



SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

## NEWS RELEASE

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### **Florida Water Star Shines in South Florida**

*Water conservation in homes helps reduce demand on freshwater sources*



**West Palm Beach, FL** – The last day of Water Conservation Month serves as a timely reminder that the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) continues to administer the Florida Water Star<sup>SM</sup> certification program for homes and businesses that implement water conservation practices.

Water Star-certified homes use 20 to 40 percent less water than average homes by meeting fundamental criteria for efficiently using water in irrigation, landscape design and indoor water fixtures and appliances.

“Florida Water Star recognizes efficient water use practices indoors and outside the home,” said SFWMD Director of Water Resources Terrie Bates. “This program is just one example of the District’s long-term commitment to water conservation.”

Through this program, the District has achieved several conservation-related milestones in the past year. Highlights include:

- The first commercial Water Star building in South Florida: a new fire station in Martin County.
- The first certified home in a planned 3,000-home development built by Lennar Home Builders in Orange County. When built, Champions Gate West would be the largest group of homes to be certified as Water Star in Florida.

- A Water Star-certified laboratory: the Vaccine and Gene Therapy Institute of Florida in Port St. Lucie.

Florida Water Star can be integrated into other environmental certification programs such as Energy Star; the Florida Green Building Coalition's green standards; and the U.S. Green Building Council's LEED program.

Developed by the St. Johns River Water Management District, Florida Water Star was adopted by the SFWMD in 2010 and is now a statewide program. In South Florida, 22 single-family homes are currently certified, along with 156 multi-family units.

The District trains independent conservation professionals to inspect and certify homes and businesses that meet the criteria for Gold, Silver, Bronze or Commercial status. Both new structures and retrofits of existing structures are eligible to participate in the program.

### **Water Conservation**

Today is the last day of April, which marks the end of Water Conservation Month. Year-round water conservation is essential to reduce demand on freshwater sources.

When water shortage orders are not in place, the District follows Year-Round Water Conservation Measures that target outdoor irrigation, which accounts for up to half of the water used per person per day in South Florida. The Year-Round Landscape Irrigation Rule is just one of many initiatives implemented under the District's Comprehensive Water Conservation Program.

For more information:

- To determine watering days and times in your area, contact your local government or visit [www.sfwmd.gov/2days](http://www.sfwmd.gov/2days).
- Tips on how to save water are available at [www.savewaterfl.com](http://www.savewaterfl.com).
- For a calendar of workshops for industry professionals on designing, building and certifying Florida Water Star projects, [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.*