Board approved the suite of projects in August 2010. 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.

#

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.