



SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

## NEWS RELEASE

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### **Canal Bank Upgrades Enhance Flood Control Capability** *Upcoming projects part of SFWMD infrastructure refurbishment*



*The SFWMD continues to maintain and upgrade the banks of South Florida's primary canals, such as the C-24 Canal in St. Lucie County.*

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

**West Palm Beach, FL** – The South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) Governing Board recently approved two construction projects to stabilize canal banks and improve regional flood control north of Lake Okeechobee.

“The canal bank repairs will improve our storm and flood response, which is one of the agency’s most critical missions,” said Tommy Strowd, Director of the SFWMD Operations, Maintenance and Construction Division. “Investments in maintenance and infrastructure upgrades are needed to ensure the regional system can protect South Florida’s 7.7 million residents, businesses and the environment.”

The latest infrastructure improvement projects include:

- **C-41A Canal, Highlands County:** The canal had extensive erosion during Hurricane Wilma in October 2005. The repair project includes removing existing vegetation, compacting the banks, adding sod and other improvements. Work is scheduled for completion in the summer of 2012.
- **C-24 Canal, St. Lucie County:** A routine inspection found erosion caused by heavy rain along a stretch by Shinn Road. The repair project will stabilize the banks so they can withstand extreme conditions. Work is scheduled for completion in the spring of 2012.

Structural maintenance and upgrades, accomplished primarily during the dry season, are critical to ensuring that the regional flood control system of more than 1,600 miles of canals and 1,000 miles of levees and berms operates at optimal capacity. During the past five years, 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

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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.*