



SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

# NEWS RELEASE

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**CONTACT:**

**Randy Smith**

South Florida Water Management District

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

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## SFWMD Continues Work to Strengthen East Coast Protective Levee *Construction projects to reinforce banks will also help meet federal certifications*



The new work represents an investment of approximately \$18 million to reinforce banks, manage vegetation and install monitoring stations, building on \$3.8 million in routine maintenance during the past three years.

The District has actively maintained South Florida's extensive network of earthen levees since they were constructed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in the 1950s and 1960s. The agency continues to make significant investments in improvements and routine maintenance of the levees, including those that border some of the region's most populated areas.

Annual inspections conducted jointly by the District and Corps consistently indicate the East Coast Protective Levee is performing as intended. Over the years, the District has made improvements to address maintenance items identified by regular inspections.

Along with the regular assessments, a pair of federal evaluations recently recommended further improvements. In 2007, the Corps initiated a nationwide inventory and inspection of federally sponsored levee systems including the East Coast Protective Levee.

Separately, Broward County requested the District provide documentation on the East Coast Protective Levee to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for a routine update of National Flood Insurance Program maps. Current FEMA maps recognize the 38-mile Broward section as an accredited levee that provides protection from a flood with a 1 percent chance of occurring in any given year. By May 2014, the District plans to submit documentation showing the levee still meets those high standards.

For more information:

- [Just the Facts: Maintenance of South Florida's Levee System \[PDF\]](#)
- [Just the Facts: Accreditation of Broward Portion of East Coast Protective Levee \[PDF\]](#)
- [New Flood Zone Maps for Broward County \(County website\)](#)

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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*

#### **East Coast Protective Levee Facts**

- **Constructed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers more than 50 years ago**
- **Stretches more than 100 miles from West Palm Beach to the Tamiami Trail**
- **Designed to retain water in the Water Conservation Areas for storage, to protect wildlife and to help prevent hurricane-driven storm surges in the Everglades from impacting western Palm Beach, Broward and Miami-Dade counties**
- **Maintained by the SFWMD**

*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.*