



SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

# NEWS RELEASE

August 22, 2012

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## **SFWMD Brings Local, State Managers Together for Flood Mitigation Workshop**

*Increasing flood protection is a shared goal among South Florida communities*

**West Palm Beach, FL** — As the height of the hurricane season approaches, the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) hosted a workshop on South Florida's regional water management system and the resources available to help mitigate flooding. Attendees included about 45 local government, utility and emergency management representatives as well as webcast viewers on the District's website.

"Flood control is a shared responsibility between the District, counties, cities, local drainage districts and residents in South Florida," said SFWMD Executive Director Melissa Meeker, who spoke at the workshop. "Offering this program was a way to bring community leaders throughout our region together so that we can strengthen relationships and work jointly to improve flood control for our residents."



*(Click on the graphic for information on South Florida's regional water management system of canals, levees and water control structures.)*

Flood control is a core mission at the District. To sustain the regional system's capability for handling storms and wet season rainfall, the District has a robust program of structural maintenance and upgrades. During the past five years, the District has invested approximately \$240 million in essential maintenance work.

Local projects that improve drainage systems help ensure that the larger District system functions as designed. The District often partners with local governments on projects to help bolster flood control capabilities.

During the workshop, state agency representatives shared information on state loan and federal grant programs available to municipalities for flood mitigation. Representatives from the District, the Florida Division of Emergency Management and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection explained their roles in assisting with South Florida's flood mitigation efforts.

Living in South Florida includes the inherent risk of flooding, especially during the summer months. The rainy season, which started in May, typically lasts until mid-October and accounts for more than 2/3 of annual rainfall. The District recognizes June as Flood Awareness Month, and this workshop is part of the District's continued effort to raise awareness about flood control during the rainy season. For more information on the District's flood control mission and rainy season readiness, [click here](#).

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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.*