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**TO:** Interested Parties

**FROM:** Media Relations  
South Florida Water Management District

**DATE:** March 11, 2010

**SUBJECT:** River of Grass Acquisition Update

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**West Palm Beach, FL** - The South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) Governing Board today voted 8-0, with one abstention, to extend the Certificates of Participation validation deadline contained in the purchase and sale agreement with the U.S. Sugar Corporation to acquire 73,000 acres of land for Everglades restoration. The Governing Board extended in Paragraph 4 the contract deadline for the bond validation from March 31, 2010, to September 30, 2010.

“This Board has a responsibility to continue the public discussion and review of this exceptional opportunity for Everglades restoration,” said SFWMD Governing Board Chairman Eric Buermann. “This contract date extension, brought on only by outstanding legal challenges to the bond proceedings, is simply administrative in nature and allows us to accommodate the Florida Supreme Court hearing and forthcoming decision.”

- [Governing Board Memo on Amended and Restated Agreement for Sale and Purchase](#)

For more information, visit [www.sfwmd.gov/riverofgrass](http://www.sfwmd.gov/riverofgrass). Media questions may be directed to Gabe Margasak at (561) 682-2292 or Randy Smith at (561) 682-6197.

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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.*