



SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

NEWS RELEASE

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SFWMD Makes Nearly \$41 Million in Flood Protection Upgrades in 2010 *Infrastructure investments continue systematic maintenance of 60-year-old system*

West Palm Beach, FL — As part of a long-term effort to ensure continued reliability from South Florida's flood control system, the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) invested nearly \$41 million in structural maintenance and upgrades to the system in 2010.

"For more than 60 years, South Florida's levees, water control structures, canals and pump stations have provided dependable flood protection," said SFWMD Governing Board Chairman Eric Buermann. "Through careful planning, the District is making targeted investments in infrastructure improvements so that we can maintain the same level of service that more than 7.5 million residents now rely on."

Over the last year, the District completed 37 projects spread over nearly every one of the 16 counties overseen by the agency. The projects are designed to renew and upgrade pump stations, repair and stabilize canal banks, renovate water control structures, make concrete repairs and complete a variety of other repairs and upgrades.

Project investments for 2010 included:

- \$9.25 million to renovate four navigation locks in the Kissimmee Chain of Lakes and on the Kissimmee River.
- \$1.1 million for hurricane hardening of the S-331 pump station, located north of Homestead in Miami-Dade County.
- Nearly \$4 million for concrete repairs and other enhancements on structures located in Orange, Osceola, Highlands and Palm Beach counties.
- More than \$4 million to automate and upgrade gates and structures in St. Lucie and Broward counties. Automation of a gate or structure allows water managers to remotely adjust gate openings any time, even in the midst of a major hurricane.
- \$5.5 million to renovate or replace water control gates on six structures located in St. Lucie, Martin, Glades, Palm Beach, Okeechobee and Broward counties.
- \$2.6 million for canal bank stabilization in Highlands County.

Authorized by the U.S. Congress in 1948, the Central and Southern Florida Project is a massive system of flood control works constructed to cover a 16,000-square-mile area. The system today includes more than 1,600 miles of canals and 1,000 miles of levees and berms, 60 pump stations and more than 500 structures and 700 culverts.

Five years ago, the District established a 50-year operations and maintenance plan to ensure regular, timely maintenance of the aging system. Since then, the District has invested \$240 million in essential maintenance work, including:

- Hardening and overhauling pump stations
- Overhauling gated spillways
- Replacing project culverts
- Dredging canals
- Stabilizing canal banks
- Enhancing Stormwater Treatment Areas

Planned renovations and upgrades already identified under the 50-Year Plan will cost about \$2 billion in today's dollars.

"The District has developed a plan that addresses not only maintenance of the aging flood control system but also new needs, such as operation of the Stormwater Treatment Areas that send clean water to the Everglades," said Tommy Strowd, SFWMD Deputy Executive Director of Operations and Maintenance. "This careful attention to detail will help us meet our multilayered mission well into the future."

For Fiscal Year 2011, another \$60 million in work is planned. The list of projects features pump station reconstruction and hardening, canal bank stabilization and structure refurbishment. Plans are under way for Fiscal Year 2012 to complete another \$65 million in upgrades and maintenance.

Through regular inspections of the flood control system and a prioritization process, the District's Operations and Maintenance Department has built a years-long schedule for how the parts of the system will be renewed or rebuilt to ensure reliability.

For more information about the District's ongoing operations and maintenance efforts, please visit www.sfwmd.gov.

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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.