



SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

NEWS RELEASE

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SFWMD Governing Board Recognizes Water Reuse Week

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



(Click on the image for a larger version.)

West Palm Beach, FL – To demonstrate an ongoing commitment to protecting regional water supplies, the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) Governing Board is recognizing May 20 to May 26, 2012 as Water Reuse Week.

Also commemorating Water Reuse Week are Governor Rick Scott's [proclamation](#), the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and close to 40 South Florida communities and organizations. The goal is to continue raising awareness of the benefits of reclaimed water.

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 transitioning from the dry season to the wet season.

“Each year, Water Reuse Week is an opportunity to increase awareness of the benefits of using water more than once as part of a diversified water supply,” said SFWMD

Governing Board Chairman Joe Collins. “Reusing water helps ease the burden on our region’s limited water resources.”

Water reuse involves 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 is exempt from landscape irrigation restrictions and 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 235 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.

More information about water reuse in South Florida is available on the District’s [Water Reuse](#) webpage as well as [DEP’s webpage on Water Reuse](#). For details on SFWMD’s Comprehensive Water Conservation Program and water-saving tips, visit 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.