



## SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

# STATEMENT

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**Re: Federal funding for South Florida ecosystem restoration projects in Fiscal Year 2011**

“The Obama Administration today demonstrated its ongoing commitment to America’s Everglades by requesting \$284.8 million in its Fiscal Year 2011 budget for the restoration of South Florida’s ecosystem.

“The proposed investments by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the U.S. Department of the Interior would build on the significant momentum for Everglades restoration established over the past year. Since December alone, the South Florida Water Management District has proudly joined our federal partners in breaking ground on the Picayune Strand Restoration Project, the Tamiami Trail bridge and the C-111 Spreader Canal. These projects are crucial to re-establishing the flow of abundant, clean water to the Everglades.

“The restoration projects included in the budget proposal also represent a sizable investment in Florida’s economy. Construction of these projects will create jobs for Floridians at a time when they are sorely needed.

“The District appreciates the continued support for Everglades restoration from our federal partners. We encourage the U.S. Congress to fully approve this funding to help protect a national treasure.”

# # #

**About the Everglades**

*America's Everglades once covered almost 11,000 square miles of south Florida. Just a century ago, water flowed down the Kissimmee River into Lake Okeechobee, then south through the Everglades to the Florida Bay – the ultimate destination of the pure sheetflow. Because of efforts to drain the marshland for agriculture, development and flood control, the Everglades is today half the size it was a century ago. Dubbed the River of Grass for the sawgrass that flourished throughout the marsh, the Everglades is a mosaic of freshwater ponds, prairies and forested uplands that supports a rich plant and wildlife community. Renowned for its wading birds and wildlife, the Everglades is home to dozens of federally threatened and endangered species, including the Florida panther, American*

*crocodile, snail kite and wood stork. The mix of salt and freshwater makes it the only place on Earth where alligators and crocodiles exist side by side.*

**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.*