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**SFWMD NEWS:**

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**RE: Validation of Certificates of Participation for the *River of Grass* Acquisition**

“The South Florida Water Management District is pleased with the court’s findings in validating its authority to issue Certificates of Participation under Florida law for the public purpose of Everglades restoration.

“The court’s validation provides Floridians with judicial assurance that the District’s financing program and water resource projects comply with Florida law, are in the public interest and benefit our health, safety and welfare.

“Acquiring land south of Lake Okeechobee for Everglades restoration is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity that offers immense environmental and public benefits. The strategic location of these thousands of acres of land provides water managers with the flexibility to store and clean water on a scale never before contemplated to protect Florida's coastal estuaries and Lake Okeechobee and to better revive, restore and preserve America’s Everglades.

“As we continue working toward this historic acquisition, the District remains committed to prudent fiscal decision-making and to ensuring that any projects undertaken provide lasting benefits to South Florida’s environment and her citizens.”

Related information:

- Final judgment validating COPs financing ([Aug. 26, 2009](#))
- Statement by SFWMD Governing Board Chair Eric Buermann ([Aug. 26, 2009](#))
- Just the Facts: [About Certificates of Participation and Bond Validation](#)
- SFWMD request for COPs validation ([Oct. 12, 2008](#))
- Supplemental SFWMD request for validation ([Nov. 13, 2008](#))
- SFWMD responses to validation challenges ([Feb. 3, 2009](#) and [Feb. 5, 2009](#))
- Additional materials on the SFWMD Web site: [www.sfwmd.gov/riverofgrass](http://www.sfwmd.gov/riverofgrass)

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**About the South Florida Water Management District – [Celebrating 60 Years \(1949-2009\)](#)**

*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.*