



SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

## NEWS RELEASE

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### **SFWMD to Enhance Flood Protection in Istokpoga Watershed**

*Work on the S-68 flood gates will cause periodic traffic interruptions on CR 621 from November 1 through December 28*

**West Palm Beach, FL** — As part of a commitment to maintain and improve the regional flood control system, the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) is set to begin upgrading the S-68 water control structure to enhance flood protection for residents within the Lake Istokpoga watershed.

Work to overhaul the three gates at S-68, located on County Road 621 in Highlands County, will result in intermittent road closures in that area for the next two months, beginning on November 1.

It is expected that these interruptions will occur on only a few days in each month, and a flag person will be present to allow traffic to pass in only one direction at a time. Each workday will be from 8 a.m. until 4 p.m. Only one gate will be out of service at a time so that flood protection will continue.

The structure also serves as a bridge that CR 621 traverses as the road skirts the eastern edge of Lake Istokpoga. In order to access the gates, workers must be positioned on the CR 621 bridge periodically.

Structural maintenance and upgrades, accomplished primarily during the dry season, are critical to ensuring that the regional flood control system of 2,600 miles of canals and levees operates at optimal capacity. During the past five years, the District has invested \$240 million in essential maintenance work.

The SFWMD appreciates the public's patience during these activities. For more information about this project, including specific road closure dates or traffic routing, or for general information about the South Florida Water Management District, please contact the Okeechobee Service Center at (863) 462-5260.

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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.*