



SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

STATEMENT

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CONTACT:

Randy Smith

South Florida Water Management District

Office: (561) 682-2800 or Cellular: (561) 389-3386

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Re: Fiscal Year 2011 budget and approval of proposed millage rates

“We appreciate the input of the public regarding the acquisition of land for Everglades restoration. As we have said all along, the District is not considering an increase in millage rates in order to complete a transaction with the United States Sugar Corporation.

“The District Board by policy direction to the staff, and all of the staff’s resulting budget recommendations, are built around a “continuation millage rate” – that is a budget with no tax increase. In fact with the reduction in property values in South Florida, the District’s ad valorem budget for the upcoming fiscal year will decrease by more than 12 percent or \$61 million.

“This agency is one of the few governments in South Florida that has held its tax rate constant even though it has meant a reduction to the agency’s budget of nearly 30 percent and a decrease of \$150 million since 2008. The District in fact has not increased its tax rate for more than ten years, and has no plans for increasing taxes for the coming year.

“These are challenging economic times for Floridians and all levels of government. With that in mind and recognizing that our agency’s decisions directly impact the quality of life of South Florida citizens, we will continue to take every action to increase fiscal efficiency, reduce spending and operate as prudently as possible while protecting the region’s water resources and meeting the needs of the citizens we serve.”

Related information:

- Just the Facts: [FY2010-11 Budget and Proposed Millage Rates](#)

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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.