



SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

NEWS RELEASE

September 8, 2011

CONTACT:

Randy Smith

South Florida Water Management District

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

www.sfwmd.gov/news

follow us on 

Suite of Southwest Florida Water Projects Moving Forward *Improvements will enhance water quality, supply and flood protection*

West Palm Beach, FL – The South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) Governing Board today approved funding to continue work on a suite of water projects for Southwest Florida. The projects will improve the quality of water flowing into Naples Bay and the Gordon River, enhance reclaimed water production in the City of Marco Island, improve stormwater management in Collier County and enhance flood protection in the City of Naples.

“These projects help accomplish our core responsibilities of flood control, water supply and ecosystem restoration in Southwest Florida,” said Daniel DeLisi, SFWMD Governing Board member and chairman of the Big Cypress Basin Board. “Investing in alternative water supply, stormwater improvements and water quality enhancements are important to the long-term economic and environmental health of our local communities.”

With the cost shared by local governments, the Governing Board today approved the following investments in these projects:

- **City of Naples** – A \$980,000 investment to continue implementation of alternative water supply projects that include construction of Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR) wells to store reclaimed and surface water from the Golden Gate Main Canal. The projects will improve water quality in Naples Bay and the Gordon River and provide supplemental irrigation water to the city’s reclaimed water system. To date, two ASR wells have been completed, and a 12,000-foot transmission pipeline and an intake structure are under construction.
- **City of Marco Island** – A \$350,000 investment to continue projects to improve the city’s stormwater management system, which will help protect against flooding and improve water quality. To date, 100 devices to trap pollutants have been added along with outfall enhancements to improve the quality of water discharging into canals.

- **City of Marco Island** – A \$490,000 investment in the next phase of a project to expand the city’s Reclaimed Water Production Facility capacity to 5 million gallons a day. This expansion will help reduce demand on the potable water source. To date, the facility has achieved its planned capacity. The next phase of the project will include work to enable the facility to handle the increased flows.
- **Collier County** – A \$542,500 investment to move projects forward that will improve stormwater management in the Lely area of East Naples. The watershed restoration project will benefit Naples Bay and Dollar Bay by improving the quantity, timing and distribution of fresh water to the estuaries. To date, the projects have helped alleviate neighborhood flooding and retain stormwater in retention areas, preventing discharges to the estuaries.
- **City of Naples** – A \$520,000 investment to continue construction of drainage improvements to provide flood mitigation and water quality treatment. To date, drainage improvements in downtown Naples have been completed. Construction is ongoing of improvements along Gulfshore Boulevard, Broad Avenue and 8th Street South.

#

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.

About the Big Cypress Basin

The Big Cypress Basin, part of the South Florida Water Management District, covers Collier County and portions of Monroe County. A network of 162 miles of primary canals, 46 water control structures and four pumps provide flood control to the basin and also protect regional water supplies and environmental resources.