



**SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT**

# NEWS RELEASE

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## Purple Pipes in the Spotlight During Water Reuse Week

*Carried by purple pipes, reclaimed water reduces demand on traditional water supplies*



*(Click on the photo for a larger version.)*

**West Palm Beach, FL** — As part of its commitment to protecting regional water supplies, the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) has joined Governor Rick Scott, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and more than 50 South Florida communities and organizations in recognizing May 15 to May 21, 2011, as Water Reuse Week.

Reclaimed water, which is carried in purple-colored pipes, eases demand on traditional sources of water and reduces discharges to surface waters. Florida and the District recognize Water Reuse Week each year in mid-May, when the region is nearing the end of the annual dry season.

“Reclaimed water is a critical part of the strategy to preserve South Florida’s water supply,” said SFWMD Governing Board Chairman Joe Collins. “The last seven months of below-normal rainfall put into perspective how important it is to get the most from every drop of water and to protect our region’s limited resources.”

Water reuse means treating domestic wastewater and using the resulting high-quality reclaimed water for a new, beneficial purpose. Extensive treatment and disinfection ensures that public health and environmental quality are protected. Reclaimed water can be used for many purposes, including:

- Irrigation of golf courses, parks, residential properties, highway medians and other green space
- Aesthetic features, such as decorative lakes, ponds and fountains
- Agricultural irrigation
- Environmental restoration and wetland creation
- Groundwater recharge
- Industrial uses, including equipment wash down, processing water and cooling water

As a long-term benefit, communities that reuse water can continue to grow while minimizing or even reducing their impact on water resources around them. Use of reclaimed water also allows communities to postpone or minimize capital investments in the development of new, more costly water sources and supplies.

Florida leads the nation in water reuse. Within the District's 16-county region, more than 100 reuse systems produce and reuse 239 million gallons of reclaimed water per day. This water irrigates hundreds of golf courses and thousands of residential lots, provides environmental enhancement and recharges regional water resources across the region.

A copy of the Governor's proclamation and more details on Water Reuse Week throughout Florida can be found at [www.dep.state.fl.us/water/reuse/week.htm](http://www.dep.state.fl.us/water/reuse/week.htm). More information about water reuse in South Florida is available on the District's [Water Reuse](#) webpage. For details on SFWMD's Comprehensive Water Conservation Program and water-saving tips, visit [www.savewaterfl.com](http://www.savewaterfl.com).

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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.*